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Los Angeles, Sept. 4 (AP)- U.S. response to grief over President John F. Kennedy's assassination was "a remarkable demonstration of the political maturity and fundamental good sense of the American people," the American psychological association was told today.

"The vast tide of public grief...among rich and poor, friend and foe, in all parts of the country, was probably unprecedented in history," two researchers reported.

The report, delivered at the association's annual meeting, was by Drs. Paul Be Shearsley and Norman M Bradburn of the National Opinion Research center at the University of Chicago.

"the American public could conceivably have responded to the assassination of their president in a number of undesirable ways," the two psychologists said. Such responses could have included satisfaction among political opponents, they suggested, or:

"Would we have been surprised, when the alleged assassin was revealed as an active leftist with a Russian wife, if the public had responded to the event with a vast wave of anti-communist hysteria ?

"It is gratifying to be able to report that none of these reactions was characteristic of more than a very tiny fraction of the American public.

"Our data are based on a representative ~~sample~~ national sample of approximately 1,400 adults who were personally interviewed... during the week following the assassination.

"The survey documents...just how deeply and emotionally the public reacted to the murder of their president. Upon word of the event, which in less than two hours had reached 92 per cent of the people, the majority of Americans dropped whatever they were doing and gave their full attention to the radio and TV reports, to discussing the assassination with friends and relatives, or to quiet grief.

"Fewer than one person in five reported that they were able to carry on their activities pretty much as usual.

"...Nine Americans out of 10 reported experiencing one or more of 15 physical symptoms which were suggested to them. Two things 'felt very nervous and tense' during the four days" (between assassination and burial). "A majority confessed to feeling 'sort of crazed and numb.' Most people -- men and women -- said that at least at some period during that time, they cried.

"Almost half reported trouble sleeping; about the same proportion, loss of appetite...

"The first reactions of nine Americans out of 10 were sympathy for Mrs. Kennedy and the children, and deep feelings of sorrow that 'a strong young man had been killed at the height of his powers.' Four out of five 'felt deeply the loss of someone very close and dear; five out of six admitted to deep feelings of 'shame that such a thing could happen in our country'...."

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