Contrary to the popularly held view, the typical New Jersey resident is not a rootless, transient character who has no commitment to the state because he's just passing through. This is a major finding of a series of New Jersey Polls conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics which reveal that the average New Jersey citizen is pretty much rooted in the state.

In its regular polling since October 1971, Eagleton has asked respondents how long they have lived in New Jersey. A consistent and surprising 57% respond "all my life." The poll shows that 14% of the sample came here in the past 10 years and 29% moved in between 11 and 30 years ago.

Furthermore, the polls indicate that 75% of the present adult population has lived in N.J. for 18 years or more. When this 75% of the 1973 adult population is compared with the total population of 18 years ago, it becomes evident that 71% of New Jersey's 1955 population still lives here. Furthermore, considering natural attrition (death rates) these data indicate that less than 10% of New Jersey's 1955 population actually moved away.

These findings are supported by other poll data. On the October 1972 poll Eagleton asked respondents "How long have you lived at your present residence or have you lived there all your life?" Only 5.8% said they have lived at their present address "all my life." The remaining 94.2% were asked "where did you live before?"

Responses to these questions do not support the view that New Jersey's population is
highly transient. Only 9.7% of the sample listed a previous residence out of state while 84.4% listed a previous New Jersey residence. Moreover, 73.6% of the respondents listing a previous New Jersey address listed an address in the same county as their present address. In other words, while N.J.'s population may be mobile, the mobility is largely confined within New Jersey.

It ought to be made clear that by asking respondents their previous address, Eagleton is not establishing that a previous New Jersey address means the respondent is a native New Jerseyan. As mentioned above, 57% of the sample said they lived in New Jersey "all my life." Of course this means that 43% came here from elsewhere.

Seven N.J. Polls have been conducted by the Eagleton Institute since October 1971. Polls conducted through January 1973 were supported by grants from the Wallace-Eljabar Foundation and the Eagleton Institute. Data from all polls were tabulated by Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, New Jersey.
TO: POLITICAL REPORTERS
FROM: JOHN C. BLYDENBURGH
RE: THE NEW JERSEY POLL, RELEASE #10, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 27, 1973

Questions on which this released was based were unchanged for each of our polls.

"For how many years have you lived in New Jersey, or have you lived here all your life?"

"How long have you lived at your present residence?"

October 1972 only:
If not "all my life" respondents were asked:

"Where did you live before?"

Polls were conducted October 1971, February, May, and October 1972, January, March, and May 1973. Each was a random sample of approximately 1200 respondents conducted by telephone over about a 9 day period.