

NOTGERS NEWS SERVICE

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EP1-4

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1971

NEW BRUNSWICK, Nov. 24 -- Two out of three New Jersey citizens suspect that both major political parties are linked to governmental corruption, according to the New Jersey Poll.

However, interestingly enough, new results from the first New-Jersey Poll, released today by the Eagleton Institute of Politics of Rutgers University, showed that while those queried were well aware of governmental corruption, they did not consider it a major problem.

Only seven per cent of those polled volunteered corruption in government when asked to name "the two or three most important problems facing the State of New Jersey," according to Stephen Salmore, director of the poll.

Some small percentage of citizens linked corruption only with one party, five per cent with the Republicans only and seven percent with the Democrats only. The overwhelming majority (67%) found both parties suspect. Twelve per cent gave a clean bill of health to both parties.

The suspicion of the citizenry extended to all levels of government, local, state and federal.

Only two of five interviewed considered state or federal government free of corruption, while one in three expressed the same assessment of local government.

Local government was called "very corrupt" by 16 per cent of those queried as compared to 13 and 12 per cent for state and federal governments.

"Recent revelations of wrongdoings by public officials have apparently had the greatest impact in urban areas of New Jersey," Salmore noted in pointing out that 29 per cent of those residing in New Jersey's cities considered local government "very corrupt."

Only one out of 10 suburban or rural residents was willing to make such a judgment about his local officials. -more-

N444-m-OM-11/19/71

New Jersey racial minorities were strikingly suspicious, with only 15 per cent seeing their local government as free of corruption, while 35 per cent of white New Jersey residents trusted their office holders.

Younger New Jersey citizens were much less willing than their elders to express confidence in public officials at all three levels of government. Citizens between 18 and 30 were consistently more critical of all levels of their government than were those over 30.

The statistics released by the New Jersey Poll were based on a random sample of 1,208 New Jersey residents, 18 and older, who were interviewed by telephone from Eagleton between Sept. 24 and Oct. 1.

Tabulation of responses to the poll, financed by grants from the Wallace Eljaber Fund and the Eagleton Institute, was performed by Opinion Research Corp., Princeton.

A partial chart of responses follows:

	Local Government "not corrupt"	State Government "not corrupt"	Federal Government "not corrupt"
18-30 yrs.	23	15	16
30-50	33	19	21
50 or over	41	27	28