

Voters Favor U. S. Aid to England and France, Poll Shows

Early Returns in Nation-Wide Survey Indicate Americans Are for Democracies; Extent of Help Undecided.

By DR. GEORGE GALLUP
American Institute of Public Opinion

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—The controversy in recent days over President Roosevelt's foreign policy has focused attention on two basic conflicting attitudes that exist today in the American mind.

Many surveys of public opinion by the Institute have shown, on the one hand, that the public strongly desires to stay out of European conflicts, apparently believing that in isolation lies the road to peace. But the surveys have also found, on the other hand, an overwhelming sympathy with the democracies in Europe, a growing hatred for the dictators, and a hope that the dictator powers will not triumph over England and France.



This conflict in the public mind between desire for isolation and sympathy with the sister democracies of Europe is perhaps the most important question before the country today. President Roosevelt is convinced that the proper course for the United States is to give every possible assistance to England and France, short of going to war, in order to build up their defenses to the point where the dictators will not venture to make war. This, he feels, is the road to peace.

Question Put to Vote

First indications of the public's attitude come from preliminary returns of a nation-wide survey which will be completed in a few days by the American Institute of Public Opinion. Voters in all sections of the country are being asked: "If Germany and Italy go to war against England and France, do you think we should do everything possible to help England and France win, except go to war ourselves?"

Final returns are not yet in, but the first ballots in the survey show a vote of approximately three to two in favor of helping England and France. The chief thing indicated by these preliminary returns is a basic sympathy with the democratic countries. The issue still to be decided is what sort of help the United States can give to England and France without becoming directly involved in war. Scores of previous studies by the Institute show that the majority of American voters are against having the United States go to war on foreign soil. Hence the prime question today is how far the public thinks America can go in aiding England and France and still avoid participation in armed conflict.

While the first results of the survey indicate a desire to help England and France, it would be a mistake to assume that American public opinion gives a blanket endorsement to all proposals for aiding our former allies. The voters merely support the idea in principle, and

support it only if some sort of aid can be arranged without dragging the United States into war. In the next few weeks the American Institute of Public Opinion will conduct surveys on all the specific proposals for helping England and France in an effort to determine what measures the public is willing to take in expressing sympathy for the European democracies.

THREE PROFESSORS DUE AT TOWN HALL

One of radio's oldest educational programs will be presented at Town Hall tomorrow when three University of Chicago Round Table professors discuss "American Foreign Policy—Drift or Design," at 11 a. m. at English's Theater.

The three men, two from the University of Chicago, and the other a recent lecturer there, are experts in politics and economics. They are Walter H. C. Laves, political scientist; Maynard C. Krueger, economist; and Harry D. Gideonse, economist who left the University to accept a professorship at Columbia University.



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