Here are the preliminary results of the Reagan Poll put next to some trends. There is a very significant finding. The hardcore anti-Reagant vote/strong disapproval is fading fast.

Left me know on a schedule for the poll.
601. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ronald Reagan is handling his job as President?
56 I[ ]Approve
$3 / 2$ [ ]Disapprove

$\frac{13 \text { y }}{1 /}$ ]DOn't know --. GO TO Q. 2
601a. How strongly would you say you approve/disapprove -- very strongly, or not so strongly?

1[ ]Very strongly

$\frac{\text { DisAPPROVE }}{20}$
2[ ]Not so strongly
23
y[ ]No opinion (VOLUNTEERED)
602. If Ronald Reagan is the Republican nominee for President in 1984, how likely is it that you would vote for him: extremely likely, very likely, fairly likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

20 1[ ]Extremely likely
 / 2 [ ]Very likely

/4 3[ ]Fairly likely
1214
$124[$ Not too likely 1213


1013

603. If President Reagan does not run again in 1984, who would you like to see nominated as the Republican candidate for President in 1984 -- George Bush, Howard Baker, Robert Dole, Jesse Helms or Jack Kemp?


$$
11
$$

7 3[ ]Robert Dole
4. 4[ ]Jesse Helms

3 5[]Jack Kemp
\& $x[$ ]other (SPECIFY):
$45 y[]$ Don't know
604. Compared to four years ago, would you say you are better off economically, worse off economically, or about the same?
$361[$ ]Better off
242 [ ]Worse off
39 [ ] About the same
$\frac{1 y}{100}$
JDon't know
605. Compared to four years ago, would you say the U.S. is more respected by other countries, less respected by other comtries, or as respected by other countries?
$271[\mathrm{JMore}$
3621 IVes
293 [ ]as respected
$\frac{8}{100}$ y[]Don't know
606. Compared to four years ago, would you say our military defenses are stronger, weaker, or about the same?
43 I[ ]Stronger
4./ 2[] Weaker
$\frac{7}{100}$ y[ ]Don't know
607. Compared to four years ago, would you say there is a greater chance of a nuclear war, a lesser chance of a nuclear war, or about the same chance?
38 I[ ]Greater
12 2[]Iess
453 [ ]About the same
$\frac{5}{100} y[$ ]Don't know
608. Now, let me ask about specific foreign and domestic problems. As I read off each problem, one at a time, would you tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way Ronald Reagan is handling that problem?

609. I am going to read some statements. For each, tell me if you feel it applies to Ronald Reagan, or not. (READ LIST)

I have personal confidence in him to do the right thing

He is decisive
He's too quick to use military force
I like him personally
He has a good understanding of complex issues
I like the way he stands up for America
He's too committed to his own point of view
He cares about the less fortunate

610. Some people feel the country loses momentum whenever a President leaves
office after only one term and a new person has to learn the job. How important
will this be to you in deciding whether or not to vote for Ronald Reagan: very , important, fairly important, not too important, or not important at all? $\frac{15}{2}$ I[ ]Very important Res!
20 2[]Fairly important
19
20 3[]Not too important 20
304[] Not important at all 28
$\frac{5 y[] D D n ' t ~ k n o w ~}{100}$

$$
\frac{2}{100}
$$

From: Andrew Kohut

Reagan's Newsweek approval rating has hit a 30 month highpoint in the current survey -- $56 \%$ approve and $31 \%$ disapprove (Table 1). What really surprises us is that strong disapproval has fallen as sharply as it has. Only $20 \%$ strongly disapprove of Reagan's performance compared to $28 \%$ in September, 1983 and 35\% in September, 1982 (Table 2).

Many have assumed that the hardcore anti-Reagan vote was pretty unshakeable. This poll suggests that opinion is changing even among some of Reagan's toughest critics.

