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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney
info.

Mr. Poher said as conference chairman his mission is to convince the Syrian Government that it is in its own interest to open its borders to U.S. aid.

"I affirm that all members of the Parisian community and of the international community believe in this mission and we will not abandon our task," he said in remarks translated from French to English.

He also said that under international pressure Syria will find it "impossible to remain closed to your requests, our hopes. . . . We must do everything to liberate them and it is that which I came to tell you."

Mr. Poher was introduced by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D) of New York as "a righteous gentleman who had 'forged a constituency for a man who has no constituency.'"

Congressman Solarz, a member of the House International Relations Committee, said he would again seek approval of an amendment to next year's foreign aid bill that would prohibit aid to countries not making reasonable progress toward adopting and implementing the principle of emigration. A similar amendment to the current aid bill was defeated in committee by a vote of 12 to 9.

Candidate's positions fuzzy to most voters

By the Associated Press

New York

More than half of the U.S. electorate are uncertain where their favorite presidential candidate — or non-candidate — stands on five major campaign issues, according to a recent survey.

One exception noted in a poll taken for the Associated Press by the Roper Organization of New York between May 8 and May 15: identification of Ronald Reagan with his advocacy of higher military spending and an overhaul of U.S. welfare system.

In the poll, designed to probe Americans' views on the issues, the only other clear link of a candidate and the issues came from supporters of Rep. Morris K. Udall with their accurate perception of his views.

The other major findings of the poll were:

— Economic issues head the list of Americans' concerns during this election year, with 59 percent of those questioned naming inflation, unemployment, or holding down government spending as their main worry.

— Crime was second on the list. Lawlessness in general, drug abuse, and criminal acts by public officials were all in the top five issues.

Personal qualities foremost

— About 57 percent of all Americans are choosing a candidate on the basis of his personal qualities, not his stands on the issues. More than 58 percent of Jimmy Carter's supporters, for example, said personal factors were behind their decision, compared to only 20 percent who cited issues.

— In addition to more than half of the people not knowing where the candidates stand, many supporters wrongly identified where their favorite candidate stood on five major issues. Mr. Carter's backers were the most likely to name the wrong stand for their contender, missing four out of five issues picked to differentiate among the candidates.

During the second week in May when the poll was conducted, California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. and Sen. Frank Church scored their initial primary victories. Because the national perceptions of Governor Brown and Senator Church had not then taken shape, the poll did not test their supporters' views.

By the date of the interviewing, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace had stopped campaigning and was running fourth in delegates. Thus, his supporters' perceptions also were not tested.

Mr. Reagan's supporters stand out for their precision in pegging his stands on military spending and welfare.

Reagan supporters' concerns

By a 65 to 9 margin, his backers correctly linked him with more money for national defense. But even then 26 percent of his supporters could not say where he stood.

Mr. Reagan's supporters form the main reservoir of concern about U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations and military spending. About 22 percent of his backers named these two issues as the most important ones, close to double the figure for any other candidate.

Concern about detente is concentrated among self-identified conservatives. About 14 percent of the conservatives named in the major issue, compared with only 9 percent of moderates and 10 percent of liberals.

The former California governor's supporters also correctly linked him, by a 51 to 8 edge, with proposals to turn control of the welfare system over to the states.

However, even Reagan supporters' view of their candidate's stand on issues blurs when they move away from the two main issues.

By a 25 to 16 margin, they incorrectly said that he supports dismantling the oil companies, and 59 percent of his backers did not know where he stood on this issue.

By narrow margins, they correctly said he favors a constitutional amendment to end abortions and opposes the government guaran-

teeing everyone a job. But the percentage of those who did not know his stand on the issues was far higher than on the military and welfare questions.

Reflecting the precision in their views, Mr. Reagan's supporters were the lowest of any candidate's in saying personal factors were the basis for their support. But 48 percent of his backers still cited personality over issues.

Issues vs. personality

About 29 percent of those who said Mr. Reagan is their favorite candidate cited issues as the reason for their decision — the same percentage as for Mr. Udall's backers. About 57 percent of Udall supporters said personal factors lay behind their decision.

Mr. Udall's supporters correctly gauged his stand on all five issues examined in the poll, the best showing of any candidate. Here are the issues and the margins by which his supporters named his stand correctly:

- For government guaranteed jobs, 47 to 19.
- For breaking up major oil companies, 46 to 10.
- Against anti-abortion amendment, 41 to 9.
- Against spending more on military, 53 to 20.
- Against turning welfare back to state, 25 to 20.

This reflects in part the greater percentage of college-educated persons in the Arizona Democrat's camp. More than 50 percent of his backers have a college education, at least one-third more than any other candidate's supporters.

College-educated persons tended to know more about the issues, to be more likely to name the candidate's position, and to be more likely to say issues are the reason for their choice.

Liberals back Udall

It is no surprise that Mr. Udall had the greatest percentage of supporters who identified themselves as liberals, since he has said he is the liberals' candidate. The poll found 61 percent of his support came from people who identify themselves as liberals.

Also, far more of Mr. Udall's supporters than those of other candidates named issues long identified as "liberal" as their main concerns.

For example, energy problems and equal rights for Americans of all races were major issues for 23 percent of Mr. Udall's supporters, ranking right behind inflation and unemployment. Next was air and water pollution with 20 percent.

No other candidate's supporters cited those issues with nearly that frequency.

On only one of five issues did Mr. Carter's supporters pick his position correctly — government guaranteed jobs — which they pegged by a 42 percent to 14 percent margin.

But most of the voters surveyed could correctly identify their candidates position on this issue — a prime focus of Democratic legislative efforts this year in Congress.

President Ford's supporters correctly identified his positions on three issues, missed one, and split evenly on the other.

Mr. Reagan's influence with GOP partisans was most clearly seen in the responses of Mr. Ford's supporters on the welfare issue.


Ford backers miss on welfare

Ford backers said he supports turning welfare over to the states by a 40 percent to 17 percent margin. The President, however, has said he favors welfare reform, but opposes placing the financial burden of welfare solely on the states.

Just over 56 percent of Mr. Ford's supporters say personal factors were the crucial factor in their decision to support him, against 20 percent who cited his stands on the issues. About 18 percent said both factors were crucial.

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