

THE CALIFORNIA POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND IMPARTIAL STATEWIDE SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION
ESTABLISHED AND OPERATED BY FIELD RESEARCH CORPORATION SINCE 1946

San Francisco Headquarters
145 Montgomery Street
EX 2-5766

Mervin D. Field, Director
Robert Heyer, Editor

SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Office
3142 Wilshire Boulevard
DU 5-5259

COPYRIGHT 1965 BY FIELD RESEARCH CORPORATION. FOR PUBLICATION BY SUBSCRIBERS ONLY

Release #492

For release THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1965

ULTRA CONSERVATIVES HINDER PARTY TODAY, MOST GOP MEMBERS SAY

by Mervin D. Field

IMPORTANT: Contract for this service is subject to re-
vocation if publication or broadcast takes place before
release date or if contents of report are divulged to
persons outside of subscriber staff prior to release time.

California Republicans of the rank-and-file believe that the ultra conservatives are a hindrance to the party, and many believe that advocates of the far right dominate party leadership today.

This is the finding of a California Poll survey of a cross section of the GOP throughout the state recently. In an earlier story, the Poll described how a majority of Republicans identify themselves as conservatives. Today's results show that despite this, very few of them believe the "ultras" are a benefit to the party. About one in five GOP members thinks that they control most, or a large number of the party's top jobs.

Party Control

To measure how California Republicans feel about party control, the California Poll's trained opinion reporters asked this question:

"It has been said that ultra conservatives have taken over the California Republican Party. To the best of your knowledge, what share of the state party leadership jobs are controlled by ultra conservatives -- most of them, a large number, a few, hardly any?"

The answers show that many party members have no opinion about this matter at all, but that about one-third of those with an opinion have the impression that ultra conservatives are very numerous among the party's leaders.

Leadership jobs controlled by ultra conservatives:	<u>Republicans</u>
Most of them	5%
A large number of them	15
A few of them	28
Hardly any are	11
Don't know	41

(MORE)

The California Poll was founded in 1946 as a medium for promoting public opinion research. The California Poll is completely independent of all political parties and candidates. Its sole purpose is to report public opinion accurately and objectively. Most of the financial support for the Poll comes from newspapers and television stations that have exclusive rights within the city of publication. The Poll utilizes accepted scientific sampling and questioning procedures in obtaining the data reported in its releases. Representative samples of adults are interviewed at periodic intervals on election issues and other socially important questions of the day. Proportionate numbers of people of both sexes, from all parts of the state, from different sized communities, and of all age, economic, political, and occupation groups are included in the samples. Major surveys are made with samples of 1,200 or more respondents. Interim surveys sometimes are made with smaller samples but not less than 600 interviews.

The conservative wing of the Republican party has, in fact, made a determined effort to gain more control in party councils, and in 1964's presidential primary they showed remarkable organizational strength in swinging Republican voters behind Barry Goldwater.

Effect of Ultras

The California Poll's interviewers next asked California Republicans, "All things considered, do you feel that the activities of the ultra conservatives help or hinder the success of the Republican Party in California?" The response from Republicans of all types from liberal to conservative is that they "hinder" the party's chances for success.

Believe ultra conservatives --	<u>Total</u>	Identify self as --		
		<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Middle Road</u>	<u>Liberal</u>
Hinder party	48%	45%	44%	63%
Help party	17	26	9	15
Don't know	35	29	47	22

Those who feel the ultras are an impediment to the GOP are concerned that they are too extreme and too radical, and that they have no appeal to the majority of voters. "You can't win elections by scaring off the moderates," said a San Jose electronics technician. Another frequent criticism of the ultras is that they are too inflexible and unwilling to accept change, or that their thinking is out of date. They won't consider new ideas, say their critics. A young woman in Southern California put it this way: "They're living in the past. They think the good old days were better."

On the other hand, Republicans who feel the ultra conservatives serve a helpful purpose for the party think they do so by standing up to the liberals and arguing for conservative principles.