

9 in 10 Americans Retain Faith in U.S.

By Louis Harris

Although a majority of 53 per cent think "there is something deeply wrong in America today," and by 45 to 35 per cent feel that "the quality of life has grown worse in the past 10 years," 9 in 10 people have not lost faith and are convinced that "government can be run well."

Recently, a cross-section of 1,594 people was asked:

Compared to five years ago, do you feel groups of citizens and organization are having more effect in getting government to get things done, less effect, or do you feel it hasn't changed much?

More effect 49%
 Less 8
 Not changed 32
 Not sure 11

One in every two people believes that citizen group activity is having an important impact. In other questioning, majorities of the public expressed a willingness to undertake a wide range of individual participation, including 62 per cent who would "send money to a local citizens group to take action," and 79 per cent who would be activated to "work through a group" they belong to.

A major beginning point, in the estimate of the public, is to open up government and give the people the facts, re-

gardless of how tough the news may be. The cross-section was asked:

Do you tend to agree or disagree that a lot of the problems connected with government could be solved if there weren't so much secrecy on the part of government officials?

Agree 71%
 Disagree 19
 Not sure 10

The cross-section was asked:

Do you feel we always have one crisis or another in America or do you feel there is something deeply wrong in America today?

Always have one crisis or other... 37%
 Something deeply wrong..... 53
 Not sure 10

The public also was asked:

Considering all the problems a big country like this faces today, do you feel (READ LIST) can be run well or not?

	Can Be	Can Not	Not Sure
	90%	5%	5%
Local government	90	5	5
State government	90	5	5
Federal government	86	8	6

© 1973, Chicago Tribune