

# Six Decades of Gallup Polling

## Part I: 1936-1947

### The Great Depression and the War

***“ROOSEVELT SWEEPS THE NATION;  
HIS ELECTORAL VOTE EXCEEDS 500”***

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*  
NOVEMBER 4, 1936

***“U.S. DECLARES WAR, PACIFIC BATTLE  
WIDENS; MANILA AREA BOMBED;  
1,500 DEAD IN HAWAII”***

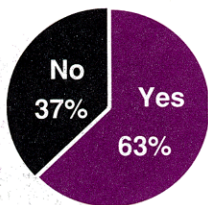
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*  
DECEMBER 9, 1941

***“THE WAR IN EUROPE IS ENDED!  
SURRENDER IS UNCONDITIONAL”***

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*  
MAY 8, 1945

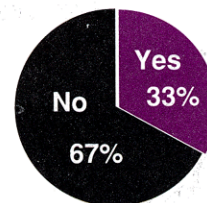
## Popular Culture and Style

**Question:** Do you think it is indecent for women to wear shorts for street wear?



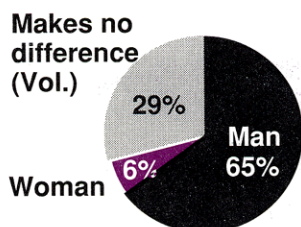
6/9-14/39

**Question:** Do you think it is indecent for men to wear topless bathing suits for swimming?



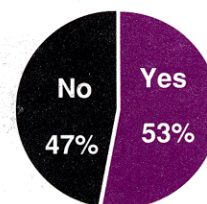
6/9-14/39

**Question:** Would you rather ride in a car driven by a man or a woman?



6/18-23/39

**Question:** Do you object to women drinking in public places such as bars or restaurants?



10/3-8/47

**Note:** In most cases throughout pp. 13-60, "no opinion" or "don't know" responses of less than 10% are calculated out of the pie charts for display purposes.

**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of President Roosevelt's plan to change Thanksgiving Day to one week earlier?



8/19-24/39

**Question:** Would you approve or disapprove a plan to have all holidays like the Fourth of July celebrated on Mondays so as to make a longer weekend?



8/19-24/39

**Question:** Do you have a telephone in your home?



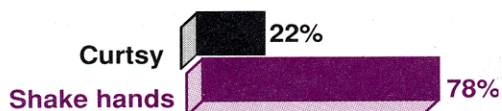
4/8-13/38

**Question:** Is there a telephone in your home?



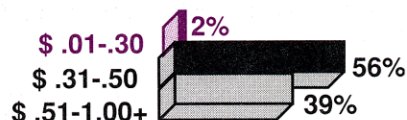
7/4-9/47

**Question:** When Americans are presented to the King and Queen of England on their visit to this country, do you think American women should curtsy or shake hands?



5/4-9/39

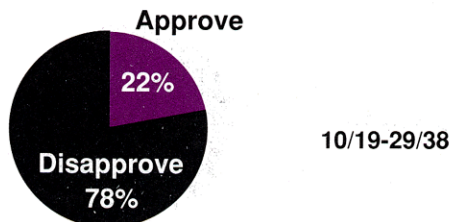
**Question:** Can you remember what the price of your ticket was (including tax) the last time you went to the movies?



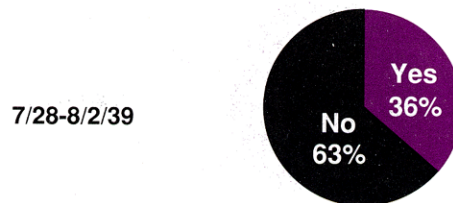
7/25-30/47

## Social Issues

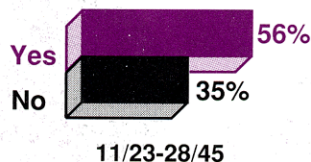
**Question:** Do you approve of a married woman earning money in business or industry if she has a husband capable of supporting her?



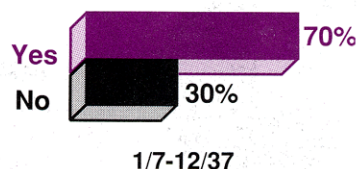
**Question:** If ...[your wife] were offered a job at \$50 a week, would you want her to take it?



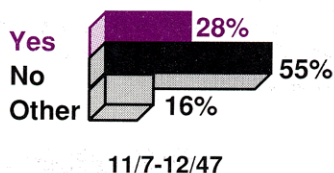
**Question:** If the party you most often support nominated a woman for governor of this state, would you vote for her if she seemed qualified for the job?



