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### Report to the People Vol. 3 No. 18

Florence P. Dwyer

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REPORT TO THE PEOPLE  
FROM YOUR CONGRESSWOMAN

FLORENCE P. DWYER - 6th District, New Jersey



1631 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Volume III, Number 18

Thursday, May 7, 1959

The questionnaires are in, the answers tabulated and here are the results.

I expect you'll find them just as thought-provoking as I did.

Space this week won't permit any extended comment, but I do want to make room to say thank you to those hundreds and hundreds among you who took the time and trouble to answer an unusually demanding questionnaire.

The rate of return was over 10 percent of those who received the questionnaires -- which is considered a good response. But I was especially impressed with the great number (about 75%) who added extensive comments or wrote letters expanding on their replies. It obviously required thought and care, and indicated a real awareness of the complexity of most of the issues. While the mathematical results won't show it, many among you carefully qualified your replies to many of the questions.

I wish it were physically possible to answer each of you individually and personally, since I carefully read every single one of the returns. Instead, I hope you'll accept my thanks and consider each week's Report to the People as my continuing reply to you.

Questionnaire Results

1. From your own experience, how serious would you say the commuter transportation problem is in the New Jersey-New York area -- in terms of how it will affect the future of Union County? Please check the one statement of the following which most nearly agrees with your views:
  - (a) 36% EXTREMELY SERIOUS: unless it is soon solved people and industry will be moving away.
  - (b) 42% SERIOUS ENOUGH: very annoying, inconvenient and expensive: and if some improvement isn't made it could become much worse.
  - (c) 14% DIFFICULT FOR A SMALL MINORITY: but not especially so for most people.
  - (d) 2% NOT SERIOUS AT ALL: and will have few if any harmful effects.
2. Do you believe that the House Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations (which studies the operations of Federal, State and local governments as they affect each other) could be useful if it made a special study to see how the States, counties and local governments in the New Jersey-New York area could best cooperate to solve the commuter transit problem? YES 70% NO 25%
3. Which of the following items of personal expense -- if any -- have you found to have increased most significantly during the past 2 or 3 years. Please check only those where the price increase has been sizable:
  - (a) 44% food (generally).
  - (b) 57% local taxes.
  - (c) 7% entertainment.
  - (d) 40% transportation.
  - (e) 38% cost of renting or owning your home.
4. Which of the following two economic evils do you consider the more serious threat to the welfare of our people and our country? Check only one:
  - (a) 22% unemployment.
  - (b) 76% inflation.

5. Which of the following kinds of Federal aid to education -- if any -- do you consider most necessary and appropriate.

- (a) 37% school construction assistance.
- (b) 20% grants to increase teacher's pay.
- (c) 48% income tax credit for parents paying for children's college education.
- (d) 24% loans for college students.
- (e) 25% competitive scholarships for college students.
- (f) 20% no Federal aid at all.

6. There are two leading views about the President's budget: (1) that it represents the maximum amount of Federal spending we can afford without endangering the economy and risking a new wave of inflation; and (2) that it is insufficient to take care of some real human needs, to promote needed economic growth, and to help provide more jobs.

Which of these 2 views do you share? (1) 78% or (2) 14%.

7. Which of the following statements best represents your general views about civil rights? Check only one statement:

- (a) 31% We should do more to prevent discrimination and guarantee equality of opportunity, regardless of race, religion or national origin.
- (b) 49% We are presently making adequate progress to assure civil rights.
- (c) 8% Other opinion: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Congress will soon consider the amount of appropriations to provide for each of the following Government activities, among others. Which of these activities, if any, do you feel ought to be reduced, and which, if any, do you feel ought to be increased? (Use a plus (+) to indicate increases and a zero (0) to indicate reductions):

<u>increase</u>	<u>reduce</u>	<u>increase</u>	<u>reduce</u>
(a) <u>4%</u> agricultural price supports.	<u>76%</u>	(b) <u>57%</u> health and medical research.	<u>12%</u>
(c) <u>31%</u> foreign economic aid (loans and technical assistance).	<u>34%</u>	(d) <u>43%</u> improved and expanded foreign service.	<u>21%</u>
(e) <u>19%</u> foreign military aid.	<u>36%</u>	(f) <u>45%</u> aid to education.	<u>22%</u>
(g) <u>40%</u> housing and slum clearance.	<u>25%</u>	(h) <u>32%</u> highway construction.	<u>26%</u>

9. Another great debate is in progress as to the adequacy of our country's defense program. The following statements summarize the principal opinions now being expressed. From what you have read and heard recently, which one of the following statements do you believe is most accurate?

- (a) 29% We can and must afford whatever it costs to assure ourselves an adequate defense against any kind of aggression Soviet Russia or Communist China might wage, even if it means adding a billion dollars or more to the Administration's budget.
- (b) 4% We are putting too much emphasis on "super-weapons" -- weapons of mass destruction which would be dangerous for all concerned to use -- and too little emphasis on conventional weapons and manpower which might be needed for limited and local wars.
- (c) 30% The Administration budget provides for adequate funds in the proper proportion to meet our defense needs.
- (d) 5% We should spend more for missiles and other "super-weapons" and less for manpower and other conventional weapons.
- (e) 4% We are spending altogether too much money on defense as it is and every effort should be made to reduce expenditures.
- (f) 22% I am not in a position to make a judgment.

10. Which of the following words best describes -- in your judgment -- the conduct of recent American foreign policy:

- (a) 18% Excellent. (b) 53% Good. (c) 18% Mediocre. (d) 5% Poor.

11. Under the Social Security laws, those receiving social security benefits are prohibited from earning more than \$1200 a year. Some people believe this limitation should be raised or removed entirely to permit retired people to supplement benefits with earnings sufficient to meet increased costs of living. Others oppose raising the \$1200 limit on grounds that this would encourage retired people to look for work at a time of high unemployment. Which position do you favor:

- (a) 77% Raise the \$1200 limit on earnings. (b) 20% Keep the limit at \$1200.