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# Decision/Making/Information ®

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# A STUDY OF NATIONAL ATTITUDES

May 27-30, 1983 RNC83-6

#29501

### SURVEY SPECIFICATIONS

The following tables contain the aggregate results for questions asked of the American public on behalf of the Republican National Committee on the dates indicated below.

Project Director:	Richard B. Wirthlin
Senior Analyst:	Lori A. Forman
Universe:	Adult Americans (persons aged 18 and over)
Mode of Interview:	Telephone
Date(s) of Interviews:	May 27-30, 1983
Sample Size:	1000
Confidence Interval:	+3.1 in 95 out of 100 cases

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POLITICAL CLIMATE

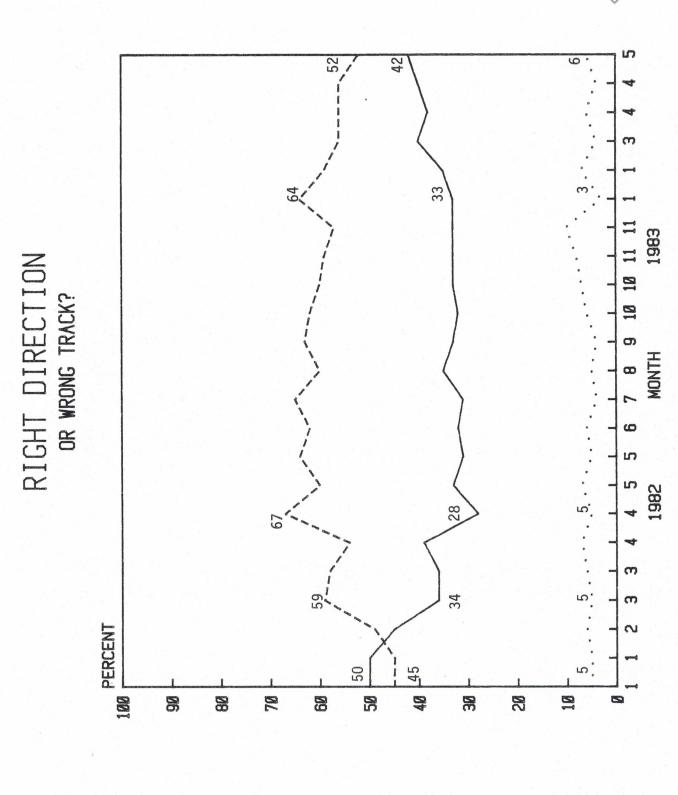
### Right Direction/Wrong Track

#### 

"Generally speaking, would you say that things in this country are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?"

	Feb	Jun	Sep	Jan	June	Sep
	20-22	12-14	18-28	11-19	15–22	23-27
	1981	1981	1981	1982	1982	1982
Right direction	42	41	46	50	32	33
Wrong track	51	51	47	45	62	63
No opinion	8	8	7	5	6	4
	Jan	Jan	Mar	Apr	Apr	May
	7-10	27-29	17-21	7-10	27-28	27-30
	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983
Right direction	33	35	40	38	40	42
Wrong track	64	59	56	56	56	52
No opinion	3	7	4	6	4	6

Decision/Making/Information



DIRECTION MRONG TRACK OPINION 3

Decision/Making/Information

# Better Off/Worse Off

#### \_\_\_\_\_

"How about you <u>personally</u>? Generally speaking, are you better or worse off now than you were two years ago today?"

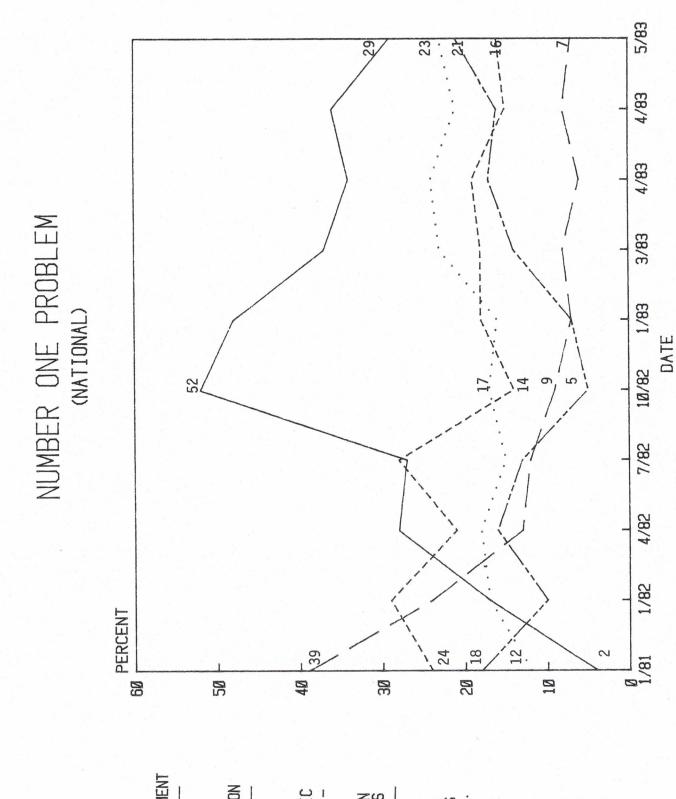
	Jan 28-31 1982	Apr 12-18 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983
Better off Worse off Same No opinion	43 34 11 12 *	33 39 28 -	* * *	36 38 25 1	40 37 23 0	44 33 23 0
	May 27-30 1983					
Better off Worse off Same No opinion	46 32 21 1					