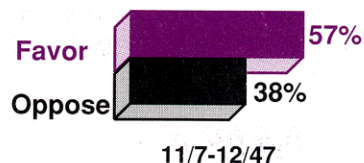
**Question:** Should the Congress enact a law that would make lynching a federal crime?



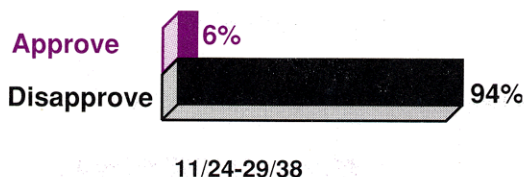
**Question:** Would you, yourself, have any objections to living in a district where people of other religions, race, or color also lived?



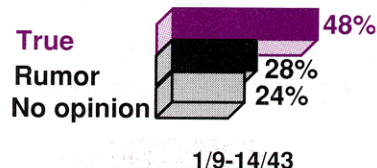
**Question:** Do you favor or oppose a federal law...which would require employers to hire a person if he is qualified for the job—regardless of his nationality, religion, race, or color?



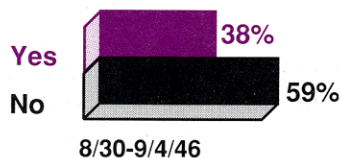
**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of the Nazi treatment of Jews in Germany?



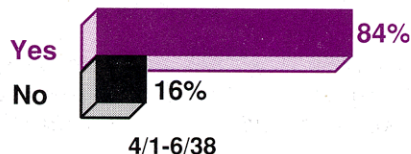
**Question:** It is said that two million Jews have been killed in Europe since the war began. Do you think this is true or just a rumor?



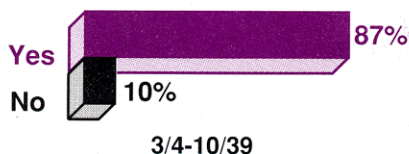
**Question:** Do you think teachers in grade schools should have the right to spank children at school?



**Question:** Do you think all owners of pistols and revolvers should be required to register with the government?

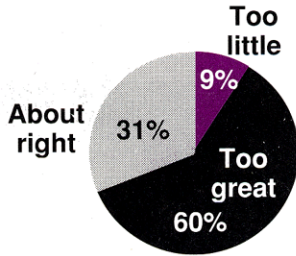


**Question:** [To reduce automobile accidents, would you favor any of the following measures?]...jail sentences for drunken drivers.



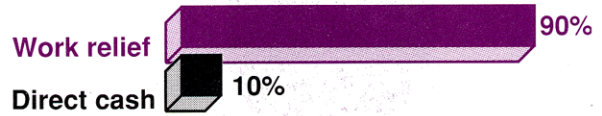
## Public Policy

**Question:** Do you think expenditures by the government for relief and recovery are too little, too great, or just about right?



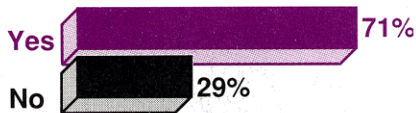
9/10-15/35

**Question:** Do you think relief should be given as work relief or as direct cash relief?



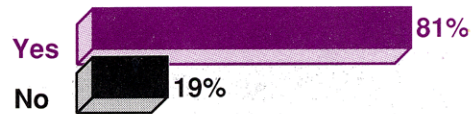
12/15-20/37

**Question:** Do you think people on relief in your community are getting as much as they should?



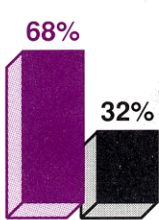
3/25-30/38

**Question:** Pennsylvania has a law requiring all able-bodied people on relief including W.P.A.—Work Progress Administration—to accept any job offered by local government, no matter what kind of job it is. If they refuse to take the job, their relief is cut off. Do you favor this law?



7/28-8/2/39

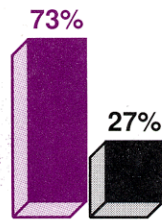
**Question:** Do you favor the compulsory old age insurance plan, starting in January, which requires employers and workers to make equal contributions to workers' pensions?



Yes No

11/6-11/36

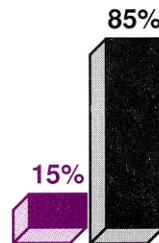
**Question:** Do you approve of the present Social Security tax on wages?



