

Gallup: Fear Issue In Big Nixon Vote

CHICAGO—(CST)—The coalition of voters fashioned by President Nixon into what he calls the "new majority" is "awfully flimsy" and may not endure, pollster George Gallup Jr. said here.

Gallup said many of the votes won by Nixon in his landslide victory over Sen. George McGovern were only reluctantly cast for the President.

"The hidden issue of the campaign," Gallup said, "was personal safety. It was a pervasive issue, hidden under code words like busing, drugs, amnesty and others, but it caused defections among Democrats. Many of the Democrats felt the same way on the issue as the Republicans . . . and they feared permissiveness from McGovern."

Gallup was interviewed yesterday before he spoke at the annual meeting of the National Electrical Manufacturers' Association.

Women Fearful

"We found that three of four women aged 50 and over are afraid to walk in the streets around their homes at night," Gallup said.

When this fear of crime in the streets is added to fears about drugs and drug users, fears about children bused out of their neighborhood and other worries, the personal safety issue is magnified, he said.

Gallup also noted that the allegiance Democrats feel toward their party is at its lowest level in more than 30 years, but added that voters drifting away from the Democratic Party are becoming Independents, not Republicans.

And independent voters, he said, would be the second largest voting group if they were formed into a political party, ranking behind Dem-

ocrats, but ahead of Republicans.

Swing Vote

With independents able to swing elections, Gallup said, a "new majority" cannot be formed without substantial numbers of them.

A Gallup poll which shows Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) would have run stronger against Nixon than McGovern did indicate that Republicans have no solid hold on a large enough portion of the independents to form the "new majority" coalition.

Gallup also believes that Sen. Edmund Muskie probably would have been a stronger Democratic presidential candidate than McGovern.

The pollster suggested that because of the growing ranks of independent voters, politicians may be better able to exploit philosophical differences by running as liberals or conservatives rather than as Democrats or Republicans.