

Packwood survey respondents oppose help for Hanoi and Saigon

To assess the opinions of their constituents, Congressmen sometimes issue questionnaires about topical issues. Senator Bob Packwood has just released the results of an inquiry he mailed in May.

The tabulators of the responses conclude that Oregonians are opposed to aid to North Vietnam,

and favor a phase-out of log exports.

Ninety percent of those responding believed that the United States should not provide economic assistance to North Vietnam. Only eight percent favored aid.

For South Vietnam, the figures are similar but not as extreme.

Over sixty percent of those who returned the questionnaires were against economic aid for South Vietnam, while aid was favored by 38 percent.

Turning to the lumber scene, 85 percent of the respondents were in favor of "phasing out all log exports except when surplus to our needs." Only three percent thought that there should be no limitation on log exports, while six percent favored retaining the present law, which places limitations on the export of logs from federal, but not private, lands.

Assessing the popularity of the federal government's executive and legislative branches, the

Packwood release indicated widespread discontent with both. The White House fared somewhat worse than the Congress.

Forty-two percent of the respondents rated the performance of the White House as poor, in contrast to a 35 percent figure for Capitol Hill. The executive branch garnered a combined percentage of 49 percent for good and fair, where the Congress received 60 percent.

Only six percent thought that the White House was doing an excellent job. Even fewer — one percent — thought that Congress was doing an excellent job.

The questionnaire, which was mailed to more than 550,000 Oregonians without regard to party affiliation, indicates a turnaround on the question of capital punishment. In a 1964 referendum, 60 percent of the persons voting were opposed to capital punishment, with 40 percent in favor.

In the Packwood questionnaire, 86 percent of the persons queried responded favorably to the question "Would you favor the use of capital punishment for certain crimes?" Only 12 percent opposed capital punishment, while two percent had no opinion.

The responses to the questionnaire leaned toward abolishment of farm subsidies. 63 percent thought that all farm subsidies should be ended, while 29 percent favored continuation.

Opinions also ran high against granting amnesty. In response to the question "Do you favor amnesty at this time for those persons who fled this country in order to avoid the draft?" Eighty percent said no. Eighteen percent did favor granting amnesty.

Also unpopular was the concept of making age 18 the age of majority through national legislation. Sixty-one percent opposed such legislation, and 35 percent favored it.

Opinions were more evenly divided on the issue of using poisons to control animals such as coyotes. Fifty-three percent favored such use, and 39 percent opposed use of poisons.

The results of the Packwood survey were released by his office last week.



Sen. Packwood

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