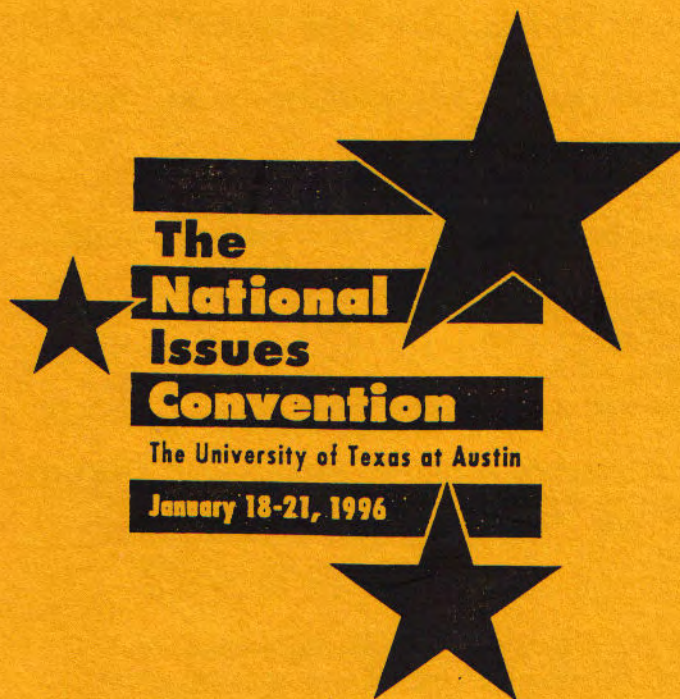


1/4/96

Gold

NATIONAL ISSUES CONVENTION SELF ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE



Name: _____

Group #: _____

Case ID: |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|

NORC 1155 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637 (312) 753-7833

DIRECTIONS

SAQ2

NATIONAL ISSUES SURVEY

PLEASE READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY, REMEMBER THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS—WE JUST WANT TO KNOW YOUR OWN PERSONAL OPINION.

We would like you to fill out this questionnaire on your own. When you are finished please return the questionnaire to your moderator.

HOW TO FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

To answer most questions you need only circle one number. Here are two examples:

Example A:

How often do you use the Yellow Pages in the phone book?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Almost every day | 1 |
| Several times a month | 2 |
| About once a month | 3 |
| Less than once a month | 4 |

(IF YOU USE THE YELLOW PAGES SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH,
CIRCLE NUMBER "2." CIRCLE ONE NUMBER ONLY.)

Example B:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
(PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH STATEMENT).

- | | Agree
strongly | Agree
somewhat | Disagree
somewhat | Disagree
strongly | Don't
know |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| A. It is difficult
to raise children | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| B. A woman should
devote all her
time to her family | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |

(YOU WOULD CIRCLE "1" IF YOU "AGREE STRONGLY" WITH THE FIRST STATEMENT, AND "3" IF YOU "DISAGREE SOMEWHAT" WITH THE SECOND STATEMENT).

BEGIN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

- Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly	Don't know
A. People like me don't have any say about what the government does	1	2	3	4	8
B. Public officials care a lot about what people like me think	1	2	3	4	8
C. Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on	1	2	3	4	8
D. National political leaders are out of touch with the rest of the country.	1	2	3	4	8
E. I have opinions about politics that are worth listening to	1	2	3	4	8

- Some people think that it's important to stand up for your own opinion even if most of those around you disagree. Others think that it's better to keep your views to yourself when most of those around you disagree. Which position comes closer to your view?

Stand up for your own opinion even if most of those around you disagree 1

Keep your views to yourself when most of those around you disagree 2

Neither 3

Don't know 8

The next questions are about the family.

3. Some people say that there has been a breakdown in the traditional American family. Others say that families are just finding new forms. Which is closer to your view?

Breakdown in the traditional family 1

Family finding new forms 2

Don't know 8

4. Some people think that the biggest problem for the American family is economic pressure. Others think that it is the breakdown of traditional American values. Which is closer to your view?

Economic pressure 1

Breakdown of traditional values 2

Don't know 8

5. Some people think that government has become too involved with the family through social welfare and family planning programs. Others think that government has not done enough for the family through child care, family planning and education. Which is closer to your view?

