Politicians and political analysts alike regard ethnic group identification as a hallmark of New Jersey politics. In a poll conducted between March 23 and 31, the Eagleton Institute surveyed 1224 adults in an attempt to measure the importance of the ethnic factor in state politics.

Respondents to the poll were read a list of nationality groups and asked "Other than American do you consider yourself to be a member of any of the following nationality groups?" Slightly less than half, 48%, identified themselves with a nationality group while 52% did not so identify themselves. "Italian" was the response of 12% of the sample, 11% said "Irish," 10% "German," 7% "Polish" and no other nationality was listed by more than 2% of the sample. Professor Stephen Salmore, Eagleton's expert on survey research, said that little should be made of the relative sizes of these groups because a sample of 1200 respondents can be in error by as much as 3%.

Respondents were also asked if they considered themselves Democrats, Republicans or Independents. Distinct differences were evident among New Jersey's four major ethnic groups. The largest proportion of Republicans was found among Germans, while Polish respondents contained the largest proportion of Democrats. Both Irish and Italians were disproportionately more Democratic but the Italians were more evenly split. Both the Irish and the Italian groups showed a substantial proportion of Republicans.

-more-
All data in percentage form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Other/Refused/Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An additional question put to members of each ethnic group was whether they considered themselves liberal or conservative. Here again a distinctive pattern emerged. Polish respondents divided evenly while each of the other groups had a predominance of conservatives. Conservative allegiance was most marked among Germans, followed by Italians and then Irish with Polish having the smallest proportion of conservatives. Each group had a substantial proportion of liberals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Liberal</th>
<th>Conservative</th>
<th>Undecided/Refused/Don't Know</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The poll shows that while New Jersey's ethnic groups may be disproportionately Republican or Democratic, liberal or conservative, none of the major ethnic groups in New Jersey is uniform in its politics. Each has a substantial minority disagreeing with the majority view.

The poll was conducted by telephone to a statewide random sample of persons 18 years of age and over. The sample was selected by the Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, N.J., who also tabulated the poll results.

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TO:                  POLITICAL REPORTERS
FROM:                JOHN C. BLYDENBURGH
RE:                  THE SIXTH NEW JERSEY POLL, RELEASE #10, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 16, 1973

The data and questions on which this analysis is based are as follow.

"Other than American do you consider yourself to be a member of any of the following nationality groups?"

- German
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Czech
- Polish

"Regardless of the political party you might favor, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?"

- Liberal 37%
- Conservative 43%
- Undecided 7%
- Refused, Don't know 13%

"In politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?"

- Democratic 42%
- Republican 33%
- Independent 15%
- Other, Don't know, Refused 10%