The decline in strong disapproval (and increase in strong approval) is found across all demographic groups -- but it is greater among older people and Democrats -- strong disapprovals have declined by 28 percentage points among Democrats!*

On an overall basis, Democrats still disapprove of Reagan's performance ( $50 \%$ disapprove vs. $37 \%$ approve). The current result suggests that a good deal of the anger about Reagan among Democrats is beginning to subside. This could be a sign that Reagan can once again make in-roads among Democrats or that a massive anti-Reagan turnout among traditional Democrats may be difficult to carry off.

Either case is speculative -- but what is fact, is that not only are more people approving of Reagan -- fewer are intensely disapproving.
*Since September 1982.

Table 1
NEWSWEEK TREND -- REAGAN APPROVAL

| $\cdots$ |  | $\frac{\text { Approve }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Disapprove }}{\frac{1}{\%}}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Don't } \\ & \frac{\text { Know }}{\%} \end{aligned}$ | $\frac{\text { Total }}{\frac{1}{\%}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Current | January 1984 | 56 | 31 | 13 | 100 |
|  | October 1983 | 48 | 39 | 13 | 100 |
|  | September 1983 | 53 | 39 | 8 | 100 |
|  | August 1983 | 44 | 47 | 9 | 100 |
|  | July 1983 | 52 | 39 | 9 | 100 |
|  | June 1983 | 48 | 41 | 11 | 100 |
|  | May 1983 | 47 | 40 | 13 | 100 |
|  | February 1983 | 42 | 49 | 9 | 100 |
|  | January 1983 | 38 | 50 | 12 | 100 |
|  | September 1982 | 41 | 51 | 8 | 100 |
|  | June 1982 | 48 | 45 | 7 | 100 |
|  | January 1982 | 52 | 38 | 10 | 100 |
|  | August 1981 | 60 | 25 | 15 | 100 |

Table 2

|  | STRENGTH OF APPROVAL TREND |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | APPROVE |  | DISAPPROVE |  |
|  | $\frac{\text { Strongly }}{\frac{\square}{\square}}$ | $\frac{\text { Mildly }}{\vdots}$ | $\frac{\text { Strong1y }}{\frac{1}{\circ}}$ | $\frac{\text { Mildly }}{\frac{1}{\%}}$ |
| Current | 33 | 23 | 20 | 11 |
| *Gallup Poll - Sept. 83 | 22 | 24 | 28 | 13 |
| September 1982 | 21 | 19 | 35 | 15 |
| January 1982 | 30 | 22 | 26 | 12 |

[^0]|  | APPROVE |  |  | DISAPPROVE |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Strongly |  | Diff. | Strongly |  |  |
|  | $\frac{9 / 82}{\square}$ | $\frac{1 / 84}{\%}$ |  | $\frac{9 / 82}{\%}$ | $\frac{1 / 84}{\square}$ | Diff. |
| NATIONAL | 21. | 33 | +12 | 35 | 20. | -15 |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 25 | 37 | +12 | 34 | 16 | -18 |
| Female | 17 | 29 | +12 | 37 | 23 | -14 |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18-29 | 17 | 27 | +10 | 29 | 18 | -11 |
| 30-49 | 22 | 32 | +10 | 34 | 21 | -13 |
| $50+$ | 21 | 37 | +16 | 41 | 20 | -19 |
| $65+$ |  | 39 |  |  | 15 |  |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| College | 25 | 37 | +12 | 34 | 19 | -15 |
| High school | 20 | 29 | +9 | 33 | 22 | -11 |
| Grade school | 11 | 33 | +12 | 44 | 16 | -28 |
| Party I.D. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 47 | 61 | +14 | 9 | 6 | -3 |
| Democrat | 6 | 17 | +11 | 58 | 30 | -28. |
| Independent | 20 | 28 | +8 | 28 | 20 | -8 |
| Region |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| East | 18 | 32 | +14 | 43 | 20 | -23 |
| Midwest | 20 | 31 | +11 | 31 | 23 | -8 |
| South | 25 | 33 | +8 | 31 | 18 | +13 |
| West | 20 | 35 | +15 | 36 | 16 | -20 |

Methodology: 1015 telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of adults 18 years and over, January 9-15, 1984. Sampling error is $\pm 4$ percentage points.
To: Mimi Sheils
From: Andrew Kohut
January 26, 1984

I am faxing up the summary to the Reagan Poll. I will Federal Express the entire report to you later in the day. Here is some language for the margin of error statement.