### Number One National Problem

#### \_\_\_\_\_

"What would you say is the single most important problem facing the United States today, that is, the one that you, yourself, are most concerned about?"

		Feb 20-22 1981	Jul 16-18 1981	Sep 18-28 1981	Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982
Infl Econ Dome Crim Fore Gove	ployment ation omy/Other stic/Social e/Drugs/Morals ign Affairs/Defense rnment leadership roblems/No opinion	5 38 33 7 8 6 3 1	6 31 26 13 10 10 3 2	7 30 33 11 7 8 3 1	24 17 29 5 9 10 3 3	28 15 19 5 10 15 4 4	36 12 22 6 7 9 4 4
		Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983
Infl Econ Dome Crim Fore Gove	ployment ation omy/Other stic/Social me/Drugs/Morals sign Affairs/Defense ernment leadership problems/No opinion	51 5 18 7 4 11 1 2	48 7 18 7 5 7 4 3	37 8 18 7 9 14 4 3	34 6 19 7 9 17 4 4	36 8 15 9 8 16 4 4	29 7 16 9 10 21 4 4



INFLATION INFLATION COTHER ECONOMIC FOREIGN AFFAIRS OTHER ISSUES

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Decision/Making/Information

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# Average Man Getting Worse

#### \_\_\_\_\_

"In spite of what some people say, the condition of the average man is getting worse, not better."

	Feb	Jul	Sep	Jan	Jun	Jan
	20-22	16-18	18-28	11-19	15–22	7-10
	1981	1981	1981	1982	1982	<u>1983</u>
Agree	74	62	65	67	67	70
Disagree	24	36	33	32	31	27
No opinion	2	2	2	1	2	2
	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983	
Agree	*	60	59	*	57	
Disagree	*	38	38	*	41	
No opinion	*	2	3	*	2	

Decision/Making/Information

# PERCEPTIONS OF PRESIDENT REAGAN

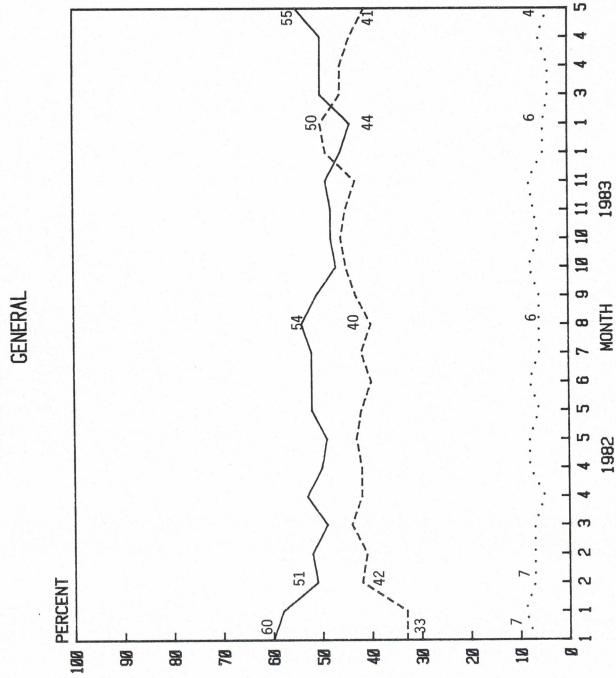
Decision/Making/Information

# Reagan Job Rating -- General

# 

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ronald Reagan is handling his job as President?"

