

PUBLIC OPINION NEWS SERVICE

SPECIAL

For Release

NOT EARLIER THAN:
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IKE'S DECISION ON LITTLE ROCK

BACKED BY MAJORITY OF PUBLIC

PRINCETON, N.J., OCT. 3 -- PRESIDENT EISENHOWER HAS THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR HIS ACTION IN SENDING TROOPS INTO LITTLE ROCK.

IN THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC "PULSE-TAKING" AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL SINCE MR. EISENHOWER'S HISTORIC ACTION SENT 1,000 MEN OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION INTO THE ARKANSAS CAPITAL, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC OPINION FINDS THAT ABOUT THREE OUT OF FOUR PEOPLE IN THE NORTHERN STATES FEEL THE PRESIDENT MADE THE RIGHT MOVE IN DISPATCHING TROOPS TO LITTLE ROCK.

ALTHOUGH A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE 13 SOUTHERN STATES WHO EXPRESSED AN OPINION BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION WAS WRONG, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT A SIZABLE NUMBER OF SOUTHERNERS ENDORSE MR. EISENHOWER'S ACTION IN SENDING THE TROOPS.

ON ONE POINT, PEOPLE IN ALL SECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE SOUTH, SEE EYE-TO-EYE. THEY DO NOT FEEL THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE SENT TROOPS TO LITTLE ROCK ANY SOONER THAN HE DID.

EXPERIENCED OPINION REPORTERS FROM THE INSTITUTE'S FIELD STAFF

(MORE)

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PUT TWO QUESTIONS TO A CAREFULLY SELECTED CROSS-SECTION OF ADULTS FROM COAST TO COAST. THE SAMPLE INCLUDES THE CORRECT PROPORTION OF PERSONS FROM EACH MAJOR POPULATION GROUP.

"DO YOU THINK PRESIDENT EISENHOWER DID THE RIGHT THING OR THE WRONG THING IN CALLING OUT THE TROOPS TO GUARD THE HIGH SCHOOL IN LITTLE ROCK?"

HERE ARE THE RESULTS NATIONWIDE:

NATIONWIDE

RIGHT THING	64%
WRONG THING	26
UNDECIDED.....	10

HERE IS THE VOTE IN THE SOUTH ONLY:

SOUTH ONLY

RIGHT THING	36%
WRONG THING	53
UNDECIDED	11

THE VOTE IN THE 35 STATES IN THE NORTH:

NORTH ONLY

RIGHT THING	74%
WRONG THING	16
UNDECIDED	10

THE NEXT QUESTION:

"SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT EISENHOWER SHOULD HAVE SENT THE TROOPS INTO LITTLE ROCK SOONER THAN HE DID. DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THIS POINT OF VIEW?"

THE RESULTS NATIONWIDE:

NATIONWIDE

AGREE	19%
DISAGREE	64
UNDECIDED	17

(MORE)

THE MOST FREQUENTLY VOLUNTEERED COMMENT -- BOTH IN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH -- WAS THAT THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FORTNIGHT IN LITTLE ROCK WERE "TERRIBLE," "AWFUL" AND "SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED."

IN THE SOUTH, THIS REACTION IS OFTEN ACCOMPANIED WITH AN "I TOLD YOU SO" ATTITUDE. MANY PEOPLE THERE FEEL THAT SUCH TROUBLE WAS INEVITABLE WHEN THE RACES WERE MIXED IN THE SCHOOLS.

THE COMMENT OF A 32-YEAR-OLD WIFE OF A RURAL MAIL CARRIER IN NICKELSVILLE, VA., IS TYPICAL:

"I THINK IT'S A DISGRACE. WHY DO THOSE COLORED CHILDREN WANT TO GO TO AN ALL-WHITE SCHOOL NOW -- THEY NEVER HAVE BEFORE. EACH SCHOOL SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROTECT ITSELF."

MANY PEOPLE IN THE NORTH SYMPATHIZE WITH THE SOUTHERNERS. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS THE FEELING THAT EVERYONE "SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY" AND THAT THE INTEGRATION OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUST PROCEED AS ORDERED BY THE COURTS.

A 54-YEAR-OLD HOSPITAL ATTENDANT FROM POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. FELT THAT THE LITTLE ROCK SITUATION WAS "A SHAMEFUL THING." HE WENT ON TO SAY:

"THE FACILITIES FOR NEGROES' SCHOOLING IN THE SOUTH IS POOR. THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED THE SAME ADVANTAGES AS THE WHITES. EISENHOWER HAD LITTLE CHOICE IN DOING WHAT HE DID WITH SO MUCH VIOLENCE GOING ON."

IN BOTH THE NORTH AND SOUTH, PEOPLE WHO AGREE WITH EISENHOWER'S ACTION BELIEVE THAT HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE IN THE MATTER, THAT THE COURT'S ORDER HAD TO BE OBEYED, AND THAT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT VIOLENCE.

IN THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY, THE CHIEF JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MOVE IS THAT IT PREVENTED RIOTS AND BLOODSHED.

(MORE)

"I DON'T APPROVE OF MIXING THE COLORED AND WHITE CHILDREN," SAID THE WIFE OF A MECHANIC IN PALMETTO, FLA., "THEY NEVER SHOULD MIX THEM. BUT I FEEL HE (EISENHOWER) DID THE RIGHT THING IN PROTECTING THE SCHOOL CHILDREN. THEY HAD TO USE TROOPS TO KEEP ORDER -- THESE RIOTS CAN'T CONTINUE."

A 37-YEAR-OLD POLICEMAN AT A STATE SCHOOL IN SPRING CITY, PA., FELT THAT EISENHOWER "HAD NOTHING ELSE TO DO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE LAW MUST BE OBEYED. IT'S TOO BAD THEY DIDN'T GO ALONG WITH THE LAW AT ONCE.

THOSE WHO FEEL EISENHOWER MADE THE WRONG MOVE THINK THE LOCAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES IN ARKANSAS COULD HAVE HANDLED THE SITUATION BETTER AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION WAS A VIOLATION OF STATES' RIGHT.

"IT IS THE MOST DISGRACEFUL THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE SOUTH," SAID A 66-YEAR-OLD BUSINESS COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR FROM DALLAS, TEX. HE FELT THAT "THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NO JURISDICTION OVER THE SCHOOLS. IT IS A MATTER FOR THE STATES."

A 74-YEAR-OLD WIDOW OF AN ENGINEER IN OMAHA, NEBR. COMMENTED:

"I APPROVE OF DESEGREGATION, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH FEEL ABOUT IT. I THINK THE LOCAL POLICE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF IT. SURELY THEY COULD HAVE KEPT PEACE. IN MY OPINION, THE GOVERNOR JUST ENCOURAGED TROUBLE."

WHETHER OR NOT THIS TYPE OF SENTIMENT ABOUT GOV. ORVAL FAUBUS IS TYPICAL OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY WILL BE REPORTED IN THE SECOND ARTICLE IN THE SERIES TO BE PUBLISHED SATURDAY IN THE (NAME OF PAPER).

Oct. 4, 1957