Yes No

12/30/37-1/4/38

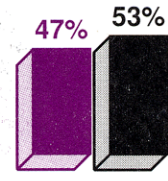
**Question:** Do you think the Social Security law should be changed to make the employer pay the whole amount of the Security tax?



Yes No

12/30/37-1/4/38

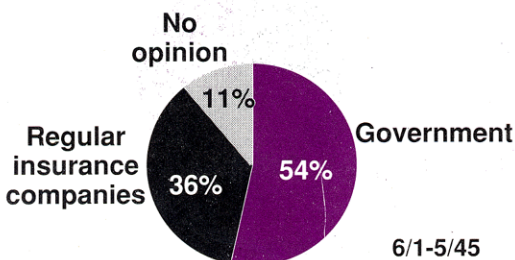
**Question:** Have you a Social Security number?



Yes No

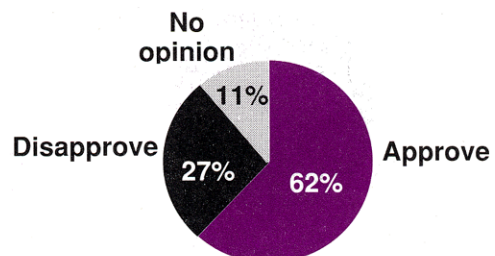
7/11-16/41

**Question:** If the government and regular insurance companies charged about the same amount to provide Social Security benefits for sickness, disability, doctor and hospital bills, which would you prefer to have handle it—the government or regular insurance companies?



6/1-5/45

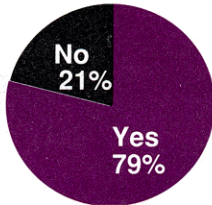
**Question:** The government has tried out a food stamp plan which lets people on relief buy certain surplus farm products below their regular selling price. The government makes up the difference to the merchant. Do you approve or disapprove of this plan?



8/18-24/39

## Public Policy

**Question:** Do you think labor unions should be regulated to a greater extent by the federal government?



11/17-22/39

**Question:** Should the government forbid strikes in industries manufacturing materials for our national defense program, or should the workers in these industries continue to have the right to strike?



4/10-15/41

**Question:** Should people who work for the government be allowed to go on strike?



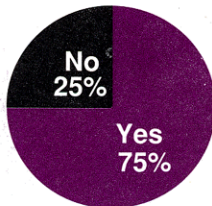
10/9-14/41

**Question:** Which of these policies would you like to have the government follow: go more to the left by following more of the views of labor and other liberal groups or go more to the right by following more of the views of business and conservative groups?



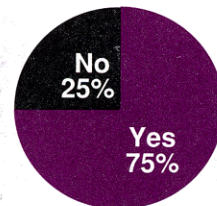
4/26-5/1/46

**Question:** Do you think the draft is being handled fairly in your neighborhood?



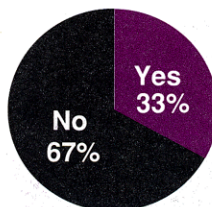
12/17-22/43

**Question:** Would you be in favor of starting now to draft single women between the ages of 21 and 35 to train them for war time jobs?



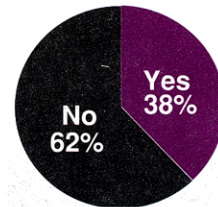
3/12-17/42

**Question:** If the question of national prohibition should come up again, would you vote to make the country dry?



12/2-5/36

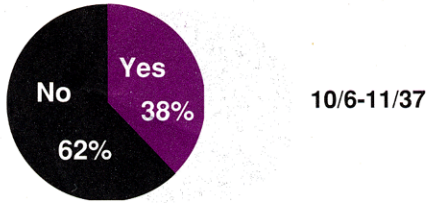
**Question:** Do you think liquor advertising should be prohibited?



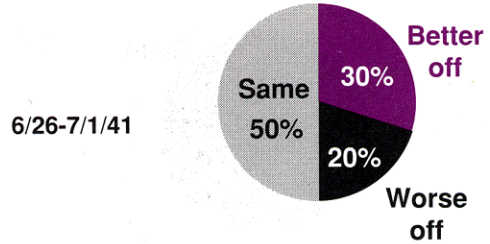
5/28-6/3/39

# The Economy

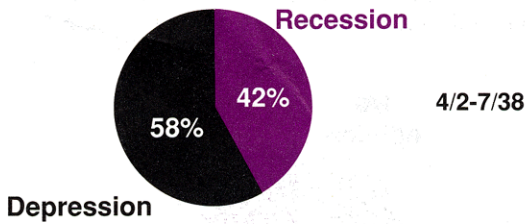
**Question:** Considering your income and your cost of living, do you feel you are better off today than a year ago?



