

CRIME - POLLS

- o Fingers Point at Carville For Florio Loss. The loss of New Jersey Governor Jim Florio last week has prompted a new "blame game" and "Washington political consultants are taking aim at James Carville," according to an item to appear in Newsweek. "He is faulted for blowing an 18-point lead in three weeks by running a negative campaign that failed to give voters a reason to vote for Florio." "Another problem: the consultant was absent for much of September working on the Greek election, while his GOP counterpart, Ed Rollins, gets high marks for being a hands-on manager." (Newsweek, 11/15/93)
- o Data on US Nuclear Testing to be Released. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary has been pushing for the declassification of data on the US-nuclear test program, which would reveal "the US has conducted more nuclear tests in past years that it had previously acknowledged," according to an item to appear in Newsweek. The information is expected to be released within the next few weeks. "Since China's recent nuclear test touched off a storm of protests from other nuclear powers, the revelations about secret US testing will likely be embarrassing. But O'Leary has made openness at DOE a priority, and the fight over releasing this report is seen as a test of her clout," according to Newsweek. (Newsweek, 11/15/93)
- o "Should NATO Move East?" A NATO summit scheduled for January 10 will discuss the possibility of allowing former Warsaw Pact nations to join the organization. The question is, "Do the Atlantic democracies have the will and the resources to spread their security guarantees over Central and Eastern Europe, taking on the unending feuds, ethnic hatreds and border disputes that have poisoned the region for centuries?" according to an item to appear in Time. "And if they do, are they also prepared for the hostile reaction the move will trigger in a Russia that looks westward with as much suspicion as envy? Is there any virtue in a new NATO that shifts the Iron Curtain back to Russia's very borders?" (Time, 11/15/93)
- o Most Americans Want Stricter Immigration Limits. A new Time/CNN poll of 1,108 adults conducted September 8-9, shows almost two-thirds of Americans favor new laws to cut back on all immigrants and asylum seekers -- legal and illegal. Sixty percent of those polled would favor changes in Federal law to reduce the number of immigrants who enter the US legally; 85 percent would like to see changes in Federal law for those who enter illegally. (Time, special issue on "The New Face of America.")

POLL WATCH:

- o According to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll of 1,003 adult Americans, conducted November 2-4:
 - 48% approve of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job;

- 45% disapprove.
- 37% approve of the way Clinton is handling the economy; 57% disapprove.
- 34% approve of the way Clinton is handling foreign affairs; 57% disapprove.
- 33% approve of the way Clinton is handling the Federal budget deficit; 59% disapprove.
- 53% approve of the way Clinton is handling the health care policy; 40% disapprove.
- 38% approve of the way Clinton is handling foreign trade; 50% disapprove.
- 52% approve of the way Clinton is handling education; 36% disapprove.
- 29% approve of the way Clinton is handling taxes; 64% disapprove.
- * -- 30% approve of the way Clinton is handling the crime problem; 63% disapprove.] ✓
- 38% favor NAFTA; 46% oppose NAFTA.
- 9% are more likely to vote to reelect their congressman if they vote in favor of NAFTA; 20% are less likely; and 67% say it has no effect.
- 27% are satisfied with the way things are going in the US; 70% are dissatisfied.
- 54% have a favorable opinion of Bill Clinton; 42% have an unfavorable opinion.
- 58% have a favorable opinion of Hillary Clinton; 34% have an unfavorable opinion.
- 49% have a favorable opinion of Al Gore; 30% have an unfavorable opinion.
- 44% have a favorable opinion of Ross Perot; 44% have an unfavorable opinion.
- 27% consider themselves supporters of Ross Perot; 69% say they are not supporters.
- 24% approve of the way Congress is handling its job; 69% disapprove.
- If the congressional elections were held today, 49% lean toward voting for a Democratic candidate; 44% lean toward a Republican.
- President Clinton's performance in office makes 12% more likely to vote for a Democrat; 22% less likely; and it makes no difference for 63%.
- 52% favor Clinton's health care plan; 40% oppose it.
- 24% want Congress to pass the plan as is; 50% want major changes before it is passed; 20% want it rejected outright.

LAST LAUGHS:

- o Jay Leno: "Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York is proposing a controversial tax on ammunition. He wants to tax ammunition to help raise money for health care. Well, opponents say a tax on bullets would be unfair because it would single out one particular group. Yeah, postal workers." (NBC The Tonight Show with Jay Leno)



Crime-Polls

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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NOTE: Perhaps this already crossed your desk, but some of this may be of interest, including 56 percent of those polled thinking that a "jobs programs for the inner cities" would "reduce the amount of violent crime a lot:."

