

# Kennedy Slips In New Poll

Post  
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Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's political appeal has declined in recent weeks, the Gallup Poll reports.

Where Kennedy led Mr. Johnson by a 48-to-39 margin in January, the President now has a 45-to-41 lead. Among Democrats only, however, the Senator still has a slight lead.

The Gallup Poll blames Kennedy's decline on the Manchester book controversy and Kennedy's quarrel with the President over Vietnam.

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THE WASHINGTON POST

## The Gallup Poll Manchester Book Dulls RFK Star

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J., March 25  
Senator Robert Kennedy's political appeal has suffered a decline in recent weeks.

Kennedy began the new year riding a crest of popularity that built up steadily during 1966 as President Johnson's popularity ebbed. In fact, Kennedy had greater political appeal for all voters than did the President.

Now the situation is reversed and Mr. Johnson is the more popular with all voters of the nation.

Kennedy's decline in polit-

ical appeal can be laid in large part to the controversy over publication of the book, Death of a President, and to a lesser extent to Kennedy's running battle with the Administration over Vietnam policies.

This question was asked of all persons interviewed in the survey:

"Suppose the choice for President in the Democratic convention in 1968 narrows down to Senator Robert Kennedy of New York and President Lyndon Johnson. Which one would you prefer to have the Democratic convention select?"

### Kennedy vs. Johnson — All Voters —

|           | Latest | Feb. | Jan. |
|-----------|--------|------|------|
| Kennedy   | 41%    | 44%  | 48%  |
| Johnson   | 45     | 45   | 39   |
| Undecided | 14     | 11   | 13   |

President Johnson has emerged as the top choice of all voters since January, but Kennedy still enjoys a slight lead among Democrats alone. At the height of the book controversy (between the January and February surveys), Mr. Johnson drew even with Kennedy among Democrats, but since that time Kennedy has lost slightly in the contest with President Johnson.

Mr. Johnson has a much stronger appeal for men than does Kennedy. In fact, Mr. Johnson is preferred to Kennedy among men by a 12-point margin. Kennedy, on the other hand, has greater appeal among women, as the figures below indicate:

### — By Sex —

|           | Men | Women |
|-----------|-----|-------|
| Kennedy   | 38% | 45%   |
| Johnson   | 50  | 46    |
| Undecided | 12  | 15    |

Kennedy has greater support among younger adults than does President Johnson. In the youngest age group among adults, Kennedy is preferred by a margin of 23 percentage points. In the older age group, however, the reverse is true: Mr. Johnson leads Kennedy by 20 percentage points.

### — By Age —

|           | 21-29 | 30-49 | 50 and over |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Kennedy   | 56%   | 45%   | 31%         |
| Johnson   | 33    | 43    | 51          |
| Undecided | 11    | 12    | 18          |

With Independent voters, Mr. Johnson has slightly greater appeal than does Kennedy. But the President is far more popular than Kennedy among Republicans. This is shown in the following table:

### — By Political Identification —

|           | Reps. | Dems. | Ind. |
|-----------|-------|-------|------|
| Kennedy   | 31%   | 48%   | 41%  |
| Johnson   | 48    | 44    | 45   |
| Undecided | 21    | 8     | 14   |

Kennedy, a Roman Catholic, scores better among persons of his own faith than does Mr. Johnson. The President has the greater appeal among Protestants, as seen in the following table:

### — By Religious Preference —

|           | Protestants | Catholics |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Kennedy   | 40%         | 48%       |
| Johnson   | 44          | 42        |
| Undecided | 16          | 10        |

The President has considerably greater appeal among the better educated than does Kennedy.

### — By Education —

|           | College | High School | Grade School |
|-----------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Kennedy   | 34%     | 41%         | 48%          |
| Johnson   | 52%     | 45%         | 38%          |
| Undecided | 14%     | 14%         | 14%          |

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## GOP Gives RFK Platform Advice

United Press International

House Republicans said yesterday that Robert F. Kennedy's "long range presidential plans will not be helped by his running on a platform of 'I Can Do More for the Good of Hanoi.'"

The charge, a takeoff on the 1962 campaign slogan of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, that "I Can Do More for Massachusetts," was made in an editorial in the newsletter of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee.

The editorial said "dissent Democrats such as Bobby Kennedy" were doing a disservice to their country in accusing the Johnson administration of not working hard enough for negotiations to end the Vietnam war.

# War Hurts LBJ in N.H.

## Vietnam Policy Is Major Factor in Decline Of President Johnson's Popularity

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

SHOCKING EVIDENCE of President Johnson's decline in popularity because of the Vietnam war can be found in New Hampshire.

During an unscientific sampling of New Hampshire voters last week, we asked registered Democrats whether they would vote for Mr. Johnson if the election were held now. Less than half gave an unequivocal "yes."

Of 32 questioned, 14 said they would vote for him, eight would not and ten said it would depend on circumstances and Mr. Johnson's Republican opponent.

Most of the anti-Johnson and undecided voters named Vietnam as the reason for their disaffection. "No sir," a plant guard in Concord told us, "I'm not voting for anybody who ships American boys around the world to die."

"We ought to win the war or get out," said a hardware store owner in Dover, who said he may switch to the Republicans in 1968.

Granted that anti-Johnson sentiment may diminish once a Republican nominee is selected *any* defections in Democratic ranks can be disastrous in a state where Republicans hold a decided majority.

Indeed, the decline of New Hampshire Republican fortunes that began in 1962 and climaxed in 1964 when Mr. Johnson won 63.6 per cent of the vote against Barry Goldwater seems at an end. If the President runs as badly as now seems likely, a Republican revival may be in the cards.

### Scranton Accepts

AN EFFORT to add a few liberals to the foreign policy task force of the Republican

Coordinating Committee has enjoyed one conspicuous success.

William W. Scranton, former Governor of Pennsylvania who is now in Europe, is by all odds the brightest catch of National Chairman Ray C. Bliss.

Bliss and Robert L. McCormick, research director of the National Committee, have been scouring top-level Republican ranks to enlarge the foreign policy advisory panel and diminish its strongly conservative tone. Another catch is Philip Crowe, a professional diplomat who was President Eisenhower's Ambassador to South Africa.

Chairman of the panel is another Eisenhower ambassador, Robert C. Hill, who, before going to Mexico City in the late 1950s, was Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Affairs. Hill, a leader in the Nixon-for-Pres-

ident movement, insisted to Bliss and McCormick that the panel was overweighted with conservatives.

The list of members, for example, includes retired Adm. Arleigh Burke; Yale professor David Rowe, a foreign policy hard-liner; right-wing Gov. Tim Babcock of Montana and former Rep. Walter Judd of Minnesota, one of the party's toughest anti-Communists.

A footnote: Another announcement expected soon is the appointment of Richard Fleming, now on McCormick's research staff in the National Committee, as executive secretary of the Republican Governors Association. Fleming's appointment will give Bliss an open channel into the Governors Association, which hasn't always agreed with Bliss on policy matters.

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