The margin of sampling error for findings based on the entire sample is $\pm 4$ percent. For comparisons between the current survey and the previous ones, sampling error is $\pm 6$ percent.

Alternative:
The margin of sampling error for findings based on the entire sample is ${ }^{+} 4$ percent. The sampling error is larger for results based upon sub-groups and for comparisons between surveys.

The current Newsweek Poll indicates a remarkable political recovery for Ronald Reagan over the past 12 months. Only a year ago a majority of the public ( $50 \%$ ) disapproved of the way Reagan was handling his job, and only $38 \%$ approved. The January 1984 Newsweek Poll finds the figures more than reversed (56\% approve, $31 \%$ disapprove).

As last week's report pointed out, the real surprise in this survey is the decline in strong disapproval. Only $20 \%$ strongly disapprove of Reagan's performance compared to $28 \%$ in September 1983 and $35 \%$ in September 1982.

Many have assumed that the hardcore anti-Reagan vote was pretty unshakeable. This poll suggests that opinion is changing even among some of Reagan's toughest critics.

The decline in strong disapproval (and increase in strong approval) is found across all demographic groups -- but it is greater among older people and Democrats -- strong disapprovals have declined by 28 percentage points among Democrats!

On an overall basis, Reagan's approval ratings have recovered with the economic upswing -- just as they fell when the recession took hold in late 1981/early 1982. However, the success of the Grenada mission acted as a catalyst to bring the political benefits of the recovery to full fruition. Since Grenada we have seen Reagan's ratings stabilize in the 50th percentile and the change in the intensity of opinion discussed above.

Grenada not withstanding, Reagan's principle asset is the economic situation while opinion of his handling of foreign policy is, at best, a two edged sword. Looking at the trend in rating of Reagan in specific performance areas, we find opinion of Reagan most improved (and highest) on the economy and also better opinion of his handling of the environment and public education than was found six months ago. But on foreign policy issues the President continues to get abysmal ratings for Central America and the Mideast -- while disapproval of his handling of relations with the Soviet Union has grown steadily higher.

> Throughout the last two years, Reagan's economic rating lagged his foreign policy ratings -- now it is just the opposite.

The results of the "campaign promises" measures dovetail with Reagan's performance ratings. A plurality of the public .albeit a small one -- believes they are better off, not worse off, financially than they were four years ago. An even clearer plurality believes the nation's defenses are stronger than they were four years ago. But the public does not feel the U.S. is more respected, and by a $38 \%$ to $12 \%$ margin the public feels there is a greater, not lesser, chance of nuclear war compared to four years ago.

Reagan's personal image ratings correspond to his higher overall approval levels and his specific performance ratings. Reagan's image has improved on just about all dimensions compared to previous surveys. His greatest gains are in "personal confidence to do the right thing" and "having an undestanding of complex issues." The percentage who like Reagan personally is still somewhat better than his overall approval score -- but not much better (as is widely believed).

On the negative side, Reagan continues to be viewed as not caring about the less fortunate and a majority feel he is too committed to his own point of view. The biggest positive the survey found was the $80 \%$ who reported they liked the way Reagan stands up for America -- relatedly $68 \%$ see Reagan as decisive -- up from $61 \%$ a year ago. However, a very significant proportion ( $41 \%$ ) feel Reagan is too quick to use military power.