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NEWS Release

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EMBARGOED

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**ECONOMIC RECOVERY HAS LITTLE IMPACT
ON AMERICAN MOOD**

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ATTITUDES TOWARD CRIME

By far and away, crime was named most often as the top problem facing the nation and the community. Some 32% of respondents volunteered it as the biggest problem in the country, more than twice the proportion who mentioned the next biggest national concerns, health care (14%) and unemployment (13%). Asked about the top problem in the community, crime was again most mentioned (29%), and again more than twice as often as the next issues, unemployment (12%) and education (11%).

Crime was also named most often as the problem that gets too little attention from government officials in Washington (15%) and in the community (15%). More than three quarters of respondents said the country is losing ground in its efforts against crime, and more than half said their community is losing ground, too. When asked what issue President Clinton should give highest priority to, almost as many said crime (23%) as said jobs (26%).

And finally, more than half of respondents -- 53% -- had first-hand experience with a crime within the past year: they themselves, or their family, or a neighbor had been a victim. Almost one in four (24%) said the victim was within the family.

Relevance

For the most part, these were crimes against property. Some 16% of respondents said cash or property had been stolen from them or a family member within the past 12 months; another 22% said the theft of cash or property was from a neighbor. Some 8% said their family had experienced a break-in of their home and 22% said a neighbor had been burglarized. Car theft hit 7% of respondents' families, 12% of neighbors. And 5% reported that they or a family member had been physically assaulted; 8% said neighbors had been mugged.

The victims, demographically, were most often younger people, minorities, and urban residents. Some 31% of 18 to 29 year olds were victims, as were 32% of blacks, and 34% of those who live in large cities. Urban areas suffered most crime, but the disparity with tree-lined suburbs and rural areas may be less than expected: 64% of respondents in large cities said their families or neighbors were victims of a crime, not very much greater than 55% in suburbs and 45% in rural regions. Some crimes are predominantly urban, such as car theft and muggings, but theft and burglary struck all types of communities equally -- 39% of respondents in big cities reported the theft of money or property within the past year, a similar 40% in suburbs, 35% in small towns, and 38% in rural regions. Burglary ranged from 36% in big cities to 29% in rural areas.

Of respondents who considered crime to be a top national problem, 63% had such first-hand experience to a crime within the past 12 months. Of those who considered crime a top community problem, those with first-hand experience were even larger: 69%.

Not surprisingly in view of the incidence of crime, 63% of respondents said the media gives an accurate picture of the amount of crime in the country today, with 29% saying it exaggerates. This contrasts somewhat with the finding that in 1993, crime news on television more than doubled from 1992 although government crime reports and surveys of victims showed no appreciable

increase in either overall crime or violent crime rates.³ Unreported crimes might account for some of the difference. But with over half (53%) of the public reporting family or neighbors victims of crime, it seems clear that public concern about crime is not merely a reflection of what appears on TV newscasts.

Crime has a major impact on how the public feels about their community in broadest terms. Of those who have first-hand experience with crime -- a victim in the family -- 40% say they are dissatisfied with the community. Of those who have no such experience, 25% are dissatisfied.

Confidence in Political Leaders

The public does not have much confidence in President Clinton or the national political parties to recommend the right way to fight crime. Only 47% said gave Clinton a vote of confidence in this respect, which was essentially the same as his 45% overall approval rating in the survey. Republicans in Congress received 44%, Democrats 42%. Crime appears to be viewed mainly as a local rather than national issue, and reflecting this, 57% of respondents said they have confidence in their local government officials to recommend effective ways to reduce crime.

Independents and those who voted for Perot in 1992 stood out for their lack confidence in the establishment figures -- Clinton, the Republicans and the Democrats -- while placing their faith in local government officials.

In passing, it is noteworthy that the public views the other three issues studied -- health care, jobs and welfare -- as primarily national rather than community issues, and placed more confidence in national leadership than in local government officials to handle those problems.

Solutions

The public embraces the hard line rather than the soft line in dealing with violent crime. Some 69% favor longer jail terms as a way that would reduce crime a lot, an increase from 63% just a few months earlier. More police on the streets and more prisons were each favored by 57%. However, 56% support jobs for inner city youth, a relatively less punitive approach to solving the problem. Restricting violence on television was favored by 43% (a drop from 49% in December, 1993), followed by 39% for stricter gun controls. A mere 12% favor legalizing drugs as a way to reduce violence.