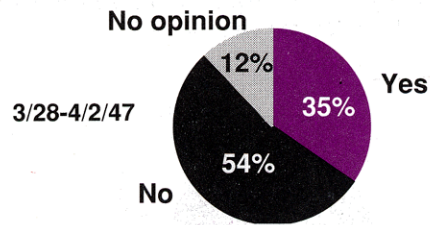
**Question:** Financially, are you better off or worse off than last year?



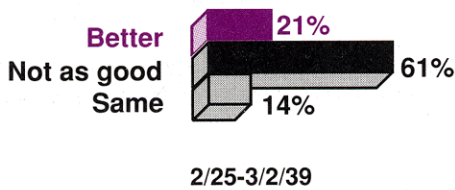
**Question:** Would you call the present state of business a recession or a depression?



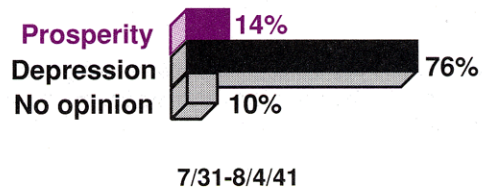
**Question:** Do you think there will be a business recession this year?



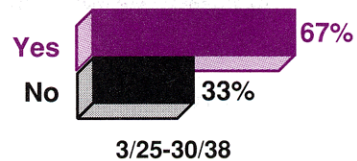
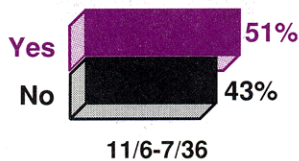
**Question:** Do you think that the opportunities for a young man to get ahead are better or not as good today as they were 30 years ago?



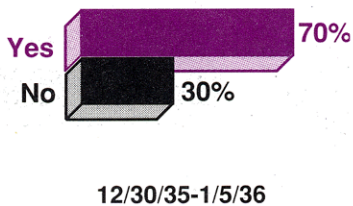
**Question:** Do you think we are likely to have prosperity, or another depression after the present war?



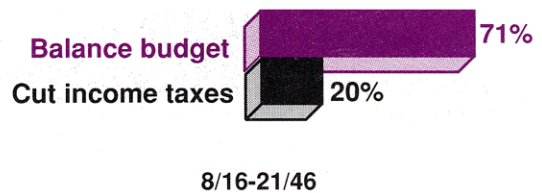
**Question:** Do you think the United States will have to continue relief appropriations permanently?



**Question:** Do you think it necessary at this time to balance the budget and start reducing the national debt?

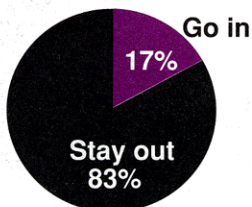


**Question:** Which do you think is the more important to do in the coming year—balance the budget or cut income taxes?



## Foreign Affairs

**Question:** If you were asked to vote on the question of the United States entering the war against Germany and Italy, how would you vote—to go into the war, or to stay out of the war?



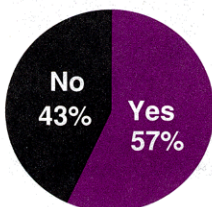
3/9-14/41

**Question:** If you were asked to vote today on the question of the United States entering the war now against Germany and Italy, how would you vote—to go into the war now, or to stay out of the war?



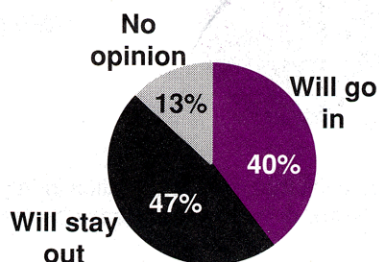
9/11-17/41

**Question:** If England and France go to war against Germany do you think the United States can stay out?



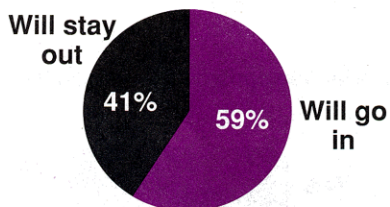
9/15-20/38

**Question:** Do you think the United States will go into the war in Europe, or do you think we will stay out of the war?