	Feb 20-2 1981	Jun 2 12-14 1981	Sep 18-28 1981	Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982	
Approve	70	67	60	60	52	51	
Disapprove	14	27	33	33	40	43	
No opinion	16	6	7	7	8	6	
	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983	
Approve	46	44	50	50	50	55	
Disapprove	49	50	46	46	44	41	
No opinion	5	5	4	4	6	4	



REAGAN JOB RATING GENERAL

DISAPPROVE

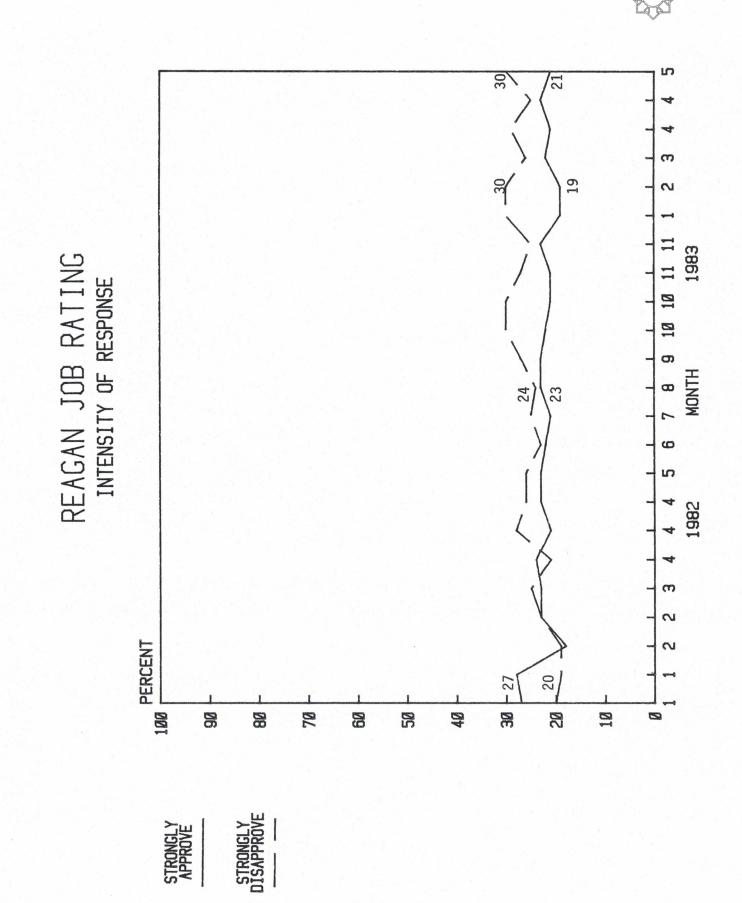
APPROVE

OPINION

10

Decision/Making/Information

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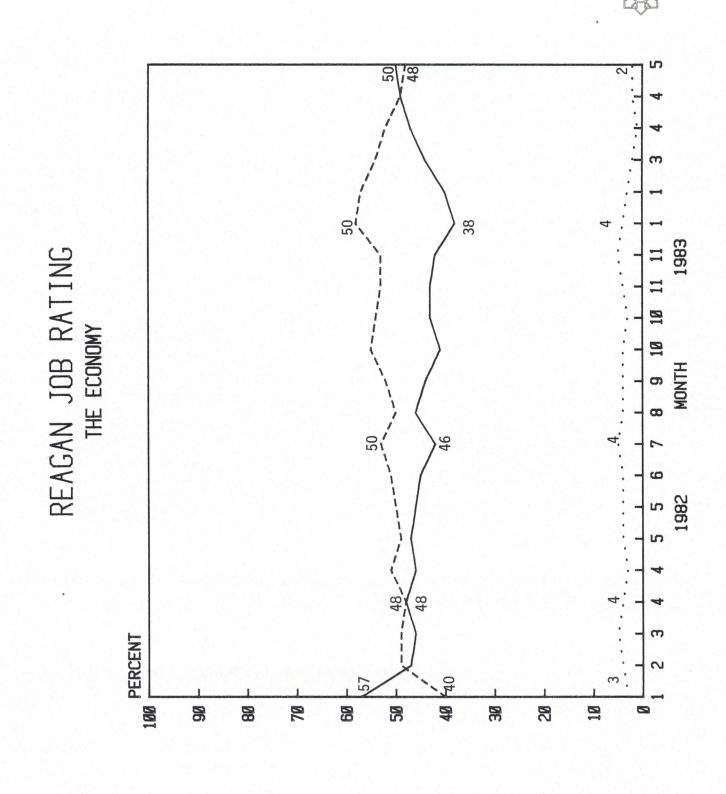


Reagan Job Rating -- Economy

"Do you approve or disapp	rove of the way Ron Mar 6-9 <u>1981</u>	Jul 16-18 1981	0ct 5-14 <u>1981</u>	Jan Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	?" Sep 23-27 1982
Approve	63	61	66	57	45	44
Disapprove	23	33	28	40	51	52
No opinion	14	6	5	3	4	4
	Jan	Jan	Mar	Apr	Apr	May
	7-10	27-29	17-21	7-10	27-28	27-30
	1983	1983	1983	<u>1983</u>	1983	1983
Approve	38	40	44	47	49	50
Disapprove	58	57	54	52	49	48
No opinion	4	3	2	1	2	2

RNC83-6: May 27-30, 1983

.