Looking at the results of the voting disposition question, $38 \%$ said they were very or extremely likely to vote for Ronald Reagan, $14 \%$ report they are fairly likely to vote, while $12 \%$ said they were not too likely to vote -- $28 \%$ are not at all likely to vote for him. This is a much improved self-reported division of the electorate than we found a year ago. Registered voters are even more likely to say they will vote for Reagan than the public at large.

|  | All Respondents |  | Registered Voters |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\frac{2 / 83}{\%}$ | $\frac{1 / 84}{\%}$ | $\frac{2 / 83}{\%}$ | $\frac{1 / 84}{\%}$ |
| Extremely likely Very likely | $\left.\begin{array}{l} 17 \\ 12 \end{array}\right] 29$ | $\left.\begin{array}{l} 20 \\ 18 \end{array}\right] 38$ | $\left.\begin{array}{l} 19 \\ 13 \end{array}\right] 32$ | $\left.\begin{array}{l}22 \\ 18\end{array}\right] 40$ |
| Fairly likely | 12 | 14 | 13 | 13 |
| Not too likely | 10 | 12 | 9 | 11 |
| Not at all likely | 46 | 28 | 44 | 28 |
| Don't know | 3 | 8 | 2 | 8 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

If we think the results of this question as a basis of triangulating public voting disposition, a demographic analysis shows that a plurality of the following groups are in the "solid for" Reagan camp (extremely likely, very likely):

- Males*
- Those over 30 years of age, especially $50+$
- The college-educated
- Whites
- Those with household incomes of $\$ 20,000$ and over
- Republicans

A plurality of the following are solidly anti-Reagan (not at all likely):

- Democrats
- Blacks
- Those with household incomes of under $\$ 10,000$

A plurality of the following groups are ":in the middle" (fairly likely, not too likely, don't know):

- Those under 30 years of age
- High school graduates
- Those with household incomes of $\$ 10,000-\$ 19,999$
- Independents

[^1]

| Extr <br> Very |  | Chg. | Fairly <br> Not too/ <br> Don't know |  | Chg. | Not At All |  | Chg. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2/83 | $\frac{1 / 84}{\%}$ |  | $\frac{2 / 83}{\%}$ | $\frac{1 / 84}{\%}$ |  | $\frac{2 / 83}{\%}$ | $\frac{1 / 84}{\frac{\%}{6}}$ |  |
| 29 | 38 | +9 | 25 | 34 | +9 | 46 | 28 | -18 |
| 37 | 41 | +4 | 26 | 33 | +7 | 37 | 26 | -11 |
| 23 | 34 | +11 | 25 | 36 | +11 | 52 | 30 | -22 |

Age

| $18-29$ | 24 | 30 | +6 | 29 | 46 | +17 | 47 | 24 | -23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $30-49$ | 25 | 37 | +12 | 29 | 31 | +2 | 46 | 32 | -14 |
| $50+$ | 37 | 44 | +7 | 19 | 29 | +10 | 44 | 27 | -17 |
| $65+$ | - | -- | - | -- | 32 | -- | -- | 22 | -- |

Education

| College | 34 | 44 |  | 24 | 32 | +8 | 42 | 24 | -18 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| High school | 28 | 34 | +6 | 28 | 37 | +9 | 44 | 29 | -15 |
| Grade school | 25 | 34 | +9 | 23 | 34 | +11 | 52 | 32 | -20 |
| ace |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 32 | 41 | +9 | 27 | 34 | +7 | 41 | 25 | -16 |
| Non-White | 12 | 18 | +6 | 15 | 33 | +8 | 73 | 49 | -24 |

Annual Household Income
$\$ 30,000$ and over
-- 48 -- $\quad$-- 29 -- $\quad$-- 23 --
\$20,000 - \$19,99
-- 42 --
$\$ 10,000-\$ 19,999$
Under \$10,000
$\begin{array}{llll}-- & 29 & -- & - \\ -- & 31 & & \end{array}$
Registered Voter

