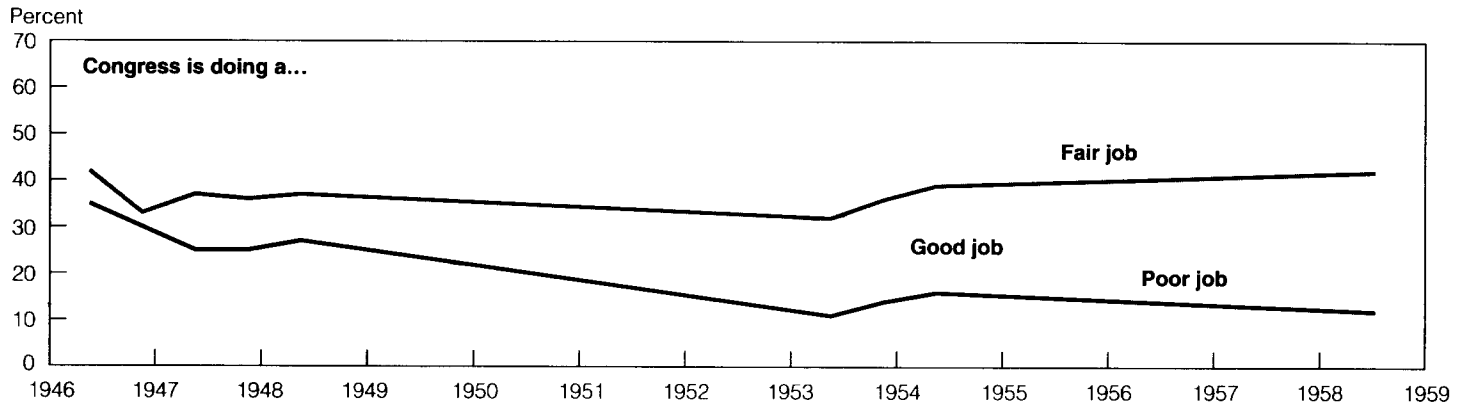


CONGRESS: ELECTION PROSPECTS

With congressional elections only three months away, anti-Congress sentiment is running high. An ever so modest recovery in overall ratings occurred in 1993 and early 1994. Still only about a third rate the institution highly.

Question: In general, do you think the present Congress has done a good job or a poor job? (1946-1947) In general, do you think that the new Congress that took office in January 1953 has done a good job or a poor job up to now? (May 1953) In general, do you think the present Congress in Washington has done a good job or a poor job to date? (July 1953-58)



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of August 20-25, 1958.

Rate the job Congress is doing as...

	Apr. 1946	Jul. 1946	Mar. 1947	May 1947	Jul. 1947	May 1953	Jul. 1953	Aug. 1954	Aug. 1958	Roper	May 1946	May 1975	May 1977	May 1979	Apr. 1983
Gallup										Exc./good					
Good	14%	19%	21%	23%	17%	32%	32%	32%	30%	Poor	17%	21%	27%	18%	23%
Fair	42	33	37	36	37	32	36	39	42	Only fair	46	43	49	50	51
Poor	35	30	25	25	27	11	14	16	12		26	24	16	25	19

Approve of the way Congress/Congressman is doing job

Gallup	Apr. 1974	Aug. 1974	Oct. 1974	Mar. 1975	Apr. 1975	Jun. 1975	Nov. 1975	Jan. 1976	Mar. 1977	May 1977	Jun. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sep. 1977	Sep. 1978	Jun. 1979	Jun. 1980
Congress	30%	47%	35%	32%	38%	29%	28%	24%	36%	40%	34%	36%	35%	29%	20%	25%
Congressman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Gallup	Nov. 1993	Feb. 1994	Mar. 1994
Congress	24%	28%	29%
Congressman	—	—	—