DISAPPROVE

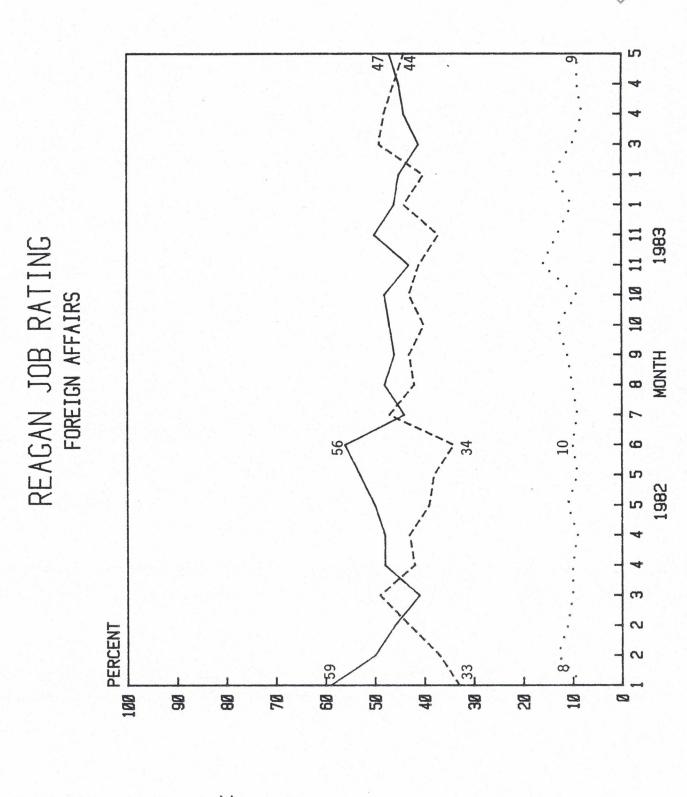
APPROVE

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Decision/Making/Information

# Reagan Job Rating -- Foreign Affairs

"Do you approve or disapprove	e of the way Ron	ald Reag	jan is h	andling	I	?"	
	Mar	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jun	Sep	
	6-9	16-18	5-14	11–19	15–22	23-27	
	<u>1981</u>	1981	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1982</u>	1982	
Approve	60	56	65	59	56	46	
Disapprove	19	27	23	33	34	43	
No opinion	21	16	12	8	10	11	
	Jan	Jan	Mar	Apr	Apr	May	
	7-10	27-29	17-21	7-10	27-28	27-30	
	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983	
Approve	46	45	41	44	46	47	
Disapprove	44	40	49	48	46	44	
No opinion	10	14	10	8	8	9	



DISAPPROVE

APPROVE

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### 

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ronald Reagan is handling the situation in El Salvador?"

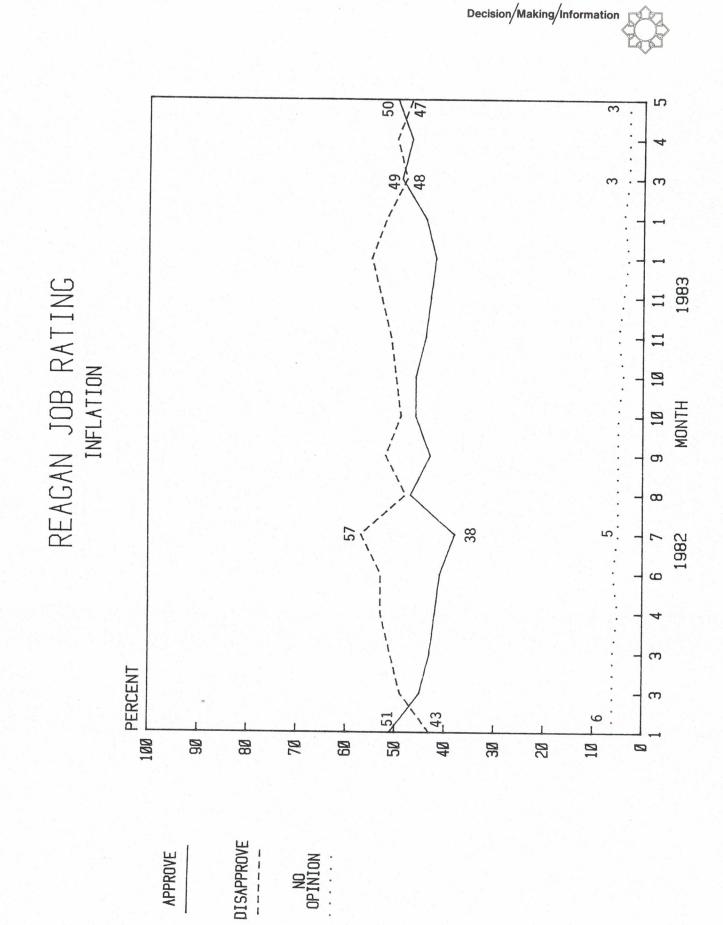
	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983
Approve	36	29
Disapprove	44	53
No opinion	20	18