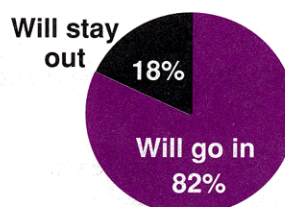
10/12-17/39

**Question:** Do you think the United States will go into the war in Europe sometime before it is over, or do you think we will stay out of the war?



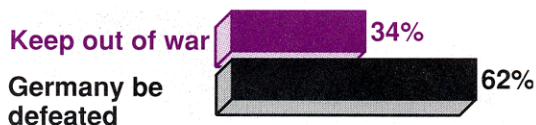
10/25-31/40

**Question:** Do you think the United States will go into the war in Europe sometime before it's over, or do you think we will stay out of the war?



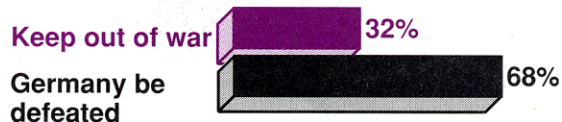
4/10-15/41

**Question:** Which of these two things do you think is the more important—that this country keep out of the war or that Germany be defeated?



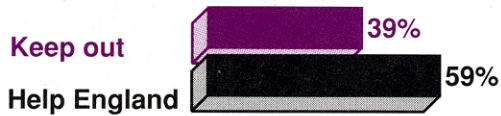
9/19-25/40

**Question:** Which of these two things do you think is the more important—that this country keep out of war, or that Germany is defeated?



11/15-20/41

**Question:** Which of these two things do you think is the more important for the United States to try to do—to keep out of war ourselves, or to help England win even at the risk of getting into the war?



12/18-23/40

**Question:** Which of these two things do you think is the more important for the United States to try to do—to keep out of war ourselves, or to help England win even at the risk of getting into the war?



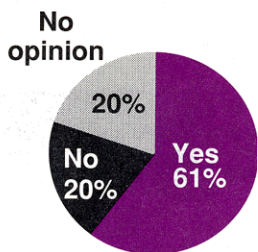
3/9-14/41

**Question:** Which of these two things do you think is the more important for the United States to try to do—to stay out of the war even at the risk of having Germany defeat Britain, or to do everything we can to help Britain, even if this means getting into the war ourselves?

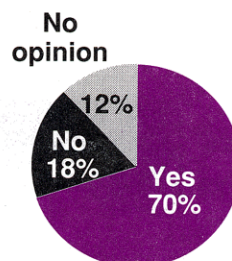


10/9-15/41

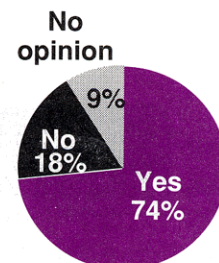
**Question:** Should the United States take steps now to keep Japan from becoming more powerful, even if this means risking a war with Japan?



10/2-7/40



8/21-26/41



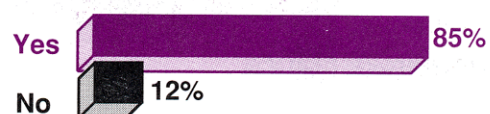
11/27-12/2/41

**Question:** For a year after the war in Europe is over, should people in the United States continue to put up with present shortages of butter, sugar, meat, and other rationed food products in order to give food to people who need it in Europe?



4/6-11/45

**Question:** Would you be willing to continue to put up with present shortages of butter, sugar, meat, and other rationed food products in order to give food to people who need it in Europe?

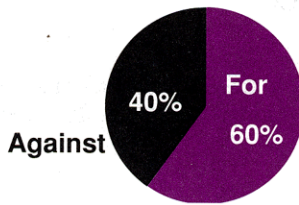


5/18-23/45



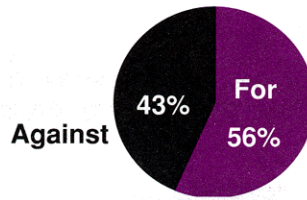
## Presidents, Parties, and Ideology

**Question:** Are you for or against President **Roosevelt**?



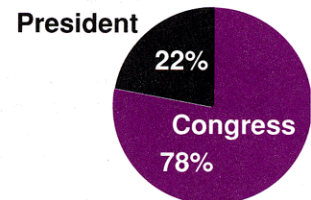
8/4-9/37

**Question:** Are you for or against President **Roosevelt** today?



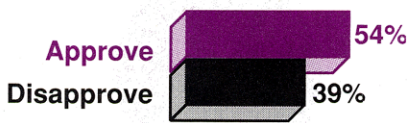
7/4-11/38

**Question:** In deciding where and how to spend federal money for relief and recovery, who should have the greater say, Congress or the President?