Government too involved with the family 1

Government has not done enough for the family 2

Don't know 8

6. How useful, in your view, would each of the following items be for strengthening the family in this country?

	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful at all	Don't know
a. Changing the law to make a divorce harder to get	1	2	3	8
b. Increasing legal pressures on fathers for child support	1	2	3	8
c. Moral education in the schools . . .	1	2	3	8
d. More family planning services . . .	1	2	3	8
e. Government help with childcare and preschool	1	2	3	8
f. Government assistance to poor families	1	2	3	8
g. Limiting sex and violence in movies and television	1	2	3	8
h. Allowing prayer in school	1	2	3	8
i. Providing sex education in the schools	1	2	3	8

7. About what percentage of American children are born out-of-wedlock? [WRITE A NUMBER BETWEEN 0 AND 100 ON THE LINE BELOW]

_____ %

Don't know.998

8. About what percentage of families receive AFDC, that is, Aid to Families with Dependent Children? [WRITE A NUMBER BETWEEN 0 AND 100 ON THE LINE BELOW]

_____ %

Don't know.998

9. How strongly do you agree or disagree with these statements?

Strongly Somewhat Somewhat Strongly Don't
Agree Agree Disagree Disagree Know

- a. Welfare is the root of
problems with families
in America today 1 2 3 4 .. 8
- b. The best thing we
could do for the family
is to improve the economy 1 2 3 4 .. 8
- c. Employers should make it
possible for parents to
spend more time at home
with their children 1 2 3 4 .. 8
- d. One parent should stay at
home while the children are
growing up 1 2 3 4 .. 8

The next questions are about foreign policy.

10. In the future, how willing should the United States be to send troops to solve problems in other countries?

Extremely willing	1
Very willing	2
Somewhat willing	3
Not very willing	4
Never willing	5
Don't know	8

11. In the future, how willing should the United States be to use other kinds of military interventions, such as air strikes or blockades, to solve problems in other countries?

Extremely willing	1
Very willing	2
Somewhat willing	3
Not very willing	4
Never willing	5
Don't know	8

12. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: The United States should continue to engage in military cooperation with other nations to address trouble spots in the world.

Agree strongly	1
Agree somewhat	2
Disagree somewhat	3
Disagree strongly	4
Don't know	8

13. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: This country would be better off if we just stayed at home and did not concern ourselves with problems in other parts of the world.

Agree strongly	1
Agree somewhat	2
Disagree somewhat	3
Disagree strongly	4
Don't know	8

14. Here is a list of possible long-range foreign policy goals which the U.S. might have. Which do you think should have top priority, some priority, or no priority at all?

	Top Priority	Some Priority	No Priority	Don't Know
a. Preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction	1	2	3	8
b. Improving the global environment	1	2	3	8
c. Insuring adequate energy supplies for the U.S.	1	2	3	8
d. Promoting democracy in other nations	1	2	3	8
e. Aiding the interests of U.S. business abroad	1	2	3	8
f. Providing famine relief and medical help to poor countries	1	2	3	8
g. Promoting and defending human rights in other nations	1	2	3	8
h. Protecting weaker nations against foreign aggression	1	2	3	8
i. Promoting economic development in poor nations	1	2	3	8

15. Now that the Cold War is over, which one of the following opportunities is most important for the United States to pursue?

The chance to shift
resources back home
to help our own economy 1

The chance to use our military
strength and leadership to
bring order around the world 2

The chance to promote democracy
in other countries 3

Don't know 8

16. If the United States does continue to give foreign aid, for what purpose should the aid be given?

Military support only 1

Economic development only 2

Both military support and
economic development 3

Don't know 8

17. With which of the following countries does the United States conduct the most international trade?

Canada 1
Japan 2
Germany 3
Mexico 4
Don't know 8

18. Which of the following countries has the United States sent ground troops to in the past ten years? (CIRCLE ONE ANSWER FOR EACH COUNTRY)

	Yes	No	Don't know
a. Iraq	1	2	8
b. Somalia	1	2	8
c. Rwanda	1	2	8
d. Bosnia	1	2	8

The next questions are about the economy.

