

FORD AD

Gallup Poll

Rating Ford vs. Demos

By George Gallup

Princeton, N.J.

Sen. Edward Kennedy has far less appeal with the nation's opinion leaders than he does among the electorate as a whole, yet he is viewed as a landslide winner by those prominent citizens in the event he were to run against President Ford in 1976.

Moreover, a solid majority of the opinion leader group (56 per cent) feel that Kennedy will actually accept the nomination if the Democratic convention becomes deadlocked (31 per cent feel he would not accept a draft while 13 per cent do not express an opinion).

These are among the key findings to emerge from a special survey of opinion leaders representing many fields, including business, government, education, science, law and the arts.

In a series of trial heats pitting Mr. Ford against four leading Democrats, Kennedy comes out the weakest of the four. Mr. Ford defeats Kennedy, 63 to 30 per cent, Senator Henry Jackson of Washington by the margin 59 to 30 per cent, Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine by a vote of 56 to 36 per cent, and Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota by a vote of 54 to 39 per cent.

By way of contrast, surveys of the general public have consistently shown Kennedy to be the strongest of the leading Democrats tested against Mr. Ford. In fact, in the most recent trial heat, Kennedy edged Mr. Ford, 48 to 44 per cent among registered voters nationwide.

Although Kennedy is less popular among opinion leaders than are the other three leading Democrats tested in these trial heats, he is the only one they see defeating Mr. Ford in 1976.

Governor George Wallace again looms on the horizon as a potential third-party candidate and "spoiler" should he decide to go the third-party route. Opinions among the informed citizen group run 52 to 34 per cent that Wallace will enter as an independent candidate in the 1976 race. At the

De Gaulle's Son Promoted

Paris

Vice Admiral Philippe de Gaulle, son of the late French President Charles de Gaulle, has been named commander of the French Atlantic Fleet, it was announced here yesterday.

Previously, de Gaulle had commanded the naval air arm's experimental station and its long-range ocean patrol units.

Associated Press

same time, eight in ten say they would oppose his entry.

In the same survey, opinion leaders who classify themselves as either Republicans or independents were asked to assess the presidential qualifications of ten leading Republican presidential possibilities.

Mr. Ford and former Governor Ronald Reagan come out best in this respect, with 73 per cent expressing the belief that Mr. Ford would "make a good president" and 53 per cent holding this belief about Reagan. Close behind Reagan is Elliot Richardson, former Ambassador to Great Britain. A total of 49 per cent think Richardson is presidential material.

The following tables give the full results, based on the view of Republicans and independents among the opinion leader group:

1. President Gerald Ford	
Would make good President	73%
Would not make good President	23
Know too little about him to judge—No opinion	4
2. Ronald Reagan	
Would make good President	53
Would not make good President	39
Know too little about him to judge—No opinion	8
3. Elliot Richardson	
Would make good President	49
Would not make good President	28
Know too little about him to judge—No opinion	23
4. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller	
Would make good President	46
Would not make good President	43
Know too little about him to judge—No opinion	11
5. Senator Barry Goldwater	
Would make good President	43
Would not make good President	49
Know too little about him to judge—No opinion	8
6. Senator Charles Percy	
Would make good President	38%

Would not make a good President	37
Know too little about him to judge—No opinion	25
7. John Connally	
Would make good President	33
Would not make good President	55
know too little about him to judge—No opinion	12
8. Senator Howard Baker	
Would make good President	23
Would not make good President	34
Know too little about him to judge—No opinion	43
9. Senator Mark Hatfield	
Would make good President	20
Would not make good President	42
Know too little about him to judge—No opinion	38
10. Senator James Buckley	
Would make a good President	19
Would not make good President	49
Know too little about him to judge—No opinion	32

The following tables show how the total sample of opinion leaders (Republicans, Democrats and independents combined) votes in each trial heat, and their predictions:

FORD vs. HUMPHREY	
Would like to see Ford win	54%
Would like to see Humphrey win	39
Undecided	7
Prediction	
Think Ford would win	56
Think Humphrey would win	33
Undecided	11
FORD vs. MUSKIE	
Would like to see Ford win	56
Would like to see Muskie win	36
Undecided	8
Prediction	
Think Ford would win	69
Think Muskie would win	18
Undecided	13
FORD vs. JACKSON	
Would like to see Ford win	59
Would like to see Jackson win	30
Undecided	11
Prediction	
Think Ford would win	71
Think Jackson would win	17
Undecided	12
FORD vs. KENNEDY	
Would like to see Ford win	63
Would like to see Kennedy win	30
Undecided	7
Prediction	
Think Ford would win	28
Think Kennedy would win	56
Undecided	16

The results reported today are based on a national sample, drawn from "Who's Who." A total of 482 opinion leaders were interviewed in a mail survey conducted during October and November.

Copyright, 1975, Field Enterprises Inc.