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EISENHOWER STARTS TERM WITH OVERWHELMING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM PUBLIC

Poll Shows Phenomenal Vote of Approval for Way Ike Handled Problems Following Election

EXCLUSIVE
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PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 24—President Eisenhower starts his administration with the solid support and confidence of his fellow countrymen.

By the overwhelming ratio of nearly 20-to-1, the nation's voters say they approve of the way he has dealt with the problems he has had to face since his election in November.

During this "interregnum"—the period between his election and the closing days of the Truman administration—the new President acted with unprecedented speed in handling the problems arising from the orderly transfer of power from one party to the other.



Several weeks before his inauguration, the President had chosen the members of his official cabinet and many other officials of the new administration and had fulfilled his campaign promise to go to Korea.

To determine the public's appraisal of the Eisenhower record to date, interviewers for the Institute personally asked a nationwide sample of voters of all parties, on the eve of the inauguration, this question:

"In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Eisenhower has dealt with problems he has had to face since his election in November?"

Here is the vote:
 Approve 78%
 Disapprove 4
 No opinion 18
 510K:2a
 100%

Begins Term With Public's Solid Support



President Eisenhower
* * * * *

The vote of approval cuts entirely across party lines. Even among persons who are Democrats, sentiment is overwhelmingly favorable to the new President.

Among Republicans criticism of him is virtually nonexistent — only 1 per cent say they disapprove of anything he has done.

Here is the vote by parties:

| | Repub-licans | Demo-crats | Indepen-dents |
|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Approve .. | 90% | 70% | 78% |
| Disapprove | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| No opinion | 9 | 24 | 19 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% |

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Comparison With Truman Popularity

While no exactly comparable survey was conducted when Harry S. Truman first took office, an Institute poll on his popularity was made in July, 1945, after he had been in office for three months.

This showed 87 per cent approving the way Truman had handled his job as President and 3 per cent disapproving, with 10 per cent expressing no opinion.

Four months later, in November, 1945, the comparable figures were: 75 per cent approve, 14 per cent disapprove, while 11 per cent expressed no opinion.

At the end of Truman's first year in office, in April, 1946, the figures were: 50 per cent approve, 36 per cent disapprove, and 14 per cent no opinion.

At the end of his term, Truman scored an approval vote of 31 per cent.

Similar tests will be made periodically on Eisenhower's popularity. Starting next

month voters will be asked at regular intervals, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Eisenhower is handling his job as President?"

Since 1947, Institute surveys have shown the new President to be one of the ten men most admired by the U. S. public. In April, 1951, he was voted the top choice of both Democrats and Republicans for President.

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Few Voters Offer Points of Criticism

In today's study each voter was asked a second question as follows:

"Has Eisenhower done anything so far that you disapprove of?"

Few voters had any criticisms to offer. Among those who had any fault to find, the three things most frequently mentioned were:

"He shouldn't have appointed Durkin as Secretary of Labor."

"He's letting Senator Taft have too much to say over administration policies."

"He appointed too many businessmen to his cabinet—it's purely a 'big business' administration."

359K
14
368K
18a