19. We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or cheaply. For each of the problems below, circle a number in each row to show whether you think we are spending too much, too little or about the right amount of money to solve these problems,

Too much	Too little	About right	DON'T KNOW
-------------	---------------	----------------	---------------

a. The environment 3 1 2 8

b. Medicare/medicaid 3 1 2 8

c. Law enforcement 3 1 2 8

d. Drug rehabilitation 3 1 2 8

e. Education and training 3 1 2 8

f. National defense 3 1 2 8

g. Foreign aid 3 1 2 8

h. Welfare 3 1 2 8

i. Social Security 3 1 2 8

20. How important to you is it that the government reduce the federal budget deficit?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Very important | 1 |
| Somewhat important | 2 |
| Somewhat unimportant | 3 |
| Very unimportant | 4 |
| Don't know | 8 |
21. If the government does choose to reduce the federal budget deficit, how would you recommend that it be done?
- | | |
|---|---|
| Mostly through tax increases | 1 |
| Mostly through reducing spending or reducing the growth of spending | 2 |
| Through a combination of raising taxes
and either reducing spending or the growth
of spending | 3 |
| Don't know | 8 |

22. If the government chose to reduce the federal budget deficit through reducing the growth of spending or making spending cuts for different programs which of the following programs should be affected?

Reduce the growth of spending	Cut Spending	Do not reduce growth or cut spending	DON'T KNOW
--	-----------------	--	---------------

a. The environment	2	3	1	8
b. Medicare/medicaid	2	3	1	8
c. Law enforcement	2	3	1	8
d. Drug rehabilitation	2	3	1	8
e. Education and training	2	3	1	8
f. National defense	2	3	1	8
g. Foreign aid	2	3	1	8
h. Welfare	2	3	1	8
i. Social Security	2	3	1	8

23. Do you think that retraining for new jobs today is primarily the responsibility of the government in Washington, employers, or of individual workers themselves?
[CIRCLE ONE CHOICE ONLY]

The government in Washington	1
Employers	2
Individual workers themselves	3
Don't know	8

24. Some say that the government in Washington should guarantee for low-income Americans a "safety-net" for welfare and health care. Others say that the government in Washington should just give money to the states and let them decide how much help to give. Which is closer to your view?

Government in Washington should
guarantee a "safety-net" 1

Money should go to the states
to decide how much to give 2

Don't know 8

25. Some people think the government should let each person get ahead on their own. Others feel the government in Washington should see to it that every person has a job and a good standard of living. Which is closer to your view?

Government should let each person
get ahead on own 1

Government should see to a job
and good standard of living 2

Don't know 8

26. The economy can run only if businesses make good profits. That benefits everyone in the end.

Agree strongly 1

Agree somewhat 2

Disagree somewhat 3

Disagree strongly 4

Don't know 8

27. Today the average worker does not receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

Agree strongly 1

Agree somewhat 2

Disagree somewhat 3

Disagree strongly 4

Don't know 8

28. What Americans achieve in life no longer depends on their family background, but on their abilities and the education they acquire.

Agree strongly 1
 Agree somewhat 2
 Disagree somewhat 3
 Disagree strongly 4
 Don't know 8

29. Some people think those with high incomes should pay a larger percentage of their earnings in taxes than those who earn low incomes. Other people think that those with high incomes and those with low incomes should pay the same percentage of their earnings in taxes. Please circle the number of the answer that comes closest to what you think.

Those with high incomes should pay a much larger percentage
 of their income in taxes than those with lower incomes 1
 Those with high incomes should pay a larger percentage
 of their income in taxes than those with lower incomes 2
 Those with high incomes should pay the same percentage
 of their income in taxes as those with lower incomes 3
 Don't know 8

30. Do you favor or oppose the following ideas for the United States tax system?
 (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH ITEM).

