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| 44 | 26 | 10/6/1971 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Campaign | Report | Statelines: Nebraska Report, released by the RNC research Division, based on the editorial comments and news stories from the OMAHA WORLD HERALD from August and September, 1971. 1 pg. |
| 44 | 26 | 5/3/1971 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Campaign | Memo | To: Richard Nixon From: Herbert G. Klein RE: Nebraska plls. Nebraska Poll articles from OMAHA WORLD-HERALD from April 8-April 14, 1971, attached. 5 pgs. |

STATELINES: NEBRASKA

The following is based on editorial comments and news stories from the Omaha World Herald from August and September, 1971.

NATIONAL
ISSUES

The President's economic policies are supported with the observation that controls will probably be continued after November 12. The World Herald believes the wage-price freeze will work so long as it is applied to everyone...The World Herald advises that the U.S. has gone as far as it should in compromising with China on its admittance to the U.N.: Taiwan should remain in the U.N. and no prior U.N. resolutions should be rescinded on China's behalf...The President's trip to Alaska to meet Emperor Hirohito is applauded. The gesture may not "solve any substantive problems" but it will help reach the goal of more harmonious relations between the two countries...GOP Senator Hruska supports the President's revenue sharing proposals, while GOP Senator Curtis has introduced his own form of revenue sharing for welfare. Of the three Republican Congressmen, Thone and McCollister were co-sponsors of the Administration bill in the House; Dave Martin has taken a wait-and-see position...

STATE
ISSUES

Despite the outcry of critics, Governor Exon is adhering to his decision to cut aid to dependent children. The cuts will average about 9% and affect only recipients with outside income. This action was brought about by the Federal government's threat to shut off welfare aid unless the state met federal standards. The Nebraska legislature passed emergency legislation meeting these standards...

STATE
POLITICS

The GOP State Central Committee has passed a resolution requiring strict party neutrality in primary elections...GOP Senator Carl Curtis is being challenged in his bid for re-election to the Senate in 1972. To date, Democrat contenders for the nomination are Terry Carpenter, State Senator, and Donald Ferguson, public relations man for the Lincoln public school system.

File Nebraska

May 3, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HERBERT G. KLEIN

The attached Nebraska polls are interesting. They were made prior to your recent Vietnam speech and press conference.

bcc: Mr. Finch
✓Mr. Haldeman
Mr. Mitchell

HK:gf

memo subject
memo chron

The Nebraska Poll

Sampling Split on Viet Withdrawal

Nebraskans are almost evenly split over the question of whether President Nixon should be forced by Congress to withdraw all U.S. forces from Vietnam by the end of 1971, according to the latest Nebraska Poll.

In previous Nebraska Polls, though the question of whether the President should be tied to a withdrawal date was never asked, Nebraskans tended to support U.S. policy in Vietnam.

In October 1969, President Nixon's Vietnam policies were approved by a majority of those surveyed. In 1967 and 1968, President Johnson's policies were approved, though not by wide margins.

Commenting on his latest Nebraska Poll, taken exclusively for The World-Herald, research consultant Joe B. Williams said:

"There is no question Nebraskans now want the boys home from Vietnam. There are differences of opinion on whether a deadline should be set."

The telephone sampling of 503 persons — 152 in Omaha, 76 in Lincoln and 275 in other sections of the state — was made during the week ending Saturday and prior to President Nixon's Vietnam speech Wednesday evening, in which he refused to name a date for total withdrawal.

This question was asked:

"Some people are proposing that Congress order President Nixon to completely withdraw all U.S. forces from Indochina by next Dec. 31. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?"

On a statewide basis, 44 per cent agreed; 42

per cent disagreed, and 14 per cent had no opinion.

The breakdown:

Omaha — 44 per cent agreed; 40 per cent disagreed, and 16 per cent had no opinion.

Lincoln — 47 per cent agreed; 40 per cent disagreed, and 13 per cent had no opinion.

