Charges of corruption in state government played a large role in last week's primary election. According to the latest New Jersey Poll, Governor William Cahill was particularly vulnerable to this charge. In a telephone survey conducted by the Eagleton Institute before the primary, 25% of the 1214 adults questioned said that they felt Cahill was "personally involved" in cases of alleged corruption in his administration. In response to the same question in March of this year 22% thought so.

Compared to all voters, however, self-identified Republicans have become increasingly suspicious of the Governor. While only 15% in March suspected Cahill of personal involvement, 24% thought so in May. Among those respondents who were judged most likely to vote in the primary election this figure increases to 32%.

Another indicator of Cahill's vulnerability on this issue was the fact that 28% of all respondents said they were "less likely to vote to re-elect Governor Cahill as a result of the corruption charges that have been brought against his administration."

Among Republicans this figure was almost as large—25%—and among likely primary voters it was much higher—40%.

"Cahill served as the focus for a rising tide of mistrust of state government in New Jersey," according to Eagleton's Director of Survey Research, Stephen A. Salmore.

In October 1971, 60% of New Jerseyans thought that state government was "somewhat" or "very corrupt." Only 21% would give the state government a clean -more-
ill of health by saying it was "not at all corrupt." By March 1973, 70% considered state government "somewhat" or "very corrupt" with 13% saying it was "not at all corrupt."

By May of this year, just two months later, the comparable figures were 80% and 8%. This general feeling of distrust in state government was felt even more strongly in the primary election as 86% of likely primary voters suspected corruption in Trenton with only 6% denying this.

Results of the New Jersey Poll, conducted May 11-22, were tabulated by the Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, New Jersey.
The questions on which this analysis is based are as follow.

"In your opinion, is your state government very corrupt, somewhat corrupt, or not at all corrupt?"

"A number of charges of corruption have been made against officials in the Cahill administration. Do you feel Governor Cahill is personally involved in the cases of alleged corruption?"

"Do you think you are less likely to vote to re-elect Governor Cahill as a result of the corruption charges that have been brought against his administration?"