Decision/Making/Information

Decision/Making/Information

# Reagan Job Rating -- Inflation

"Do you approve or disapprove of th	e way Rona	1d Reag	an is h	andling	]	?"		
	Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983		
Approve Disapprove No opinion	51 43 6	41 53 6	43 52 5	42 55 3	44 55 3	49 48 3		
	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983					
Approve Disapprove No opinion	47 50 3	* * *	50 47 3					

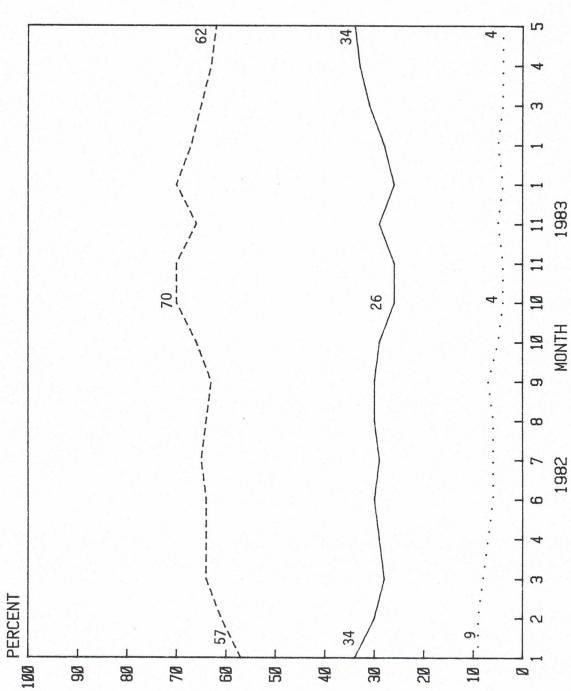


Decision/Making/Information

Reagan Job Rating -- Unemployment

"Do you approve or disappr	ove of the way Rona	ald Reag	jan is h	andling	9	<u>?</u> "
	Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983
Approve Disapprove No opinion	34 57 9	30 64 6	30 63 7	26 70 4	28 67 5	31 65 4
	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983			
Approve	33	*	34			
Disapprove No opinion	63 4	*	62 4			