Other areas — 43 per cent agreed; 44 per cent disagreed, and 13 per cent had no opinion.

U.N. students vote for 'people's peace treaty.' Page 8.

It was the first poll on whether a deadline should be set for withdrawal.

In 1967, a poll by Williams showed that 45 per cent disapproved, 37 per cent approved and 18 per cent were undecided on American policy in Vietnam.

In April 1968, after President Johnson's withdrawal as a candidate and his efforts to negotiate peace, Nebraskans gave 40 per cent approval, and 39 per cent disapproval to administration Vietnam policy. Twenty-one per cent said they had no opinion.

In October 1968 the state was hawkish. On a question of what should be done in Vietnam, 40 per cent favored an increase in bombing; 28 per cent said to stop bombing; 11 per cent said to get out, and 21 per cent were undecided.

This question was asked in October 1969: "At

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The Nebraska Poll

Sampling Split on Viet Withdrawal

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Oct
'69

this stage, do you approve or disapprove of the Nixon administration's efforts to deal with the Vietnam situation?"

Fifty-two per cent approved; 20 per cent disapproved; 18 per cent gave qualified responses, and 10 per cent had no opinion.

Those agreeing with the deadline volunteered these comments:

"I think the boys should come home."

"Either go in and finish off the war or bring the men home."

"I'm against all war — declared or undeclared."

"We're not accomplishing anything over there, so why stay?"

"I agree — if they can get the POWs (prisoners of war) out."

"We don't belong over there."

"I think they should all get out of there, but I

don't think you can say just when it should be."

"Bring the boys home and send more bombs."

Among those disagreeing came these observations:

"The thing should be over before we pull out."

"I don't want to see us quit without winning."

"If we pull out and let the Communists take over, all the lives lost will have been for nothing."

"President Nixon shouldn't be ordered to do it, but he should bring us out of that war, now."

"I wouldn't want to endanger the boys or disgrace our country."

"We can't pull out if we still have prisoners over there."

"They should fight the war to win, and then get out. If they don't, they'll never get out without losing face."

"I think that's up to the President to decide."

Nixon Job Grade In a Recession

Nebraskans still give President Nixon a high grade on job performance but the percentage is down from 1969 and 1970 levels, the Nebraska Poll showed.

A telephone survey of 503 persons, completed the week ending April 3 by Joe B. Williams, research consultant, indicated that Vice Pres-



dient Agnew's rating is lower than the President's, but a majority of the Republicans interviewed would retain him on the 1972 ticket.

Question:

"All in all, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Nixon is handling his job as President?"

Statewide, 61 per cent approved; 26 per cent disapproved, and 13 per cent had no opinion.

Outstate, 66 per cent approved and 24 per cent disapproved; Omaha, 57 per cent approved and 31 per cent disapproved, and at Lincoln, 52 per cent approved and 26 per cent disapproved. Others had no opinion.

'Tries Hard'

Some of the pro-Nixon remarks:

"He tries hard."

"He's an honest man and he's working hard for our country."

"Give him time. He'll prove himself."

"If they'd give him a chance, he'd do even better."

"Under the circumstances, what more can he do? He may not always be right, but he needs some help."

"I think the old boy's trying hard, but the Democrats won't let him get nowhere."

"He has worked very hard to get our boys home from Vietnam."

On the other side:

"He said he would end the war and he hasn't done it."

"Inflation isn't handled properly, I don't think."

"He has done very little good for the farmer. And I'm not sure he's handling that war right, either."

"We suffer, as farmers, too much because of his farm policies. He should get rid of (Agriculture Secretary Clifford) Hardin. And I think he should free this Calley, right now."

"Didn't he promise to get us out of Vietnam? We're still over there, aren't we? Didn't he promise to stop inflation? It's getting worse, isn't it? Didn't he promise to halt crime in the

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The Nebraska Poll

Nixon's Job Rating Is in Recessation

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streets? Crime rates are still going up, aren't they?"

