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“Larry King Live” (excerpts)  
(Oct. 2, 2000)



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## Larry King Live

### Buchanan and Nader Discuss Their Political Agendas

Aired October 2, 2000 - 9:00 p.m. ET

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LARRY KING, HOST: Tonight, 24 hours before Al Gore and George W. Bush square off in the first presidential debate, we'll hear from two candidates who weren't invited: Reform Party nominee Pat Buchanan, and later, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader. They will make the case for third parties, just ahead on LARRY KING LIVE.

We begin with Pat Buchanan, our old friend. He's in Auburn, Maine. He's the candidate of the Reform Party. He had sought the candidacy of the Republican Party, and left that scene to get into the Reform scene. He won 3 million votes in the 1996 primary. He is excluded by the commission because he didn't make 15 percent in national polls.

Is that a bad idea, Pat, 15 percent?

PAT BUCHANAN, REFORM PARTY PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: Sure, they put the 15 percent, Larry, after I moved over to the Reform Party. The problem is you've got a bipartisan, Republican, Democrat, entirely commissioned which is freezing out a third party, which is being paid for by taxpayers. So you've got a situation that the American people are not permitted to hear a candidate whose campaign they are paying for, because a couple of political hacks are fronting for the establishment parties in Washington and freezing them out.

KING: What should be the criteria?

BUCHANAN: The criteria is we are an established party. I received federal matching funds. I'm on the ballot in all 50 states, although the Republicans refuse to put my name on the ballot itself. In Michigan, I have qualified. And frankly, if you take personal qualifications -- look, I was going to summit meetings in Moscow and Beijing with Richard Nixon when these fellows were in college.

I think my experience and background and knowledge are far deeper and broader, certainly, than Governor Bush, who has been in national politics for a couple of years and in Texas politics for four or five. So we have a party that is a valid, recognized party by the Congress, the FEC, we get federal tax dollars. We ought to be included in the events that decide the next president

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candidate -- he ran previously in 1996 -- Ralph Nader.

First, these words.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RALPH NADER, GREEN PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Isn't it interesting that the largest voter audiences by far, which will witness these debates starting October 3 here in Boston, that the key to the gate to those tens of millions of Americans are held by the very two parties that small parties are trying to challenge?

Imagine, in the marketplace, you get a new competitor, wants to reach its customers, and has to go through a gate whose keys are held by the two major competitors. Never again should we allow this to happen in future campaigns! Never again!

(APPLAUSE)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK) KING: We now welcome to LARRY KING LIVE another old friend, Ralph Nader, the Green Party presidential candidate. He also ran on that ticket in 1996.

As I understand it, are you going to be in Boston tomorrow night? Are you going to be protesting the debates?

NADER: We're going to try to get as close as possible. We're looking for people to give us tickets so I can be right in the audience.

KING: Oh, you want to be in the audience.

NADER: Yes, I can't be on the stage. We're excluded. It's a two-party monopoly.

KING: Did you agree with what Pat had to say with regard to what this country is with relation to big corporations, this commission and debates?

NADER: Very much so. This commission is really a private company created 11 years ago to replace the League of Women Voters in deciding who gets on the national debates. And tens of millions of people watch it, and these two parties, more look-alike parties morphing into a corporate party with two heads, don't want competition. That would be disastrous in the marketplace. It would be disastrous in nature if seeds weren't given a chance to sprout. That's why the corrupt political system can't be regenerated.

KING: How is it ever going to change, however, if you need the 15 percent barrier? Don't we need a sort of knight on a white horse and a bad condition in the country to create a third party?

NADER: I hope we don't have to come to that. At the present time, the debate commission has that monopoly by Al Gore and George W. Bush because other institutions have given it that monopoly by default, Larry.

If the major television networks got together months ago and co-sponsored a four-way debate, Gore and Bush could not say no to them. If the major