CBS/NYT	Jul. 1977	Oct. 1977	Jan. 1978	Apr. 1978	Jun. 1978	Sep. 1978	Aug. 1980	Oct. 1982*	Jan. 1990	Aug.* 1990	Oct. 10 1990	Oct. 31 1990	Jan. 1991	Mar. 1991	Aug. 1991	Oct. 7 1991
Congress	31%	31%	29%	31%	30%	29%	32%	33%	42%	38%	27%	23%	49%	39%	30%	27%
Congressman	—	—	—	62	60	60	61	—	64	60	—	51	—	—	—	56

ABC/Wash. Post	Jun. 1985	Jun. 1987	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1989	May 1989	Jun. 1989	Aug. 1989	Jan. 1990	Feb. 1990	Oct. 1990	Nov. 4* 1990	Nov. 6* 1990	Jun. 1991	Oct. 1991	Dec. 1991	Feb. 1992
Congress	54%	56%	43%	53%	54%	37%	42%	39%	41%	34%	24%	23%	49%	45%	35%	32%
Congressman	—	—	—	—	71	—	—	—	—	64	54	57	61	64	60	56

NBC/WSJ	Nov. 1989	Oct. 1990	Jul. 1991	Oct. 15 1991	Oct. 29 1991	Apr 1992	Jan. 1993	Jun. 1993	Jul. 1993	Sep. 1993	Oct. 1993	Dec. 1993	Jan. 1994	Mar. 1994	May 1994	Jun. 1994
Congress	—	22%	28%	34%	26%	15%	24%	27%	27%	24%	29%	30%	33%	31%	32%	34%
Congressman	68%	57	59	—	61	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

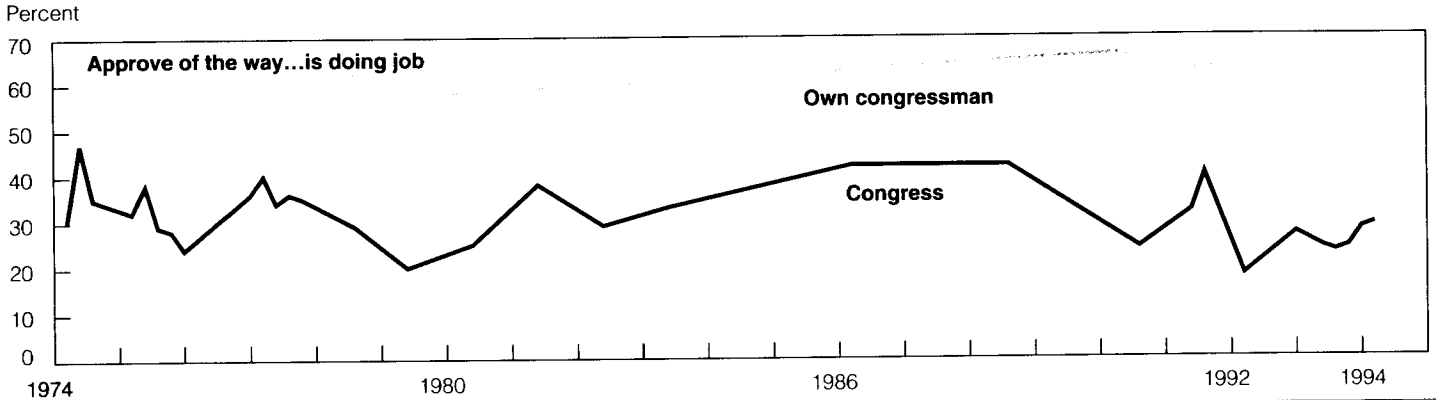
1989-92, Reg. voters; 1993-94, adults

Congress/Congressman doing excellent/pretty good job

Harris	Dec. 1963	Dec. 1964	Dec. 1965	Dec. 1966	Dec. 1967	Feb. 1970	Aug. 1970	Jan. 1971	Jan. 1974	Jul. 1974	Sep. 1974	Mar. 1975	Jul. 1975	Jan. 1978	Jul. 1978	Sep.* 1978
Congress	35%	64%	71%	54%	41%	34%	32%	26%	21%	29%	38%	26%	22%	28%	34%	32%
Congressman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57	—	—	39	49	57

What effect will dissatisfaction with Congress have in November? Individual members are more highly rated than the body, but some questions suggest that generalized dissatisfaction may be having an effect on the traditionally favorable reelection prospects for one's own member.

