

PUBLIC OPINION NEWS SERVICE

For Release **SATURDAY, May 9, 1953**

Public Would Add 'Under God' To Oath of Allegiance to Flag

Suggestion to Add Two Words to Show Nation's Dependence on God Favored by 3-to-1 Vote

By **GEORGE GALLUP**

Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J., May 8—By a ratio of more than 3-to-1, the public favors adding the words, "under God," to the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States.

As amended, the pledge would read as follows:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

A resolution to add the two words was recently introduced in the House by Rep. Louis C. Rabaut (D., Mich.).

Rabaut said that mention of the nation's dependence upon the deity would help to combat the doctrine of "the wicked idolatry of the state impregnated into fertile young minds by Hitler and by his Soviet imitators."



Each adult questioned in today's survey was handed a card on which the revised wording of the oath of allegiance to the flag was printed. He was asked to read it along with the interviewer.

The question:

"It has been suggested that the words, 'under God,' should

be added to the Oath of Allegiance to the Flag so that it would read:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation UNDER GOD, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"Would you favor or oppose this change?" 513K:26

The vote:
Favor change 69%
Oppose 21
No opinion 10
 —
 100%

The survey finds that college-trained people are somewhat less inclined to favor the proposed change in wording than are persons with less formal education.

Here is the vote by education:
 513K:20 Col- High Grade
 lege School School

Favor	61%	71%	70%
Oppose	28	20	18
No opinion .	11	9	12
	—	—	—
	100%	100%	100%

Little difference of opinion was found between men and women. Older people, however, are somewhat more inclined to favor the change than are younger people.

Protestants are slightly more in favor than are Catholics.

* * *

The Washington Pilgrimage, a non-sectarian organization devoted to the recognition of the basic sources of the nation's religious heritage, has for several years advocated the voluntary use of the words "under God" in the pledge of allegiance.

One of the reasons given by sponsors of the change is that the present oath might equally apply if we, like some other countries, recognized only the State as supreme and as the author of human liberties.

Lincoln, after first writing his Gettysburg Address without those words, inserted "under God" when he delivered it.

The pledge, written in 1892, did not become official until 1945 when Congress passed a law proclaiming it so.

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