

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
San Francisco 94104
392-5766

Los Angeles Office
3142 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles 90005
385-5259

Mervin D. Field, Director
Robert Heyer, Editor

Library
Survey Research Center
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

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Release #531

For release THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1966

**INCUMBENTS LYNCH, CRANSTON, AND
JORDAN LEAD TODAY IN POLL ON TOP
STATE OFFICES**

by Mervin D. Field

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Incumbent office-holders are currently leading in races for three of the major statewide offices -- Attorney General Thomas Lynch leads Spencer Williams, State Controller Alan Cranston leads Houston Flournoy, and Secretary of State Frank Jordan tops Norbert Schlei in voter preference at this time.

It is a time-honored axiom in politics that the incumbent has a built-in advantage and today's results do not prove an exception. Two of the races are led by incumbent Democrats, but the third, the Secretary of State, is led by incumbent Republican Frank Jordan, a man who has twice successfully weathered the Democratic tide in recent years to extend his term as Secretary of State to more than 20 years.

The California Poll completed a survey of voter preferences shortly after the June 7 primary election and found that if the election were being held at that time voter preferences would divide something like the following:

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Thomas Lynch (Dem. Incumbent)	50%
Spencer Williams (Rep.)	25
Undecided	25

STATE CONTROLLER

Alan Cranston (Dem. Incumbent)	55%
Houston Flournoy (Rep.)	26
Undecided	19

SECRETARY OF STATE

Frank Jordan (Rep. Incumbent)	45%
Norbert Schlei (Dem.)	30
Undecided	25

While races for these offices do not ordinarily receive as much voter attention as the more politically glamorous offices of governor or senator, several men prominent in political life today have come up through these ranks. Governor Edmund G. Brown served as Attorney General before moving into the governorship, and former Governor, and present Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Earl Warren, also served as Attorney General at the beginning of his statewide political career.

(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. 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 1,000 or more respondents. Interim surveys sometimes are made with smaller samples of not less than 600 interviews.

Present Senator Thomas Kuchel was appointed to a vacancy in the U.S. Senate from his post as State Controller, and Alan Cranston, today's incumbent State Controller, made a bid for the U.S. Senate in 1964 which many observers feel might have been successful if he had not been sidetracked by the last-minute entry of Pierre Salinger.

Republican Sweep Not Likely

The results of today's poll show that Republican hopes for a "sweep" of major state offices in November may be due for a disappointment. Although the California Poll's survey shows that Ronald Reagan currently leads Governor Brown in popular preference votes for the governorship, it also shows that Democrat Glenn Anderson is leading his Republican opponent for the Lt. governorship by a wide margin, and, as today's report shows, Democrats Lynch and Cranston are also well ahead of their Republican rivals.

There are still many months of campaigning left, however, and while these offices get less public attention, this makes it even more likely that effective campaigning and important news events could have a substantial effect.