Registered
Not Registered
Party I.D.

| Republican | 62 | 71 | +9 | 25 | 21 | -4 | 13 | 8 | -5 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Democrat | 10 | 18 | +8 | 19 | 37 | +18 | 71 | 45 | -26 |
| Independent | 27 | 33 | +6 | 32 | 41 | +9 | 41 | 26 | -15 |


| 32 | 41 | +9 | 24 | 32 | +8 | 44 | 27 | -17 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 20 | 28 | +8 | 28 | 44 | +16 | 52 | 28 | -24 |

In summary, the poll shows great political improvements for Reagan over the past 12 months based primarily on economic trends; however, the public is becoming increasingly uneasy over Reagan's foreign policies and feels that the chances of a nuclear war are greater than they were four years ago.

Our analyses have consistently shown that economic evaluations of Reagan are the dominant factor in overall approval of the President. This is not to undermine the foreign policy concerns expressed, but opinion of Reagan is more closely tied to the economy than any other single factor.

As the table below shows, approval of Reagan's handling of the economy is many times more important to overall approval of him than is any other rating factor. Also note that rating of Reagan for the budget deficit is having essentially no impact on his approval ratings at this time.
The economy ..... 62
Relations with Soviet Union ..... 12
Central America ..... 10
The Mideast ..... 6
Public education ..... 5
The environment ..... 4
The budget deficit ..... 1
Total ..... 100

A very important caveat to Reagan's political success as a consequence of the economy is that despite the upsurge in approval, the opinions that people express about the economy and Reagan's stewardship of it are still relatively modest .- only a plurality, not a majority, feel they are better off than they were four years ago and economic approval outweighs economy disapprovals by only a slight margin.

At this point in the recovery, people are reacting more to the perceived direction of the economy than realized gains. This makes Reagan's political recovery very much subject to the way the economy seems to be going.

Table 1
NEWSWEEK TREND -- REAGAN APPROVAL


Table 2

## STRENGTH OF APPROVAL TREND



| Current | 33 | 23 | 20 | 11 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| *Gallup Poll - Sept. 83 | 22 | 24 | 28 | 13 |
| September 1982 | 21 | 19 | 35 | 15 |
| January 1982 | 30 | 22 | 26 | 12 |

*Based on 1500 personal interviews, Gallup Poll. All other Newsweek polls based on 1000 telephone interviews.

| APPROVE |  |  | Chg. In \% Pts. | DISAPPROVE |  |  | Chg. In \% Pts. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Sept. } \\ & 1982 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } \\ & 1983 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan. } \\ & 1984 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Sept.'82- <br> Jan. ' 84 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Sept. } \\ & 1982 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } \\ & 1983 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan. } \\ & 1984 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Sept. ' } 82- \\ \text { Jan. ' } 84 \end{gathered}$ |
| \% | \% | \% |  | \% | \% | \% |  |

NATIONAL
$41 \quad 42 \quad 56$
$+15$
51
49
31
$-18$
Sex

| Male | 46 | 50 | 62 | +16 | 47 | 41 | 27 | -20 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Female | 36 | 36 | 51 | +15 | 54 | 56 | 34 | -20 |

Age

| $18-29$ years | 46 | 42 | 56 | +20 | 45 | 53 | 32 | -13 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30-49$ years | 44 | 40 | 56 | +12 | 47 | 51 | 31 | -16 |
| 50 and over | 34 | 45 | 55 | +21 | 58 | 45 | 30 | -28 |
| 65 and over | -- | -- | 57 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Education

| College | 46 | 44 | 60 | +14 | 49 | 48 | 31 | -18 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| High school | 43 | 43 | 55 | +12 | 48 | 48 | 31 | -17 |
| Grade school | 25 | 38 | 50 | +25 | 63 | 52 | 31 | -32 |

Party I.D.

