

Poll Finds 4-Point Gain in Nixon Support

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 — Results of the latest Gallup Poll, which were released today, showed that 53 per cent of 1,450 persons polled said they approved "of the way Nixon is handling the Presidency."

The popularity rating was the highest for President Nixon in the Gallup Poll since he registered 54 per cent shortly after announcing Phase Two of his economic controls program in early October.

The current rating is four points higher than that of the previous poll, in early January, when 49 per cent approved of Mr. Nixon's handling of the Presidency. The corresponding percentage of persons who expressed disapproval of Mr. Nixon's efforts in the White House was 36 in the latest poll and 39 last month. Some of those interviewed offered no opinion.

According to the Gallup organization, 52 per cent of those interviewed in the latest survey approved of the manner in which Mr. Nixon was handling the war in Vietnam. Thirty-nine per cent disapproved.

Busing Question

The survey was conducted Feb. 4-7 in more than 300 scientifically selected places across the country.

A breakdown of the chief reasons given by those who approved or disapproved of the President's performance did not include any reference to Mr. Nixon's stand against the busing of schoolchildren to achieve racial balance, a question brought to the President's attention today by Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama.

"You have taken a stand against forced busing, but a position against busing is not good enough," Mr. Wallace said

in a telegram to the President from Melbourne, Fla., where the Governor was campaigning in Florida's Presidential preference primary.

Mr. Wallace told the President: "You can put an end to forced busing by an Executive order without undue delay. Your stated opposition to forced busing has fallen of deaf ears in the Departments of Justice and Health, Education and Welfare."

Mr. Wallace said some of the candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination had voted for busing, but "are now having second thoughts and are reversing their positions."

Jackson's Statement

The busing issue also brought up in the Florida Campaign by Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, who said in Tallahassee that it was "racist" to contend that a black child had to sit alongside a white child to get a quality education.

In reaffirming his opposition to busing, Mr. Jackson criticized two other Democratic hopefuls, Mayor Lindsay of New York and Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, for endorsing forced busing but sending their own children to private schools.

Marijuana, rather than busing, was the issue raised by Mr. McGovern today in Cambridge, Mass., where he suggested legalizing marijuana with the same types of controls that have been put on the use of alcohol.

Speaking near the Harvard campus, Senator McGovern said the states "should recognize that laws which define 20 million Americans, and perhaps more, as criminals, create a crushing burden for law en-

forcement agencies, and such laws inevitably divert law enforcement resources from more productive activities."

The Senator proposed a \$1.5-billion program for the treatment of narcotics addicts and a ban on advertising implying "that normal problems of human behavior can be solved through the use of drugs."

Returns to New Hampshire

After his speech, Mr. McGovern returned to campaigning in New Hampshire, which has been all but deserted by the major Democratic candidates, who have been wooing Florida voters.

Although Senator Edward M. Kennedy has repeatedly stated that he is not seeking the Democratic Presidential nomination and does not want his name on the ballots of state primaries, the California Poll reported yesterday that he was ahead.

Mervin D. Field said in San Francisco that the Massachusetts Democrat had received 24 per cent of the straws in the poll, while Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, who is generally regarded as the Democratic front-runner, had been given 23 per cent. Mr. Kennedy's name will not appear on the ballot in the California primary next June.

The May 23 primary in Rhode Island will find Mr. Muskie being challenged by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, Humphrey forces said in Providence yesterday. Spokesmen for Senator Jackson and Mayor Lindsay said they may also enter the primary there.

Rhode Island's senior Senator, John O. Patore, introduced a bill today permitting television networks to give free time to major Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates without having to provide equal time to all candidates.