Question: **Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job? Do you approve or disapprove of the way the representative from your own congressional district is handling his or her job?**



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of March 25-27, 1994, for USA Today and CNN.

Jun. 1981	Jun. 1982	May 1983	Apr. 1986	Sep. 1987	Sep. 1988	Aug. 1990	Oct. 12 1990	Oct. 14 1990	Oct. 21 1990	Oct. 28 1990	Nov. 1990	Jul. 1991	Oct. 1991	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1993	Jul. 1993	Aug. 1993
38%	29%	33%	42%	42%	42%	—	—	28%	23%	24%	26%	32%	40%	18%	27%	24%	23%
—	—	—	—	—	—	66%	57%	55	49	61	55	—	64	58	—	—	—

Oct. 18 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Jul. 1992	Mar. 1993	May 1993	Jun. 1993	Aug. 1993	Sep. 1993	Nov. 1993	Jan. 1994
29%	17%	21%	17%	20%	35%	27%	27%	21%	23%	25%	30%
—	—	55	54	52	—	—	—	—	—	59	55

*=Registered voters

Mar. 8 1992	Mar. 18 1992	Apr. 1992	Jun. 1992	Jan. 1993	Apr. 1993	Aug. 1993	Nov. 1993	Jan. 1994	Mar. 1994
22%	19%	17%	16%	29%	30%	33%	28%	29%	35%
—	49	47	52	60	—	—	—	—	62

*=Likely voters

Nov. 1978	Mar.* 1980	Jul.* 1980	Nov. 1981	Oct.* 1982	Jun. 1984	Jun. 1985	Jul. 1985	Sep.* 1988	Jun. 1989	Nov. 1989	Dec. 1989	Jun. 1990	Jul. 1990
24%	26%	20%	42%	26%	32%	53%	47%	43%	46%	37%	40%	46%	34%
57	50	53	53	58	—	63	59	63	63	—	55	—	52

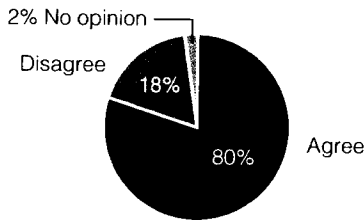
*=Likely voters

Widespread Dissatisfaction

Americans don't give Congress sustained, regular attention and questions asked about reelection months before the fact produce different pictures. Still, widespread dissatisfaction with the body may prompt a majority to say (though not necessarily act on the sentiment) that a new person deserves a chance in their district.

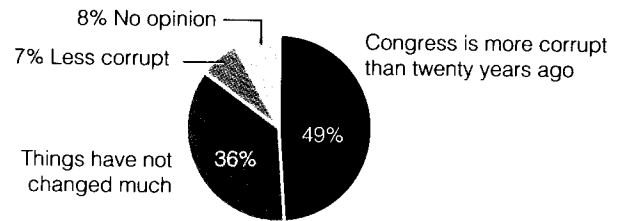
Question: **I am going to read a few statements. For each, please tell me whether you tend to agree or disagree. First, do you agree or disagree that...?**

Generally speaking, those we elect to Congress in Washington lose touch with the people pretty quickly



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, March 25-27, 1994.

Question: **Compared to twenty years ago, would you say Congress is more corrupt, less corrupt, or have things not changed much one way or the other?**

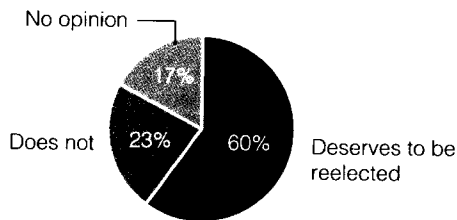


Note: Sample=629 adults.