| Republican | 76 | 73 | 85 | +9 | 17 | 21 | 10 | -7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Democrat | 16 | 22 | 37 | +21 | 78 | 71 | 50 | -28 |
| Independent | 47 | 43 | 53 | +6 | 43 | 45 | 29 | -14 |
| Race |  |  |  |  |  | . |  |  |
| White | 45 | 47 | 60 | +15 | 47 | 44 | 27 | -20 |
| Non-White | 18 | 18 | 28 | +10 | 73 | 75 | 57 | -16 |

## Choice For Republican Nomination If Reagan Does Not Run

George Bush continues to be the top choice for the Republican nomination in the event Ronald Reagan chooses not to run again. About one-fourth of Democrats and independents and three in ten Republicans would like to see George Bush nominated if Reagan does not run. Of note, there has been an increase of 11 percentage points since February, 1983 in those offering no opinion on a Republican candidate.

Choice For Republican Nomination

| George Bush | 28 | 37 | 23 | 26 | 26 | 31 | 25 | 22 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Howard Baker | 17 | 18 | 15 | 20 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| Robert Dole | 8 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| Jack Kemp | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| Jess Helms | 2 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Other | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| Don't know | 34 | 23 | 42 | 32 | 45 | 40 | 43 | 51 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Opinion of Reagan's Handling of Specific Foreign and Domestic Issues

The Newsweek Poll shows that as Reagan's overall job performance rating increases, so has the public's opinion of his handling of specific domestic issues. Approval of his handling of economic issues has increased by eight percentage points since August of 1983 ( $41 \%$ vs. $49 \%$ ). Opinion of his handling of environmental problems has similarly increased.

However, the public's assessment of Reagan's handling of specific foreign problems has not increased but rather remained the same or declined. Specifically, there has been a nine percentage decrease since January; 1982 in Reagan's handling of relations with the Soviet Union ( $55 \%$ vs. $46 \%$ ). Since August 1983, his handling of the Mideast situation has dropped five percentage points from $37 \%$ to $32 \%$ in the current poll and his rating on the U.S. role in Central America remains unchanged at $34 \%$.

|  | Opinion of Reagan's Handling |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { January } \\ 1982 \\ \hline \% \end{gathered}$ | August 1983 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { January } \\ & \frac{1984}{\%} \end{aligned}$ | Change In \% Points |
| Approve | -- | 41 | 49 | +8 |
| Disapprove | -- | 55 | 43 | -12 |
| Don't know | -- | 4 | 8 | +4 |
| Total |  | 100 | 100 |  |
| The Environment |  |  |  |  |
| Approve | 37 | 41 | 47 | +10 |
| Disapprove | 40 | 48 | 38 | -2 |
| Don't know | 23 | 11 | 15 | +4 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 |  |
| Relations with Soviet Union |  |  |  |  |
| Approve | 55 | 46 | 46 | -9 |
| Disapprove | 29 | 37 | 39 | +10 |
| Don't know | 16 | 17 | 15 | -2 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 |  |
| The Quality of Public Education |  |  |  |  |
| Approve | -- | 41 | 46 | +5 |
| Disapprove | -- | 51 | 45 | -6 |
| Don't know | -- | 8 | 9 | +1 |
| Total |  | 100 | 100 |  |
| The Federal Deficit |  |  |  |  |
| Approve | -- | -- | 37 |  |
| Disapprove | -- | -- | 48 |  |
| Don't know | -- | -- | 15 |  |
| Total |  |  | 100 |  |

Opinion Of Reagan's Handling

| Jamuary   <br> $\frac{1982}{\%}$ $\frac{\text { August }}{1983}$ January <br> $\%$Change In <br> $\frac{1984}{\%}$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

U.S. Role in Central America

| Approve | - | 34 | 34 | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Disapprove | - | 53 | 48 | -5 |
| Don't know | -- | 13 | $\underline{18}$ | +5 |
| Total |  | 100 | 100 |  |

