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### Report to the People Vol. 2 No. 14

Florence P. Dwyer

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# REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

by CONGRESSWOMAN

FLORENCE P. DWYER



Volume II, Number 14.

For release:  
Thursday, April 24, 1958.

The returns are in, the results tabulated, the percentages figured - and the people have spoken, in determined fashion!

I refer not to last week's primary elections but to the 10,000 questionnaires which I mailed to many of you several weeks ago. The response was gratifying - about 10 percent which is considered good for this kind of thing - and I am deeply grateful to all of you who took the time and trouble to reply.

The results were extremely interesting, but first let me explain a little about the procedures used here. The questionnaire was prepared and sent out early in this session of Congress so that replies could be received before the House voted on the issues involved. It seemed to me that if I was sincere about wanting your views then I should have a chance to study them before deciding finally how I should vote. This is true even though, as I mentioned in the questionnaire, I must take final responsibility for voting as I do.

The legislative situation here sometimes changes rapidly. New facts, or legal interpretations which are not widely appreciated, or deceptive amendments, or last-minute procedural moves - any of these may make it necessary at times to vote in a way different from the majority position. But these are matters of judgment which, after all, you expect your Representatives to exercise and for which you can hold them responsible at the polls.

Nevertheless, I must say I was delighted to find that on nearly every question there were substantial majorities for the position I myself tended to favor. It is good to have one's judgment confirmed in this way.

I attach great significance to this, too, for those who received the questionnaires - and, I believe, those who replied - represented a fair cross-section of the people of Union County. This even balance, I hope, means that the results are a more-than-usually reliable indication of what our people are thinking.



The results were determined, you will be interested to know, on an objective, scientific basis. The questionnaires were turned over to the IBM subsidiary here where your replies were punched out on special cards. The cards were then inserted in their electronic tabulating devices and the answers counted and percentages figured automatically.

All of which eliminated questions of judgment and reduced the possibilities of human error.

Here, then - in condensed form - are the results:

1. Expansion of U.S. defense effort, especially missiles, satellites, and scientific research, even at cost of no tax or debt reduction?  
Yes - 87.4%; No - 6.9%; No Opinion - 5.7%
2. Drastic reorganization of Defense Department toward greater centralization of authority and responsibility?  
Yes - 84.5%; No - 10.3%; No Opinion - 5.2%
3. Continuation of Mutual Security-Foreign Aid programs?  
Yes - 81.7%; No - 13.6%; No Opinion - 4.7%
3. (a) If so, at what cost level?  
Present - 33%; Reduced - 28.2%; Increased - 12.5%; No Reply - 26.3%
4. Curtail some domestic spending and return to States some Federal aid programs?  
Yes - 68.3%; No - 22.3%; No Opinion - 9.4%
5. Federal tax credit to parents sending children to college?  
Yes - 67.7%; No - 28.1%; No Opinion - 4.2%
6. Do you favor Federal aid to education?  
Yes - 68.5%; No - 26.1%; No Opinion - 5.4%
6. (a) If so, what kind of program do you favor:

Federal aid for school construction	4.7%
Federal scientific-engineering scholarships	13.6%
Federal grants to colleges	6.8%
Federal loans for school construction	12.4%
Federal tax allowance for teacher's training	31.0%
No opinion	31.5%
7. Establishment of Foreign Service Academy for training career diplomats?  
Yes - 69.5%; No - 20.1%; No Opinion - 10.4%
8. Increase postage rates, including 5 cents for 1st class, out-of-town mail?  
Yes - 64.4%; No - 26.0%; No Opinion - 9.6%
9. Legislation safeguarding union and corporate welfare funds against abuse?  
Yes - 92.3%; No - 2.7%; No Opinion - 5.0%
10. Multi-billion-dollar Federal civil defense and bomb shelter program?  
Yes - 12.0%; No - 71.3%; No Opinion - 16.7%

There is much in these results that deserves comment. But nothing more than the obviously deep concern felt by most of you about the adequacy and readiness of our national defense.

It is especially significant, I think, that more than 80 percent of those who answered the questionnaire saw the question of national security in perspective. They appreciated that an adequate defense establishment means more than the money to purchase weapons - though this too is very important. By approving in no uncertain terms the reorganization of the Defense Department and the continuation of our mutual security program, as well as an expanded effort in scientific research and the production of advanced weapons, this impressive majority demonstrated their conviction that America must remain strong.



As a personal matter, I especially appreciated this strong vote as an indication of approval of my vote last year against unwise but successful efforts to cut the Administration's defense budget.

But more important was the concept of strength displayed in the answers. Rather than something simple and attractive like a crash weapons program, the answers implied to me that Union County citizens recognized that we must depend upon and assist our allies in the mutual effort to defend the free world; that we must think of the future and stress the scientific research that will bring improved performance later; and that no defense effort is better than the organization that directs it.

This latter point, of course, can be interpreted as strong support for President Eisenhower's proposal to reorganize the defense establishment and prepare our armed forces for their most effective use in every possible military emergency, under more responsible civilian control.

This, I am convinced, is the key to the maintenance of peace - to keep our military potential both strong and flexible enough that we can deter any kind of aggression anywhere in the world.

The almost unanimous vote approving legislation to safeguard union and corporate welfare funds was gratifying, but not very surprising. The financial security of millions of working people depends on these welfare funds. We have seen shocking examples of the systematic looting of these funds by unscrupulous administrators or trustees.

To protect these funds is the most constructive kind of pro-labor legislation. It warrants the overwhelming support it has received.

I welcomed, also, the almost  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 vote backing my Foreign Service Academy bill. Whether or not this bill is ever passed in its present form, I feel strongly that all too much evidence exists that many foreign service officers are insufficiently trained. Better training of some kind is a must if our diplomatic efforts are to be improved. And I shall continue to seek this goal, with your support, in the most practicable way possible.

Space doesn't permit much comment on other of the results. Your approval of increased postage rates and the one-sided vote against a massive bomb shelter program speak for themselves.

As for Federal grant-in-aid programs, my position on the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee here has made my views rather well known. And sometime soon I hope to discuss in detail the whole question of Federal aid to education.



Coincidentally, however, you may be aware that even while so much support was being shown for the teachers' fight to win Federal tax credit for the costs of their advanced training, the Treasury Department ruled administratively in their favor.

This was a well earned and long overdue victory. And it was in a sense the final justification for the support many of us here in the Congress have given to legislation to accomplish the same purpose.

For those of you who may have noticed that the questionnaire contained nothing regarding the present business recession, I should explain that the questionnaire was prepared early in January, before the recession had become an important issue with many people.

Finally, I want to emphasize this fact. To me, the most impressive single thing about this questionnaire was the fact that so many people believe in the wisdom of informing their representatives about their views. More than 50 percent of the replies included additional comments, many of them detailed and lengthy. And dozens of thoughtful, constructive letters were attached. Furthermore, virtually everyone signed their names.

I have read all of them carefully. And I want you to know how genuinely grateful I have been to receive them. I wish I could answer each one personally, but instead I must rely on this method of expressing my appreciation.

Please keep up this exchange of ideas. You may not realize how valuable and important your views are to me - even when I must respectfully disagree. So, thank you very much.