APPROVE

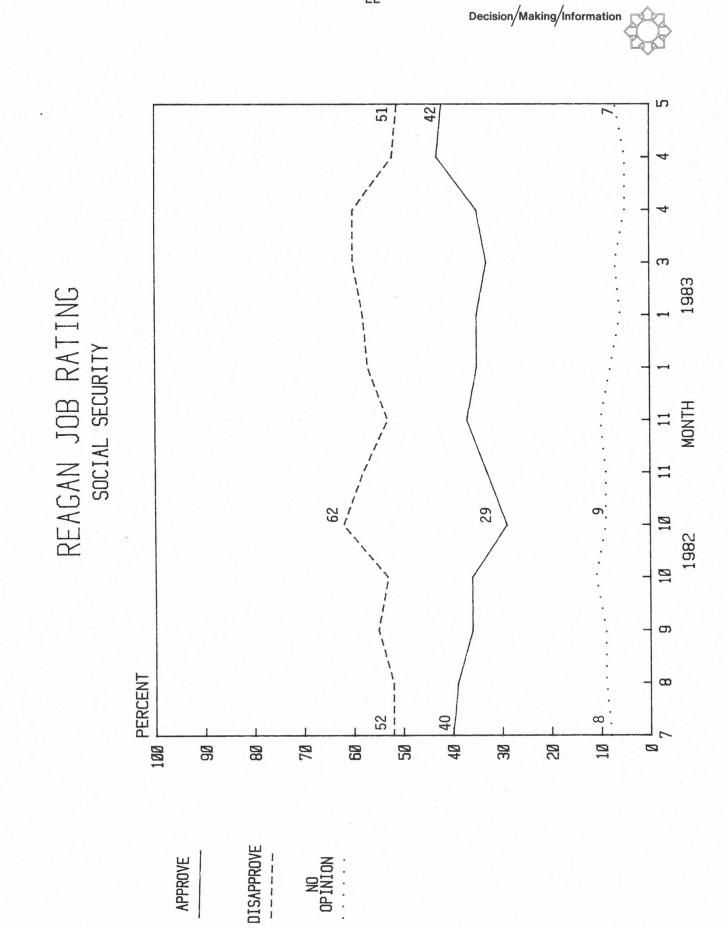
DISAPPROVE NOINION 20

Decision/Making/Information

Reagan Job Rating -- Social Security

"Do you approve or disapprove of th	e way Rona	1d Reag	an is l	handling		?"		
	Jul 16–19 1982	Sep 23-27 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983		
Approve Disapprove No opinion	40 52 8	36 55 9	35 57 8	35 58 6	33 60 7	35 60 5		
	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983						
Approve Disapprove No opinion	43 52 5	42 51 7						

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### Reagan Job Rating: Education

### 

"Now, a little more specifically. I am going to read you a list of issues. For each, I would like you to tell me whether you strongly approve ... somewhat approve ... somewhat disapprove ... or strongly disapprove of the way Ronald Reagan is handling each of these issues: Education."

Strongly approve	18%	
Somewhat approve	31	
Somewhat disapprove	20	
Strongly disapprove	23	
No opinion	8	

Decision/Making/Information

Like Reagan and his Policies

### 

"Let's talk for a moment how you feel both about Ronald Reagan personally and about his policies. Generally speaking, do you like or dislike Ronald Reagan personally?"

	Apr	Sept	Oct	May
	12-18	23-27	14-16	27-30
	1982	1982	1982	1983
Like personally	75	77	73	72
Dislike personally	17	17	22	22

"Generally	speaking,	do	you	approve	or	disapp	rove	of	his	polic	ies?"	
Approve of Disapprove	policies of policie	es				47 45	50 44		46 49		0 .5	

24

Decision/Making/Information

Reagan's Characteristics -- Excellent/Good

"Would you say that this is an . description of Reagan?"	exce	llent,	good,	only	fair, or	poor	
	May 12-17 1981	Sep 18-28 1981	Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	
Cares about the needs of the elderly and poor	47	*	40	37	33	32	
Will start an unnecessary war	19	27	25	23	23	23	
Effective in getting things done	78	71	69	51	52	45	
Really knows what he is doing	*	*	*	45	43	40	
Has the strong leadership qualities this country needs	77	68	*	54	51	48	
Is trustworthy	*	*	65	*	61	56	
Shows too much business favoritism	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Dangerous	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Knowledgeable	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Is delivering on what he promised	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983		
Cares about the needs of the elderly and poor	33	30	30	30	36		
Will start an unnecessary war	20	22	24	23	27		
Effective in getting things done	39	44	46	47	49		
Really knows what he is doing	37	37	38	*	42		
Has the strong leadership qualities this country needs	45	45	47	49	48		
Is trustworthy	54	53	54	*	57		
Shows too much business favoritism	*	47	49	*	47		
Dangerous	*	*	22	*	22		
Knowledgeable	*	*	*	*	57		
Is delivering on what he promised	*	*	·*	*	39		
그 아파 집에 가지 않는 것이 같이 잘 했다. 것이 같아요. 것이 같아요.							

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# Reagan's Characteristics -- Only Fair/Poor

		======				
"Would you say that this is an description of Reagan?"	exce	llent,	good,	only f	air, on	r poor
	May 12-17 <u>1981</u>	Sep 18-28 1981	Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982	Jan 7-10 1983
Cares about the needs of the elderly and poor	52	*	59	62	65	66
Will start an unnecessary war	70	70	73	72	70	73
Effective in getting things done	20	28	30	47	46	53
Really knows what he is doing	*	*	*	53	54	59
Has the strong leadership qualities this country needs	21	23	*	44	47	51
Is trustworthy	20	*	33	*	35	41
Shows too much business favoritism	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dangerous	*	*	*	*	*	*
Knowledgeable	*	*	*	*	*	*
Is delivery on what he promised	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983	
Cares about the needs of the elderly and poor	67	69	69	69	63	
Will start an unnecessary war	76	72	73	73	68	
Effective in getting things done	59	55	53	52	49	
Really knows what he is doing	60	61	60	*	57	
Has the strong leadership qualities this country needs	53	54	52	49	50	
Is trustworthy	41	44	44	*	39	
Shows too much business favoritism	*	47	47	*	47	
Dangerous	*	*	75	*	75	
Knowledgeable	*	*	*	*	41	
Is delivery on what he promised	*	*	*	*	60	

THE ECONOMY

### Status of the National Economy

#### 

"Compared to a year ago, do you think the national economy has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? Thinking about a year from now, do you think the national economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?"