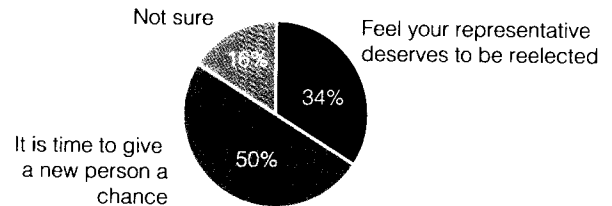
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for USA Today and CNN, May 31, 1994.

Question: **Please tell me whether or not you think each of the following political officeholders deserves to be reelected.**

U.S. representative in your congressional district

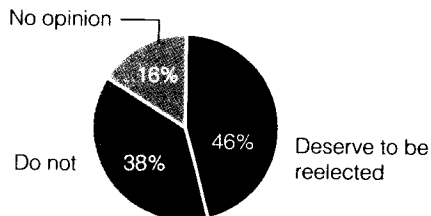


Question: **Looking ahead to this year's election for U.S. Congress, do you feel your representative deserves to be reelected, or do you think it is time to give a new person a chance?**

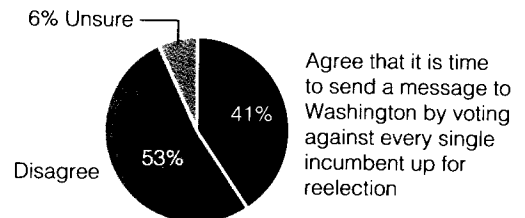


Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, April 30-May 3, 1994.

Most members of the U.S. House of Representatives



Question: **Now, thinking specifically about the U.S. Congress for a moment—some people say it is time to send a message to Washington that the American people are unhappy with the way things are being run by voting against every single incumbent up for reelection in 1994. Do you agree or disagree?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for USA Today and CNN, March 25-27, 1994.

Note: Twenty-four percent agreed strongly; 30% disagreed strongly.

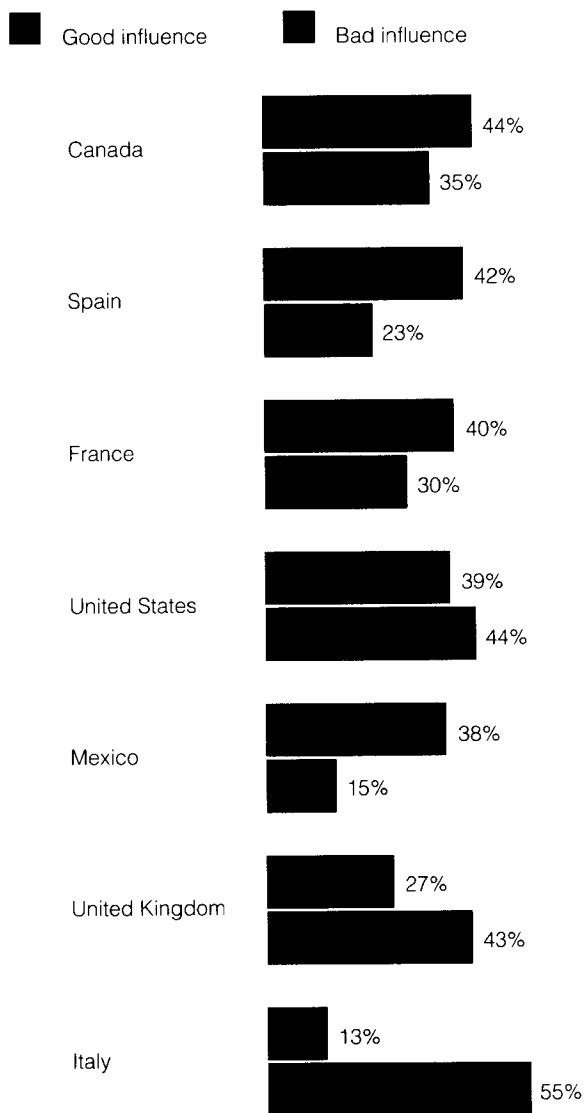
Source: Survey by Mellman-Lazarus-Lake and the Tarrance Group, December 6-8, 1993.