Agnew Score

In response to a similar question concerning Agnew, Williams found that 51 per cent approved, 29 per cent disapproved and 20 per cent had no opinion on a state level.

Agnew received 58 per cent approval in Omaha and 51 per cent outstate. But the percentage dropped to 38 in Lincoln.

"I like him, he tells it like it is," was a typical comment favoring the vice president.

Others:

"He's a controversial person, but does a lot of good."

"He's one hell of a guy in my book."

"He's outspoken, but I like that."

"I like him, and I'm a registered Democrat."

"He does a good job being the mouthpiece for the President."

On the other hand:

"If you ask me, he's kinda mouthy."

"I would say he's a very mediocre person."

"He's not giving dignity to the office nor helping add dignity to President Nixon's office."

"He acts like an idiot."

"I wouldn't want to have him for president. If he stayed home, he might get something done."

"He's too sassy."

"I don't like the way he keeps blasting the news media."

"His speeches aren't too helpful to the party."

'Keep Him'

Nevertheless, of 213 Republicans included in the survey, 53 per cent want Agnew to remain on the ticket next year; 27 per cent are opposed, and 20 per cent have no opinion.

While the President registered a 61 per cent job approval rating, it was below the 73 per cent reported in a similar Williams poll in the fall of 1969; the 67 per cent of May, 1970, and the 75 per cent of October 1970.

Nixon and his administration supported the supersonic transport plane, rejected by the House and Senate. But the congressional decision resulting in a forced landing of the SST is endorsed by Nebraskans, according to another poll finding.

The question: "Do you approve or disapprove of Congress voting not to spend any more federal money to develop the supersonic transport?"

Statewide, 57 per cent approved; 26 per cent disapproved, and 17 per cent had no opinion.

In Omaha, 47 per cent approved; Lincoln, 54 per cent, and outstate, 63 per cent.

Many of those approving abandonment of the SST said the money can better be used elsewhere.

Loss of jobs and research knowledge were cited by those disapproving.

Nebraska's Democrats Watch and Wait in '72

Fifty-six per cent of the Democrats contacted in the latest Nebraska Poll are keeping an open mind about a 1972 presidential candidate.

But the name most often mentioned by those who have decided was Maine Sen. Edmund Muskie, according to Joe B. Williams, research consultant.

Williams conducted the opinion sampling of 169 Democrats for The World-Herald during the week ending April 3.

This telephone question was asked:

"Quite a few prominent Democrats are being talked about as possible presidential candidates in 1972. If the Democratic presidential primary were being held today, who would you like to see win?"

Muskie got 21 per cent; Hubert Humphrey, 8 per cent; Edward Kennedy, 7 per cent; Harold Hughes, 4 per cent; George McGovern, 2 per cent; New York Mayor John Lindsay, 1 per cent, and others, 1 per cent.

Those mentioned in the "others" category: Eugene McCarthy, Lyndon Johnson, Henry Jackson and Terry Carpenter.

Muskie has probably benefited from recent publicity since he will be the speaker at the annual Democratic Jefferson-Jackson Dinner April 24 at Lincoln, Williams said.



In March, the Gallup Poll submitted nationally a list of six candidates to registered Democrats, asking:

"Here is a list of men who have been mentioned as possible presidential candidates for the Democratic party in 1972. Which one would you like to see nominated as the Democratic candidate?"

Result: Muskie, 26 per cent; Kennedy, 25 per cent; Humphrey, 21 per cent; McGovern, 5 per cent; Lindsay, 5 per cent; McCarthy, 4 per cent, and those mentioning others or undecided, 14 per cent.

No names were mentioned in the Williams survey.

Nebraska is expected to have one of the key presidential preference primaries in May 1972. If the high undecided trend continues, the state could become a major battleground for testing Midlands sentiment.