		Favor	Oppose	Don't Know
a.	Replace the income tax with a national sales tax	1	2	8
b.	Give a tax reduction for savings . . .	1	2	8
c.	Replace the current graduated income tax with a flat tax that would tax everyone's income at the same rate	1	2	8
d.	Keep the current graduated tax system basically the same with some minor changes	1	2	8

31. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Agree Strongly Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly Don't Know

a. Increasing foreign trade is necessary to keep America's economy growing 1 2 3 4 8

b. Low trade barriers mean that American jobs will be lost to other countries 1 2 3 4 8

c. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Mexico, Canada and the U.S. was a mistake 1 2 3 4 8

d. Free trade helps all countries through increased trade and faster growth in living standards 1 2 3 4 8

32. On which of the following does the federal government spend more money? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER ONLY)

The space program 1
Foreign aid 2
National defense 3
Agricultural subsidies 4
Don't know 8

33. Please give your best guess of the average unemployment rate in the United States over the past ten years? [INDICATE YOUR ANSWER BY WRITING A NUMBER BETWEEN 0 AND 100 ON THE LINE BELOW]

_____ %

Don't Know 998

Where would you put yourself on this scale? Where would you put the Democratic party? Where would you put the Republican party? Or haven't you thought much about this?

34. Rate yourself on this scale:

Extremely Liberal	Liberal	Slightly Liberal	Moderate Middle of the road	Slightly Conser- vative	Conser- vative	Extremely Conser- vative	Don't know. Haven't thought about it
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

35. Rate the Republican party on the following scale:

Extremely Liberal	Liberal	Slightly Liberal	Moderate Middle of the road	Slightly Conser- vative	Conser- vative	Extremely Conser- vative	Don't know. Haven't thought about it
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

36. Rate the Democratic party on the following scale:

Extremely Liberal	Liberal	Slightly Liberal	Moderate Middle of the road	Slightly Conser- vative	Conser- vative	Extremely Conser- vative	Don't know. Haven't thought about it
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

The final questions ask you to give your evaluation of the National Issues Convention

Please answer the following questions about your experience at the National Issues Convention by circling a number on the response scale following each item.

37. Overall, for me the National Issues Convention was...

1	....	2	....	3	....	4	....	5	....	6	....	7	....	8	....	9
Generally a waste of time										An extremely valuable experience						

38. How valuable in helping you clarify your positions on the issues were each of the different parts of the National Issues Convention listed below ?

Little or no value	Somewhat valuable	Very valuable
-----------------------	----------------------	------------------

- | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|-------|---|-------|---|
| a. | Participating in
the group discussions | 1 | | 2 | | 3 |
| b. | Meeting and talking
to other delegates
outside of the group
discussions | 1 | | 2 | | 3 |
| c. | The sessions with
the political leaders on TV | 1 | | 2 | | 3 |

39. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the discussion groups.

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
a. The group leader provided the opportunity for everyone to participate in the discussion	1	2	3	4
b. The important aspects of each issue were covered in the group discussions	1	2	3	4
c. I found many of the comments of other group members useful in my thinking about the issues.	1	2	3	4
d. The group leader often tried to influence the group with her or his own views.	1	2	3	4
e. I discovered that people with views very different from mine often had very good reasons for their views	1	2	3	4

40. Overall, how much did you learn about the presidential candidates' positions on each of the issues you discussed?

A great deal 1
 Some 2
 A little 3
 Almost nothing at all 4

41. Now think back to the time after you were interviewed in your home but before you came to the convention. During this period how much did you do each of the following activities?

	A little less than usual	About the same as usual	A little more than usual
a. Talked with others about politics	1	2	3
b. Read about politics in newspapers and magazines	1	2	3
c. Watched the network news or other public affairs programs on television	1	2	3

42. During that time period, about how much time did you spend reading the discussion materials that were sent to you.

Just glanced at the materials 1
 Read less than half of the materials 2
 Read about half of the materials 3
 Read more than half of the materials 4
 Read most or all of the materials 5

43. Did you think the discussion materials were mostly balanced, or that they clearly favored some positions over others.

Mostly balanced 1
 Favored some positions over others 2
 Don't know 8

44. As you know, the three issues chosen for discussion at the National Issues Convention were America's global role, the economy, and family values. Do you think these were the right issues to discuss at the convention, or do you think that there are some more important issues that should have been included?

Issues chosen were the right ones 1
Other issues should have been discussed 2
Don't know 8

45. Please list the other issue or issues that you think should have been discussed at the National Issues Convention.

46. Finally, please take a moment to describe in your own words how your views on the three issues were affected by your experience at the National Issues Convention.

Thank you for all of your help.

Please hand this questionnaire back to your group moderator.

1996 NATIONAL ISSUES SURVEY

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