

EA60WX

RFK

29 JAN 1967

311 PES

(WX LOCALS OUT 350)

JOHNSON-KENNEDY

WASHINGTON, JAN. 29 (AP)-SHARPLY CONFLICTING ASSESSMENTS OF THE RELATIVE POPULARITY OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, D-N.Y., APPEARED TODAY IN TWO NATIONALLY DISTRIBUTED POLLS.

AS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST, THE GALLUP POLL SAYS: "SEN. ROBERT KENNEDY'S STAR LOOMS LARGER THAN EVER ON THE POLITICAL HORIZON."

BUT IN ADJOINING COLUMNS THE HARRIS POLL SAYS:

"SEN. ROBERT KENNEDY'S STANDING WITH THE PUBLIC HAS TAKEN A ~~DUMBLE.~~ TUMBLE."

THE POST'S OWN EXPLANATION OF THE DISPARATE FINDINGS:

--THE GALLUP SURVEY WAS MADE JAN. 3-8, BEFORE JOHNSON'S JAN. 10 STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE AND "BEFORE THE PEAK OF THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE KENNEDY FAMILY AND LOOK MAGAZINE OVER THE BOOK 'DEATH OF A PRESIDENT'."

--INTERVIEWS FOR THE HARRIS POLL WERE CONDUCTED BETWEEN JAN. 14 AND 22, AFTER THE MESSAGE AND WHILE THE DISPUTE OVER THE BOOK WAS CLIMAXING.

GALLUP REPORTS THAT ~~AMONG~~ VOTING-AGE ADULTS ~~48 PER CENT~~ SAID THEY WOULD PREFER KENNEDY FOR THE PRESIDENCY OVER JOHNSON BY 48 PER CENT TO 39 PER CENT WITH 13 PER CENT HOLDING NO OPINION.

GALLUP ADDS THAT AMONG DEMOCRATS IN A 1968 NOMINEE CHOICE LIMITED TO KENNEDY AND JOHNSON THE SENATOR HELD A 52-39 PERCENTAGE EDGE WITH 9 PER CENT UNDECIDED.

AG1WX

THIS POLL SAYS THAT AMONG RANK-AND-FILE DEMOCRATS, WITH SOME OTHER NAMES DRAWING SMALL PERCENTAGES, THE LATEST FIGURES SHOW 43 FOR KENNEDY AS THE NOMINEE AGAINST 34 FOR JOHNSON. IN AUGUST 1966 THE POLL FOUND 40 FOR KENNEDY, 38 FOR JOHNSON AND IN FEBRUARY 1966 JOHNSON HELD A PERCENTAGE EDGE OF 52 TO 27.

BUT HARRIS REPORTS THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC NOW FAVORS JOHNSON OVER KENNEDY AS THE 1968 NOMINEE BY 56 PER CENT TO 44 PER CENT. LAST NOVEMBER, HARRIS SAYS, ~~JOHNSON'S~~ <sup>Kennedy's</sup> EDGE WAS 54 TO 46.

THIS SHIFT HARRIS ATTRIBUTES TO DISENCHANTMENT WITH KENNEDY BECAUSE OF THE BOOK CONTROVERSY, RATHER THAN TO ANY UPSURGE FOR JOHNSON.

TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW, THE POLL NOTES THAT BETWEEN DECEMBER AND JANUARY IT FOUND NO CHANGE IN THE PUBLIC'S ASSESSMENT OF JOHNSON'S OVER-ALL PERFORMANCE. IN EACH MONTH, HARRIS REPORTS, 43 PER CENT APPROVED HIS ACTIONS AND 57 PER CENT DISAPPROVED.

A FOOTNOTE:

KENNEDY HAS SAID REPEATEDLY HE IS SUPPORTING JOHNSON FOR RE-ELECTION IN 1968 AND WANTS NEITHER THE PRESIDENTIAL NOR VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.

-0-

EDS: IN ABOVE 3RD GRAF READ "WEN. ROBERT (PUTTING IN QUOTES) AND IN 5TH GRAF "SEN. ROBERT X X X AT END MAKE IT TUMBLE INSTEAD OF BUMBLE.

AG311PES