Here and Abroad

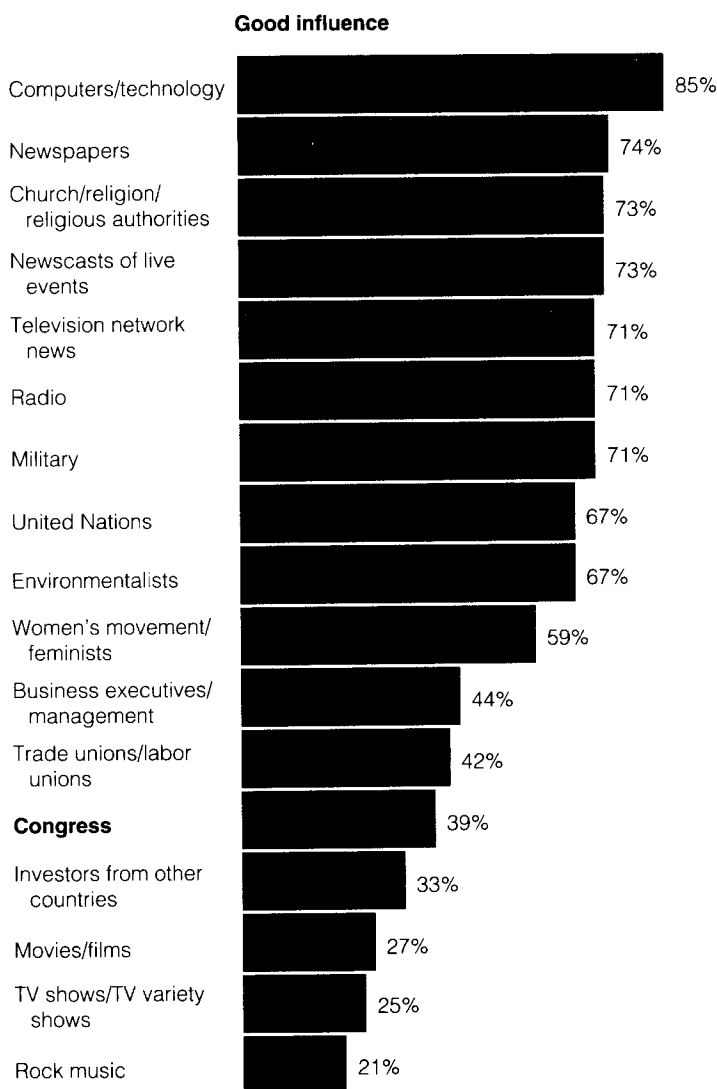
In the United States, the United Kingdom, and Italy, legislative bodies fare poorly in terms of being considered a good influence on the way things are going in the country. Congress trails many other institutions and groups on this dimension in the United States.

Question: I'd like your opinion of some groups and developments in the (country name here). For each that I name tell me if you think they are having mainly a good influence on the way things are going in this country or a mainly bad influence on the way things are going in this country.

Congress/Parliament/National Assembly is having a...on the way things are going in this country



U.S. responses



Note: Volunteered "both" and "neither" responses not shown.

Source: Surveys were coordinated by the Times Mirror Center for the People and the Press (U.S.) and conducted during January 1994 by Princeton Survey Research Associates (U.S.), Environics Research Group (Canada), Liberation (France), the Emnid Institute (Germany), the CIRM Institute (Italy), El Norte (Mexico), Demoscopia (Spain), and Social Surveys (Gallup Poll) Ltd. (United Kingdom).