Women tended to favor the less punitive approaches more than men, although with some of the harsher solutions as well. Men were skeptical of all approaches and particularly of softer solutions.

Ways To Reduce Violent Crime "A Lot"

	<u>Jobs Program</u>	<u>More Police</u>	<u>Gun Control</u>	<u>Curb TV</u>
<i>Men</i>	48%	51%	29%	31%
<i>Women</i>	63%	63%	47%	53%

³ *Media Monitor*, Center for Media and Public Affairs, Washington, D.C., January/February 1994.

Minorities were less likely to support the construction of more prisons and more likely to favor a jobs program, but they were just as likely as whites to support longer jail terms for offenders. Gun control sentiment appeared strongest among suburbanites and minorities, least among rural residents.

Drug legalization, on the other hand, attracted very limited support among all demographic groupings. Most favorable were Perot '92 supporters, reflecting the libertarian views of the disaffected who are suspicious of government and its effectiveness. Perot voters gave little backing to a jobs program, to restricting TV violence and, as described below, to giving police more power to combat crime.

Sacrifice

The public is willing to make some sacrifices to reduce crime. Respondents were most prepared to join a neighborhood crime watch group; 89% said they would do so. They were next most willing to volunteer personal time to work with youths in inner cities (73%) and pay higher taxes for more police (63%). A bare majority (52%) would accept more limits on gun ownership.

But reflecting widespread suspicion of law enforcement agencies today, only 16% would give police power to search homes and wiretap telephones without a warrant.

ATTITUDES TOWARD JOBS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Jobs is the only issue that registers as a problem on all three levels — national, community, and personal — for Americans. It was in first place as a top priority for Clinton, ahead of crime, health care and all other issues. Fully half (52%) of respondents said they or their family have been affected by job loss, pay cut or lay-offs in the past 12 months.

The recession struck white collar as well as blue collar America. College graduates were as likely as high school graduates (53% and 54%, respectively) to say their family has been affected by job loss, lay-offs or pay cuts during the past year. Roughly six in ten twenty-somethings (58%) and baby-boomers (61%) say they or their families have suffered. Jobs are a major source of disaffection for Perot '92 voters; 65% have felt the effects of unemployment, loss of wages or layoffs.

A different geographic slice of America than usual was hit hardest by this recession -- the East and West coasts and the suburbs. Some 61% of respondents in Atlantic coast states, 57% in Pacific coast states, and 61% in suburbs say their families were affected. In contrast, 43% in the Midwest and 49% in the South said they had been affected; and 51% in rural areas, 50% in large cities, and 46% in small towns were affected.

Unemployment remains a lingering problem for some groups, particularly minorities and urban residents. But as economic conditions have improved, the problem for the broader public is more *underemployment* than *unemployment*. People tend to like their jobs, but their pay, benefits and work hours are major sources of personal dissatisfaction.

Almost two out of three Americans (63%) think the country is losing ground in terms of the availability of good-paying jobs. Some 44% think it is losing ground to unemployment. The major fear for the future among respondents was concern that their children will have inadequate job opportunities; 51% said they were very concerned about it.

Relevance

Jobs come up in conversation less often than crime and health care, the survey found, but more than one-third of respondents (37%) said they discuss job and unemployment matters frequently, and another 35% said they talk about the issues occasionally. Those groups that are most likely to be discussing jobs are naturally those most affected by unemployment -- non-whites (51% said they frequently talk about job issues) and low income families (44%, among those earning \$20,000 or less).

Understandably, those who ask the Clinton Administration to give jobs a top priority are those who most often have felt the recession and corporate cut-backs themselves or in their families.

Confidence

While Clinton made jobs and the economy his major campaign issue in 1992, the public is now divided in its views of his leadership in this area; 47% express confidence in him on this score, 47% do not.

Instead, Americans were as likely to express confidence in Congressional Republicans (48%) and local government officials (47%) as in Clinton. They were least likely to put trust in Congressional Democrats (42%) on this issue. Perot voters have more faith in the GOP than in Clinton on jobs. And those respondents who gave jobs a high priority were most disenchanting with all political leaders -- Clinton, Republicans, Democrats and local officials.

