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Florence P. Dwyer

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REPORT TO THE PEOPLE FROM YOUR CONGRESSWOMAN

FLORENCE P. DWYER - 6th District, New Jersey



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THE VOICE OF UNION COUNTY

Once again, the thousands of completed questionnaires have been returned and counted and the results carefully tabulated, and a new and quite accurate, I believe, profile of Union County's views on major public issues has emerged.

Answers came from approximately 16 percent of those who received the questionnaire -- a quite respectable rate. But more important, the returns were closely representative of the political and economic composition of the County, corresponding generally to east-west and Republican-Democratic-Independent divisions. Consequently, the results deserve to be considered significant.

As in past years, I found the experience of reading the returns, including the many additional comments you attached which ranged from a few notes to 12-page letters, a time-consuming but extremely rewarding one. I know of no other way of obtaining such a comprehensive understanding of the views and values of the people I represent. As such, this annual opinion survey continues to be an invaluable aid in carrying out my responsibilities to our Congressional District.

This year, as always, my only regret has been that limitations of time and a small staff have made it impossible for me to answer personally the many thousands of you who took the trouble to add individual comments or express your thoughts at greater length than the questionnaire provided for. I have read everything you wrote, however, and I've tried to reply to all who made specific requests or indicated a desire for information. If in the course of going through so many returns I have missed any of your requests, please let me know, and forgive my oversight.

A SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE

Now, a word about the results. As I have noted previously in these reports, our questionnaires have regularly revealed a consistently independent cast of mind among Union County residents on public issues, and this year was no exception. The results generally, as was true of most individual returns, showed no obvious pattern along either "liberal" or "conservative" lines, as these terms are ordinarily defined. Rather, most of those completing the questionnaire seem to have taken their positions on the merits, as they saw them, of the particular issues.

An interesting example of this independence of judgment was the selective way in which respondents rated President Johnson's handling of foreign and national affairs. In contrast to last year's results, which showed the late President Kennedy receiving roughly similar ratings on both counts, President Johnson was given a distinctly higher grade in the area of national affairs and a definitely lower score in foreign affairs.

On several issues, Union County people appear to be broadly in agreement. They want more effective protection of their interests as consumers, for instance, and they agree that regional planning among communities in urban areas such as ours can be a good thing. They definitely reject the idea of diplomatic recognition of communist China and just as decisively support a school prayer amendment to the U. S. Constitution and a requirement that higher-level Government officials make public their sources of income, business interests, etc. as a means of preventing conflicts-of-interest.

No matter how close the results or how one-sided, each issue has its own special fascination, so I am happy to refer you to the detailed results which follow. Meantime, my thanks and appreciation to all of you who have helped to make this annual experiment in representative government so worthwhile.

--more--

A. IN GENERAL, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING POLICIES OR ISSUES WHICH ARE NOW OR MAY COME BEFORE CONGRESS:

- | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. More effective Federal-State-Local protection of consumers against fraud, deception, dangerous products, etc.? | (90.6%) | (5.4%) | (4.0%) |
| 2. A combination health-care-for-elderly program financed under social security but including voluntary participation in private insurance plans? | (62.9%) | (27.3%) | (9.8%) |
| 3. Federal aid for elementary and secondary schools? | (50.6%) | (41.0%) | (8.4%) |
| 4. Require all higher-level Government officials to make public their sources of income, business interests, etc. to reduce possible conflicts of interest? | (75.0%) | (17.5%) | (7.5%) |
| 5. Constitutional amendment to permit prayers and bible reading in the public schools? | (75.0%) | (20.8%) | (4.2%) |
| 6. A major Federal campaign to reduce poverty in America? | (61.3%) | (23.9%) | (14.8%) |
| 7. Cooperative, region-wide planning by communities in urban areas to reduce conflict and duplication in Federal projects? | (80.3%) | (5.3%) | (14.4%) |
| 8. Continued efforts to reduce tensions and find areas of agreement with Soviet Russia? | (73.4%) | (19.4%) | (7.2%) |
| 9. Diplomatic recognition of communist China by the U. S.? | (16.0%) | (71.0%) | (13.0%) |
| 10. Continuation of U. S. foreign aid program <u>IF</u> costs are reduced and effectiveness increased? | (65.0%) | (29.0%) | (6.0%) |
| 11. Forcible overthrow of communist Castro regime in Cuba even at the risk of war? | (35.5%) | (48.0%) | (16.5%) |

B. HOW WOULD YOU EVALUATE PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S HANDLING OF FOREIGN AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS?

- | |
|--|
| 12. <u>Foreign Affairs</u> : (a) Excellent (8.0%) (b)Good(29.8%) (c)Fair(41.8%) (d)Poor (20.4%) |
| 13. <u>National Affairs</u> :(a) Excellent (16.9%) (b)Good(42.8%) (c)Fair(33.0%) (d)Poor (7.3%) |

C. WHAT BOTHERS YOU, PERSONALLY? PEOPLE DIFFER ABOUT THE ACCURACY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS OR CHARGES. IN YOUR VIEW, SOME MAY BE TRUE AND SERIOUS, OTHERS MAY NOT. (Please check only those you consider both true and seriously harmful):

- | | |
|--|---|
| 14. Increase of crime, delinquency, narcotics addiction, etc. (83.3%) | 25. Concentration of power in President of the U. S. (19.0%) |
| 15. Inadequate schools, housing, recreational facilities, etc. (30.3%) | 26. Congress tying President's hands, delay, inefficiency, etc. (29.0%) |
| 16. High cost of living. (41.4%) | 27. Huge Federal Bureaucracy. (51.6%) |
| 17. Slow rate of economic growth, too few new jobs. (26.5%) | 28. Corruption, conflicts-of-interest in Government. (56.7%) |
| 18. Denial of equal rights to all citizens. (42.4%) | 29. Growing national debt, budget deficits, high spending. (56.2%) |
| 19. Government restrictions over private freedoms. (40.0%) | 30. Over-emphasis on economy, too little care for nation's needs. (20.0%) |
| 20. Communism in Cuba. (65.8%) | 31. Arms race, threat of nuclear war. (27.2%) |
| 21. Too little U. S. help to fight poverty, corruption, military rule in Latin America & Africa. (21.8%) | 32. Too much attention to reducing tension & reaching agreement with communist countries. (28.7%) |
| 22. Deterioration of free-world alliances and cooperation. (39.6%) | 33. U. S. military and weapons supply unnecessarily large, expensive. (18.0%) |
| 23. Over-reliance on questionable foreign friends and allies. (60.8%) | 34. Too hasty willingness to disarm, cut back armed strength. (41.0%) |
| 24. Too much welfare-statism. (47.2%) | 35. Extensive poverty in America. (40.5%) |