

Regional Affairs

How Congressmen Read Our Minds

By DENNIS L. PAJOT
Pollution, crime and Vietnam loom greatest among the concerns of the citizenry today, followed closely by anxieties connected with crisis in the big cities.
Education, a traditional national worry, and the pocketbook issue of inflation rank only fourth and fifth places as the great general election campaigns of 1970 swing into high gear.
These conclusions are based on a comparison of "priority" rankings in recent weeks by area political officeholders, candidates and educators.
As might be expected, the order of declining concern wasn't exactly the same on all eight. In fact, only two showed the top three concerns as the "top three."

SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, "pollution" showed up overwhelmingly as the prime concern. It was among the top three priorities most, seven times; among the top two most, six times; among the top three most, five times; and among the top five most, eight times.
"Crime" elicited the next greatest showing, also first three times; among the top two, four times; among the top three, five times; and among the top five, six times.
"Vietnam" rated as third priority over "education" by virtue of its being listed first twice, while education's highest priority was second, twice. Both were rated among the top three priorities four times.
Ironically, Vietnam wasn't rated second on any of the eight listings, education wasn't rated first on any and neither appeared fourth or fifth.

THIS WOULD SEEM to indicate that those candidates who hit hard on the "peace now" issue and those who attack with equal fervor the "safe streets" issue will be tugging on vast numbers of emotions. It would also

seem to indicate that a "save our environment" platform would be even more productive.
It is to determine just such clues to the voters' triggers that polls are taken, and it is why so many are conducted just prior to the fall elections.
Another reason is that it gives the candidates a chance to issue statements keyed to the poll results. These statements commonly attempt to highlight a record on certain issues or to make a record on them.
Political polls are infamous for being inaccurate — due to the pollsters' biases and the unscientific "selected audience."

IN AN ATTEMPT to reduce the margin of error, Observer Newspapers compared the polls results of the three area congressmen, a neighboring congresswoman, a U.S. senate challenger, and that taken of a college political science class.
One area congressman took essentially two polls, which were regarded separately for this story: of adults and of 18-21 year olds. Another asked a priority question two ways, again used in this story as two polls: of "priorities" and of "order of budget cutting."
Not even the two taken of youths below voting age agreed on rankings. The college class listed: Vietnam, inflation, pollution, crime, poverty as the top five in that order. The congressman's younger constituents ranked them this way: pollution, crime, education, defense, urban problems.

FROM THEIR SELECTED "general" audiences the four congressmen got results as follows:
William Ford (D-15th District) of Taylor, who represents Garden City, Westland and Canton: Crime, pollution, Vietnam, poverty, taxes.
Marvin Esch (R-2nd District) of Ann Arbor Plymouth and Northville: pollution,



JUDY NESTER helped count surveys of voters in the Farmington office of 19th District Rep. Jack McDonald. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

education, welfare, aid to inner cities, highways.
Jack McDonald (R-19th District) of Farmington, who represent Livonia and Redford Township: crime, pollution, education, defense, urban problems. It was McDonald who polled 18-20 year olds separately.
Martha Griffiths (D-17th District) of northwest Detroit: (priorities) crime, pollution, Vietnam, inflation, social unrest; (least desirable areas of cuts) pollution, education, aid to cities, welfare, defense.
U.S. Senate candidate Mrs. Lenore Romney (R) was told by her poll before the primary election: Vietnam, inflation, crime, environmental control, youth.

The political science class poll was taken by Larry VanderMolen, Schoolcraft Community College instructor and unsuccessful primary election candidate for the Democratic nomination to run for Wayne County commissioner.

WHILE THESE REVEAL readily the top three concerns, the results are less clear on lesser concerns. Some pollsters had respondents rank 10 items, some more. These show little doubt but what "space" and "agriculture" are least popular with the suburban populace.

Except in McDonald's poll, defense spending and the military-industrial complex were ranked very low but not lowest. In fact, "defense" hit the top five three times.

If terms such as "welfare," "aid to cities," "poverty," "urban problems" and "social unrest" can be lumped as various symbols of the same general attitude, there is a consensus that it is right behind the top three. These terms (collectively) were ranked in the top five nine times, but never higher than third.

SOME OF THE POLLS sought answers to other national questions, such as the pace of Vietnam withdrawal and how to halt inflation.