The Mideast Situation

| Approve | -- | 37 | 32 | -5 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| Disapprove | -- | 47 | 51 | +4 |
| Don't know | -- | $\underline{16}$ | $\underline{16}$ | 0 |
| Total |  | 100 | 100 |  |

## Opinion of Ronald Reagan Personally

As the President's overall approval rating rises, so does the public's assessment of his specific personal abilities -- at least in most cases. Clearly indicative of this trend, $80 \%$ of the respondents in this Newsweek Poll like the way Ronald Reagan "stands up for America", and almost seven in ten (68\%) perceive him as "decisive." The public also seems to have increased confidence in his ability to have "a good understanding of complex issues" with $54 \%$ reporting this is the case, and close to six in ten ( $58 \%$ ) say the "like him personally."

Though they like the President personally, the public's perception of Ronald Reagan "caring about the less fortunate" is not as high as other ratings -- a plurality see him as not caring. With regard to his rigidness in certain areas, over half (54\%) respond 'he's too committed to his own point of view."

Despite concerns about Reagan's handling of foreign policy, a majority disagreed that he is "too quick to use military powers (50\%), but a significant minority (41\%) agreed.

APPLIES TO REAGAN

| January | February | August | January | Change in <br> 1982 <br> $\%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $\frac{1983}{\%}$ | $\frac{1983}{\%}$ | $\frac{1984}{\%}$ |  |

I Like The Way He Stands
Up For America

| Yes | -- | -- | -- | 80 | -- |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | -- | -- | -- | 17 | -- |
| Don't know | -- | -- | -- | $\frac{3}{100}$ | -- |
| $\quad$ Total | -- | -- | -- | 100 |  |

He Is Decisive

| Yes | 68 | 61 | 63 | 68 | +5 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| No | 23 | 32 | 28 | 23 | -5 |
| Don't know | $\underline{9}$ | $\underline{7}$ | $\frac{9}{100}$ | $\frac{9}{100}$ | 0 |

*He's Too Committed To
His Own Point of View

| Yes | 37 | -- | -- | 54 | +17 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| No | 55 | -- | -- | 38 | -17 |
| Don't know | 8 | -- | -- | $\underline{8}$ | 0 |
| Total | 100 |  |  | 100 |  |

[^2]| January | February | August | January | Change in <br> 1982 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| $\frac{1983}{\%}$ | $\frac{1983}{\%}$ | $\frac{1984}{\%}$ |  |  |

He Cares About The Less
Fortunate

| Yes | -- | -- | 43 | 44 | +1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| No | -- | -- | 52 | 50 | -2 |
| Don't know | -- | - | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{6}$ | +1 |
| $\quad$ Total |  |  | 100 | 100 |  |

He's Too Quick To Use
Military Power

| Yes | -- | -- | -- | 41 | -- |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No | -- | -- | -- | 52 | -- |
| Don't know | -- | -- | -- | $\frac{7}{100}$ | -- |
| $\quad$ Total |  |  |  |  |  |

I Like Him Personally

| Yes | 60 | 52 | 52 | 58 | +6 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| No | 30 | 39 | 40 | 31 | -9 |
| Don't know | $\underline{10}$ | $\frac{9}{100}$ | $\frac{8}{100}$ | $\frac{11}{100}$ | +3 |

I Have Personal Con-
fidence In Him To Do The Right Thing

| Yes | 56 | 47 | -- | 56 | +9 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| No | 39 | 50 | -- | 37 | -13 |
| Don't know | $\frac{5}{100}$ | $\underline{3}$ | -- | $\frac{7}{100}$ | +4 |
| $\quad$ Total | 100 |  | 10 |  |  |

He Has A Good Understanding of Complex Issues

| Yes | 53 | 44 | 47 | 54 | +7 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| No | 35 | 46 | 46 | 33 | -13 |
| Don't know | $\underline{12}$ | $\underline{10}$ | $\underline{6}$ | $\frac{13}{100}$ | +7 |
| $\quad$ Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 10 |  |

## Reagan's Campaign Promises

A series of questions were asked to determine how respondents measured the success of Reagan's campaign promises from four years ago. Financially, a slight majority of the public believes they are better off today than they were four years ago. Republicans and males tend to report this more often than other groups. Over four in ten (43\%) believe our military defenses are stronger now.