	Feb 13-14 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983
Year Ago/Now						
Gotten better Gotten worse Stayed the same No opinion	11 56 31 2	12 51 33 4	20 51 28 1	* * *	19 54 26 1	39 30 30 1
Now/Future						
Get better Get worse Stay the same No opinion	48 25 23 4	43 20 34 3	46 22 29 3	* * *	47 20 31 2	56 15 26 3
	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983			
Year Ago/Now						
Gotten better Gotten worse Stayed the same No opinion	39 32 28 1	* * *	44 28 27 1			
Now/Future						
Get better Get worse Stay the same No opinion	53 13 31 3	* * *	56 14 28 2			

Decision/Making/Information

### Status of Inflation

#### \_\_\_\_\_

"Compared to a year ago, do you think inflation has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? Thinking about a year from now, do you think inflation will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?"

	Feb 13-14 1982	June 15-22 1982	Aug 25-29 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983
Year Ago/Now						
Gotten better Gotten worse Stayed the same No opinion	23 50 26 1	26 42 31 1	29 43 28 0	* * *	33 42 24 1	43 26 30 1
Now/Future						
Get better Get worse Stay the same No opinion	36 31 29 4	45 21 31 3	39 25 34 2	* * * *	35 25 37 2	46 18 34 2
	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983			
Year Ago/Now						
Gotten better Gotten worse Stayed the same No opinion	41 30 29 0	* * * *	41 34 24 1			
Now/Future						
Get better Get worse Stay the same No opinion	41 22 35 2	* * *	42 22 34 2			

Decision/Making/Information

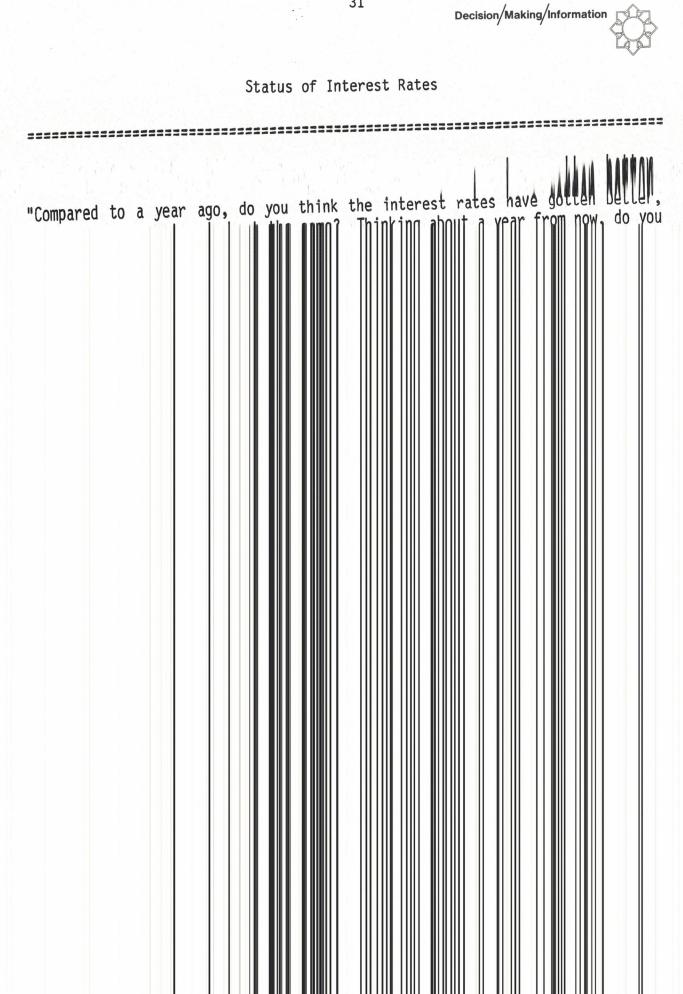
### Status of Unemployment

### 

"Compared to a year ago, do you think unemployment has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? Thinking about a year from now, do you think unemployment will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?"

	Feb 13-14 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Aug 25-29 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983
Year Ago/Now						
Gotten better Gotten worse Stayed the same No opinion	4 80 14 2	4 83 12 1	4 82 13 1	* * * *	4 86 9 1	17 61 21 1
Now/Future						
Get better Get worse Stay the same No opinion	40 35 21 4	43 30 24 2	44 29 26 1	* * * *	51 24 23 2	58 16 24 2
	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983			
Year Ago/Now						
Gotten better Gotten worse Stayed the same No opinion	18 57 24 1	* * *	27 48 24 1			
Now/Future						
Get better Get worse Stay the same No opinion	57 18 23 2	* * *	57 16 25 2			

Decision/Making/Information



# Status of Interest Rates

#### \_\_\_\_\_

"Compared to a year ago, do you think the interest rates have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? Thinking about a year from now, do you think the interest rates will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?"