Three asked specifically if the respondents are satisfied with President Richard Nixon's Vietnam withdrawal strategy. The measure of response varied widely.

McDonald, a Republican and staunch supporter of the president until he received his poll results, said 65 to 75% supported Nixon's strategy.

Mrs. Griffiths, a Democrat and mild critic of Nixon's strategy, reported that 60% of her respondents favored the president's thrust.

VanderMolen's college class gave it only 31% support.

FIVE POLLS asking respondents to rank alternatives on the Vietnam question generally yielded a slight edge for the pace Nixon is leading.

Results locally were almost identical to those reported by the Gallup poll last spring when the same 21% favored "immediate withdrawal," 25% favored withdrawal by a certain date, 36% favored "withdrawal more slowly," and 7% favored sending more troops.

In this context, the "withdraw more slowly" is closest to Nixon's strategy.

FORD'S POLL ranked the same four as follows: immediate, 22%; end of 1970, 35%; more slowly, 36%; more troops, 7%.

Esch got this ranking: immediate, 26%; end of 1970, 24%; more slowly, 30%; more troops, 20%.

Mrs. Griffiths got this: immediate, 31%; end of 1970, 14%; more slowly, 39%; more troops, 10%.

VanderMolen, asked only whether his students favored immediate withdrawal (48% did) or more troops (29%).

WAGE-PRICE GUIDELINES were overwhelmingly the choice of persons responding to four polls, each of which offered other possible alternatives for combating inflation.

Esch learned 68% favored the guidelines. McDonald learned adults favor them by about 70% and youths by about 84%.

Mrs. Griffiths discovered 70% of her respondents favored that course of action.

No other questions were asked by a sufficient number of the pollsters to present a broad-based picture.

NONE ASKED QUESTIONS seeking to learn the peoples' preferred methods of combatting the number one and number two priority issues: pollution and crime.

A state senator did. Sen. George Kuhn (R-19th District) of West Bloomfield, reported that his questionnaire indicated the people want stiffer penalties for law breaking and pollution.

He said 81% favor state-wide stop and frisk laws, 66% favor limited capital punishment for killing a policeman of fireman on duty, 80% favor giving law enforcement officers greater power dealing with crime, 79% favor legislative cuts of funds to universities which allow students to defy the law, and 97% favor governmental action to stop industrial pollution.

You Can Design Yule Seal

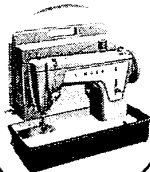
Local artists today are invited by Donald J. Gillard, president of the Tuberculosis and Health Society of Wayne County, to enter the nationwide competition for the design of the 1972 Christmas Seal.
A \$1,000 cash award will be given to the artist whose design is chosen to spearhead the annual drive against emphysema, tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases, and air pollution, Gillard said.

Deadline for entries is Oct. 1. Contest rules and copies of Christmas Seal designs from 1967 to 1970 are available from the TB and Health Society, 153 Elizabeth, Detroit, or call 961-1697.

The design itself will appear on the Christmas seals mailed to millions of U. S. homes during the 1972 holiday season. It also will appear on posters, billboards and television.
Production schedules require that the Christmas Seal design be selected two years in advance of issue, Gillard explained. The 1970 Seal, created by L. Gerald Snyder of California, goes in the mail next fall. The 1971 Christmas seal, now in production, was designed by James J. Clarke, also of California.

THE HARD SALE

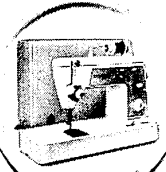
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Observer	29,500	28,208
Wayne County	20,500	19,206
Westland	10,200	10,200
Southland	19,500	15,900
Northland	15,200	14,465
Westland	11,500	11,007
Southland	10,200	9,586
Wayne County	116,600	108,576
Westland	94,900	87,365

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Bloodmobile To Visit

A Red Cross bloodmobile will be at the Livonia Elks Lodge 2246 at 31117 Plymouth, a block east of Merriman, on Thursday, Aug. 20, from 2-8 p.m.

For an appointment to donate blood, call the Red Cross at 422-2787.

2 Make Dean's List

Two Observerland residents made the spring dean's list at Michigan Tech University by earning a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

They are Dale T. Chisholm of Livonia and Anthony P. Landini of Westland.