

# NOTEBOOK

**OLD HANDS:** The House Ethics Committee has dreamed up yet another scheme to keep the month-old independent counsel's report on Newt Gingrich's ethics allegations under wraps. Chairwoman Nancy Johnson released the findings only to a four-member subcommittee, insisting she will make them public when the report is "complete." (Translation: when the election is "complete.") Technically, the report can be kept out of view until the subcommittee recommends a course of action. But that rule has been waived before. In 1989, Republicans insisted on seeing an outside counsel's report on ethics charges against then-Speaker Jim Wright, paving the way for Wright's resignation. One congressman was especially insistent: "I think it's vital that we establish as a Congress our commitment to publish that report and to release those documents so the country can judge whether or not the man second in line to be president—the Speaker of the House—should be in that position." That congressman was Newt Gingrich.

**SIGN AWAY:** Last week, President Clinton, in what has become a trademark innovation, criticized legisla-

tion as he was signing it. This disassociation of words from action, a disassociation in whose service Bill Clinton has spent much of his presidency, presumably relieves him of responsibility for the consequences of his signature—in this case, responsibility for a defense bill that authorizes \$11.2 billion more in military spending at a time of supposed general belt tightening. What do we get for all this money? Seawolf submarines and F-22 fighters, pork treats that a new generation of weapons will soon render as obsolete as Atari. If fully funded, the extra treats that the president has embraced and not embraced will almost exactly cancel out the savings from the last bill President Clinton signed and trashed: welfare reform.

**CORRECTION:** On October 3, 1994, THE NEW REPUBLIC published a two-part cover story dealing with Cuba. The second of those articles appeared under the cover page title of "Clinton's Miami Mobster" and was about Cuban exile leader Jorge Mas Canosa. The use of the word "mobster" was the sole responsibility of THE NEW REPUBLIC and not the author. THE NEW REPUBLIC did not intend to imply that Mr. Mas has been involved in any criminal activity. THE NEW REPUBLIC did not intend to accuse Mr. Mas of being in any way connected to, or engaged in, criminal activity of any kind, nor was its use of the word based on any evidence of criminal activity on Mr.

Mas' part. Nothing in the article by Ann Louise Bardach stated or should be interpreted as stating or suggesting that Mr. Mas was involved in criminal activity. THE NEW REPUBLIC regrets any injury or embarrassment that may have been caused to Mr. Mas or his family.

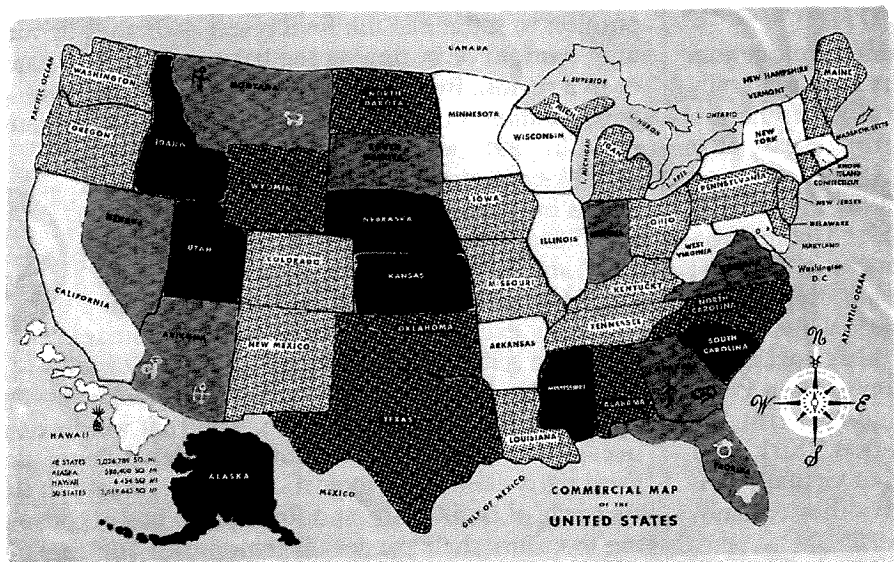
## Weekly Electoral Vote Estimate

As of 9/20/96

by Hal Bruno, ABC News Political Director

(538 Total Votes, 270 Required for Election)

Clinton=350      Even=81      Dole=107



Clinton Strong     
  Close/Even     
  Dole Strong  
 Clinton Ahead     
  Dole Ahead

Weekly estimates are not scientific, but the result of a compilation of interviews and local polling.

Map modified for TNR by Jane Holloway

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Although we regret our wording of the title, which was chosen without the participation of the author, Ann Louise Bardach, THE NEW REPUBLIC stands fully behind the article itself. Nothing in the thought-provoking article, which addresses America's Cuba policy and the political influence of elements of the Cuban exile community in Miami, requires clarification, correction or apology as nothing in it has been proven false or libelous. Ms. Bardach, who is a Contributing Editor of *Vanity Fair* and winner of the 1995 PEN West Award for Journalism, will be dismissed from the libel lawsuit independent of THE NEW REPUBLIC's settlement. •