Solutions

The most popular solutions, although they drew less support compared to May, 1992, would cost more money. Almost two out of three respondents favored expanding job training opportunities (61% now, 65% in 1992); and 51% favored more public education (down from 59% two years ago) as measures that would help the overall job situation a lot.

Of respondents who gave jobs highest priority, 64% favored the job training option. Of those whose families had been affected by job-related problems, 67% favored the training option. And of those who expressed fear of losing their jobs, 72% supported the training option and 62% favored more education.

Ideologically, support for government spending on the jobs front-- a traditional Democratic approach -- has the traditional Democratic constituency. The training option was most popular with women (66%), youths under 30 (66%), Democrats (67%), non-whites (75%), large city residents (69%), and Clinton voters (68%). A similar pattern was found among those favoring more funds for public education. While Perot '92 voters have more confidence in the GOP on jobs, they were also supportive of the training approach (66%) which Clinton and his Labor Secretary have pushed.

Clinton also suggested during the campaign that business and government cooperate more with each other to create jobs. This idea was supported by 53% of respondents -- disproportionately found among older, less educated, Democrats, Clinton voters, and minorities -- slightly more than in the 1992 campaign year (50%).

The only other option for improving the job situation that won increased support over the past two years was restricting immigration. A frustrated public seemed inclined to blame foreigners for unemployment. A majority (52%) said restricting the number of immigrants would help the job situation a lot; this was an increase from 45% in May, 1992. Among groups with whom this option was most popular were Americans 50 years old and older (58%), rural residents (59%), those with only a high school education (62%), and those who voted for George Bush in 1992 (57%).

Increasing the minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour set in 1991 was a solution that drew somewhat less support. More than one in three respondents (37%) said the move would help a lot, and another 33% said it would help a little. Those who favored higher wages to improve job prospects -- a dubious prospect to many economists -- were concentrated among non-whites (a total of 83% said help a lot and help a little) and those fearful of losing their jobs (82% said a lot or a little), as well as among less educated and lower income strata.

Reflecting the public's inability to find an easy solution, respondents supported contradictory approaches -- both increased protectionism and increased free trade -- to improve the job situation. Some 59% said a tax increase on imported goods would help to some degree (26% said help a lot, 33% said help a little); this was essentially the same as the 62% in 1992 who said such tariffs would help (32% said a lot, 30% said a little). Going in the other direction, 52% said more free trade agreements with other countries would help; 20% said they would help a lot, 32% said a little.

The option that drew resounding opposition was cutting the work week to four days, with pay proportionately cut. Only 5% said this solution would help the job situation a lot, and another 17% said it would help a little. But more than two out of three respondents said the move would hurt; 45% said it would hurt a lot and 24% said hurt a little.

Sacrifice

Reaction to the shorter work/less pay solution indicates that the public is not prepared to make any personal sacrifice on this score. Rightly or wrongly, they appear to feel they are so squeezed at present, fearful of their jobs and scratching to make ends meet, that they will only keep foreigners out and ask for more government spending to increase jobs for fellow Americans.

NO Q'S 41-42

43. In general, do you have confidence in each of the following political leaders to do or recommend the right thing to reduce crime? First, do you have confidence in...(INSERT ITEM. ROTATE STARTING POINT) on this issue, or not?

	<u>Have Confidence</u>	<u>Don't Have Confidence</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. President Clinton	47	46	7=100
b. Republicans in Congress	44	44	12=100
c. Democrats in Congress	42	45	13=100
d. Local government officials	57	35	8=100

44. I am going to read you some things that might be done to reduce violent crime in this country. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it would reduce the amount of violent crime a lot, a little or not at all. First, would...(INSERT ITEM. ROTATE STARTING POINT) reduce the amount of violent crime a lot, a little or not at all?

	<u>A Lot</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Stricter gun control laws	39	28	31	2=100
December 1993	41	32	26	1=100
b. More police on the streets	57	36	6	1=100
December 1993	53	38	7	2=100
c. Jobs programs for the inner cities	56	35	6	3=100
December 1993	55	36	6	3=100
d. Restrictions on the amount of violence shown on TV	43	40	16	1=100
December 1993	49	36	14	1=100
e. Longer jail terms for those convicted of violent crimes	69	23	7	1=100
December 1993	63	23	11	3=100
f. More prisons and less opportunity for parole	57	27	13	3=100
g. Legalizing drugs like marijuana and cocaine	12	19	65	4=100