
For the Record

*From a survey of public attitudes
by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
for the Senate Subcommittee on In-
tergovernmental Relations.*

The crisis the people addressed themselves to in this study is broad and deep. It involves the basic elements of trust and confidence in government. A precondition for responsiveness is a disposition on the part of the people to believe in their own influence on government. On this count, there is virtually no evidence that the American people are spoiling to change the basic structure of their free and voluntary society. To the contrary, if anything, the people opt for an even more pluralistic and responsibility-sharing system, involving more dialogue and more contact between leaders and led, as well as more division of the labor of governing among the federal, state, and local levels.

Perhaps even more important, the people also want to see themselves and the citizens groups they feel could represent them have a much more important place in the governmental process . . .

Fundamentally, the American people in this survey are trying to articulate two profoundly held sentiments:

1. That government secrecy no longer can be excused as an operational necessity, since it can exclude the participation of the people in their own government, and, indeed, can be used as a screen for subverting their freedom; and
2. That the key to any kind of successful future leadership must be iron-bound integrity. This matter of honesty and straight-dealing is one that has the public deeply alarmed. It cannot be underestimated. The American people simply will not rest easy until it feels that integrity in government at all levels is secured . . .