However, Newsweek Poll respondents do not see the U.S. as more respected -- only $27 \%$ report the U.S. is more respected today -vs$36 \%$ who feel the U.S. is less respected. The public also sees our chances of nuclear war as greater now than they were four years ago -- $38 \%$ reporting a greater chance -vs- $12 \%$ reporting less chance. Women, especially, report the chances of a nuclear war are greater now than they were four years ago (45\%).

Compared to Four Years Ago, Respondent is Economically:

| Better off | 36 | 40 | 31 | 53 | 25 | 33 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Worse off | 24 | 23 | 24 | 10 | 32 | 25 |
| About the same | 39 | 36 | 43 | 36 | 41 | 41 |
| Don't know | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ |

Compared to Four Years Ago, Respect for U.S.

| More respected | 27 | 35 | 20 | 42 | 22 | 23 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Less respected | 36 | 33 | 38 | 23 | 49 | 33 |
| As respected | 29 | 26 | 33 | 27 | 22 | 36 |
| Don't know | $\underline{8}$ | $\underline{6}$ | $\frac{9}{100}$ | $\frac{8}{100}$ | $\frac{7}{100}$ | $\frac{8}{100}$ |

Compared to Four Years Ago, U.S. Military Defenses Are:

| Stronger | 43 | 51 | 36 | 51 | 38 | 43 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Weaker | 9 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 14 | 9 |
| About the same | 41 | 36 | 45 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| Don't know | $\underline{7}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\frac{9}{100}$ | $\frac{6}{100}$ | $\frac{8}{100}$ | $\frac{6}{100}$ |

Compared to Four Years Ago, Chances of Nuclear War

| Greater | 38 | 31 | 45 | 31 | 44 | 38 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Less | 12 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 8 | 15 |
| About the same | 45 | 51 | 40 | 53 | 45 | 41 |
| Don't know | $\frac{5}{100}$ | $\underline{4}$ | $\frac{4}{100}$ | $\frac{3}{100}$ | $\frac{3}{100}$ | $\frac{6}{100}$ |

Importance on Voting Decision As To Whether Country Loses Momentum When President Serves Only One Term

Opinion as to whether or not a respondent feels the country loses time whenever a President leaves after only one term is sharply correlated with likelihood of voting for Ronald Reagan.

Those who are extremely or very likely to vote for him report that this factor is very or fairly important (64\%) in their voting decision.

On the other hand, respondents who are not too or not at all likely to vote for Reagan respond it is not too or not at all important (68\%) when voting.

Likelihood of Voting For Reagan

| Importance | $\frac{\text { National }}{\frac{\square}{\%}}$ | Extremely/ <br> $\frac{\text { Very Likely }}{\frac{\square}{6}}$ | Fairly Likely | Not Too/ <br> At All <br> Likely | Don't Know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Very Important | 25 | 43 | 22 | 12 | 16 |
| Fairly Important | 20 | $2164$ | 32 | 14 | 19 |
| Not Too Important | 20 | 16 | 21 | 22 | 22 |
| Not At All Important | 30 | 17 | 25 | ${ }_{46} 68$ | 29 |
| Don't know | 5 | 3 | * | 6 | 14 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

*Less than one-half of one percent.


[^0]:    *Based on 1500 personal interviews, Gallup Poll. All other Newsweek polls based on 1000 telephone interviews.

[^1]:    *There is not a plurality of females in any of the three categories -- women divide into equal thirds.

[^2]:    *In 1982, the wording was "He is too rigid."