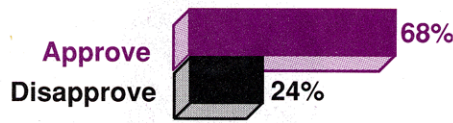
10/19-24/38

**Question:** In general, do you approve or disapprove today of **Roosevelt** as President?



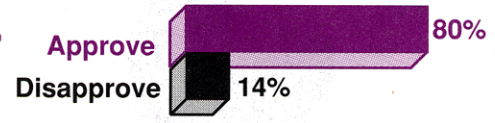
7/1-6/39

**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Roosevelt** is handling his job as President today?



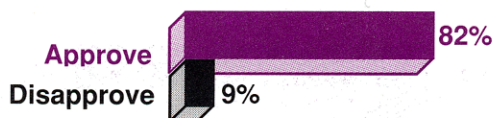
6/26-7/1/41

**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of **Roosevelt** as President today?



6/11-17/42

**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Harry Truman** is handling his job as President?



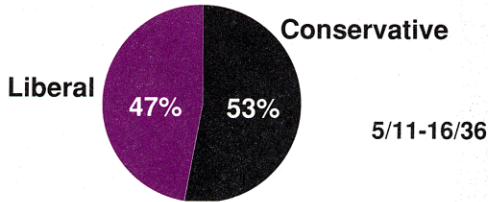
10/5-10/45

**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way **Harry Truman** is handling his job as President?

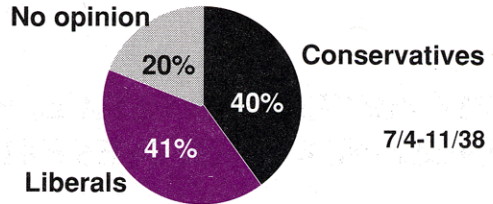


6/14-19/46

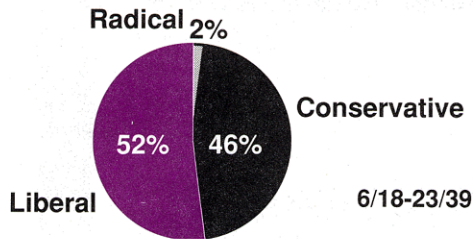
**Question:** If there were only two political parties in this country—Conservative and Liberal—which would you join?



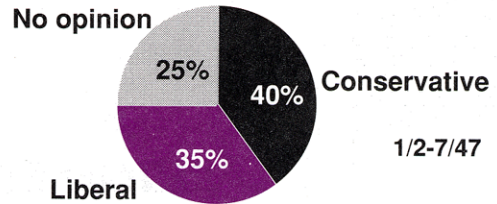
**Question:** If there were only two political parties in this country—one for conservatives and the other for liberals, which do you think you would join?



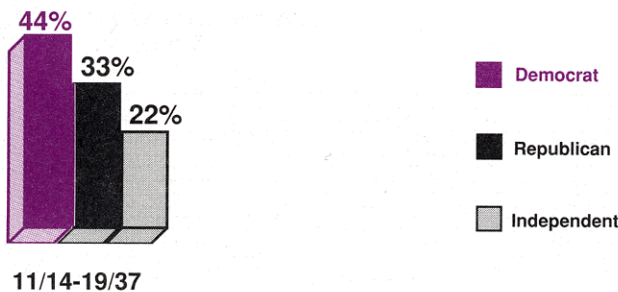
**Question:** In politics do you consider yourself a radical, a liberal, or a conservative?



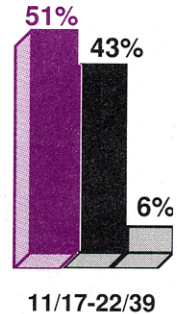
**Question:** Do you consider yourself to be a conservative or liberal in your political views?



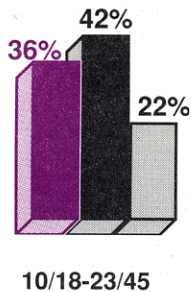
**Question:** Do you regard yourself as a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?



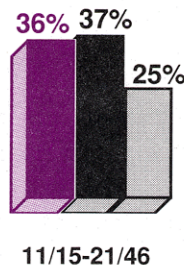
**Question:** In politics, do you consider yourself a Democrat, or a Republican?



**Question:** In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?



**Question:** In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?



**Question:** In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