	Feb 25-6 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Aug 25-29 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983
Year Ago/Now						
Gotten better Gotten worse Stayed the same No opinion	17 51 29 3	19 37 42 2	51 29 18 2	* * *	60 24 14 2	65 17 14 4
Now/Future						
Get better Get worse Stay the same No opinion	41 22 34 3	45 18 34 3	49 17 31 3	* * *	43 19 34 3	45 16 36 3
	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983			
Year Ago/Now						
Gotten better Gotten worse Stayed the same No opinion	66 20 11 3	* * *	64 21 14 1			
Now/Future						
Get better Get worse Stay the same No opinion	44 19 34 3	* * *	40 21 35 4			

Decision/Making/Information

RONALD REAGAN'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM

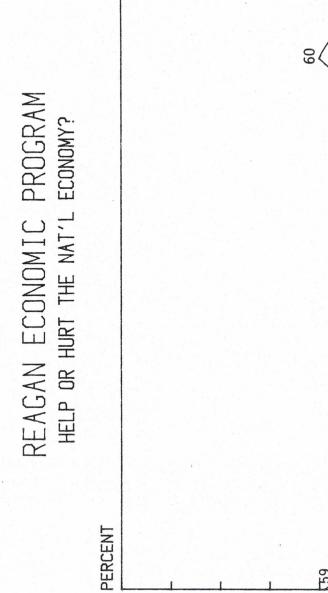
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# Reagan's Economic Program

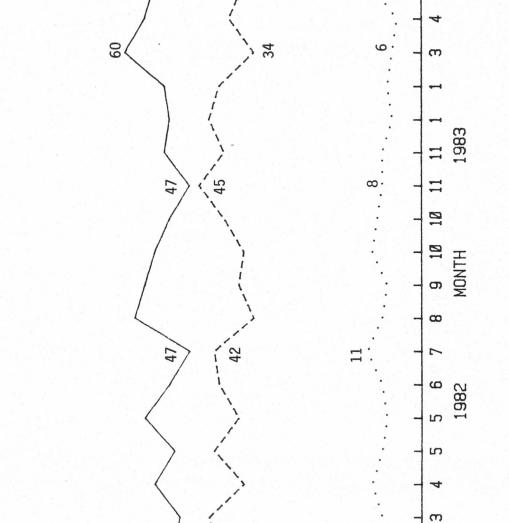
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"From what you've heard and read, do you feel that, on the whole, Reagan's economic program will help or hurt the economy?"

	Feb 20-22 1981	Jun 12-14 1981	Sep 9-13 1981	Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982
Help	78	60	71	59	51	56
Hurt	13	29	21	32	41	37
No opinion	8	11	8	9	8	7
	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 <u>1983</u>	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983
Help	51	52	60	56	54	59
Hurt	43	41	34	39	36	35



Decision/Making/Information Б ĉ



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OPINION . . . 1 1 1 ΗEP HURT

# Effects of Economic Program

#### 

"Just generally, how long from now do you think it will be before we would begin to see either the helpful or harmful effects of Reagan's economic program?"

	Feb	Jul	Sep	Jan	Jun	Sep
	20-22	16-18	9-13	11-19	15-22	23-27
	1981	1981	1981	1982	1982	1982
Less than one year	16	21	22	31	31	29
One year	31	30	31	31	23	27
More than one year	53	47	47	36	40	40
	Jan	Jan	Mar	Apr	Apr	May
	7-10	27-29	17-21	7-10	27-28	27-30
	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983
Less than one year One year	36 27	*	*	34 24	*	* *
More than one year	32	*	*	38	*	*

Decision/Making/Information

# Rating Reagan's Economic Program -- Fair or Unfair?

#### 

"How would you rate Reagan's proposed economic program? For instance, do you feel the program is ...?"

	Feb	May	Oct	Jan	Jun	Sep
	20-22	12-17	5-14	11-19	15-22	23-27
	1981	1981	1981	1982	1982	1982
Fair	74	71	63	60	45	54
Unfair	17	25	33	35	48	41
No opinion	10	4	4	5	7	5
	Jan	Jan	Mar	Apr	Apr	May
	7-10	27-29	17-21	7-10	27-28	27-30
	1983	1983	1983	<u>1983</u>	1983	1983
Fair	48	49	52	50	*	56
Unfair	46	44	43	45	*	39
No opinion	6	6	5	5	*	5

36

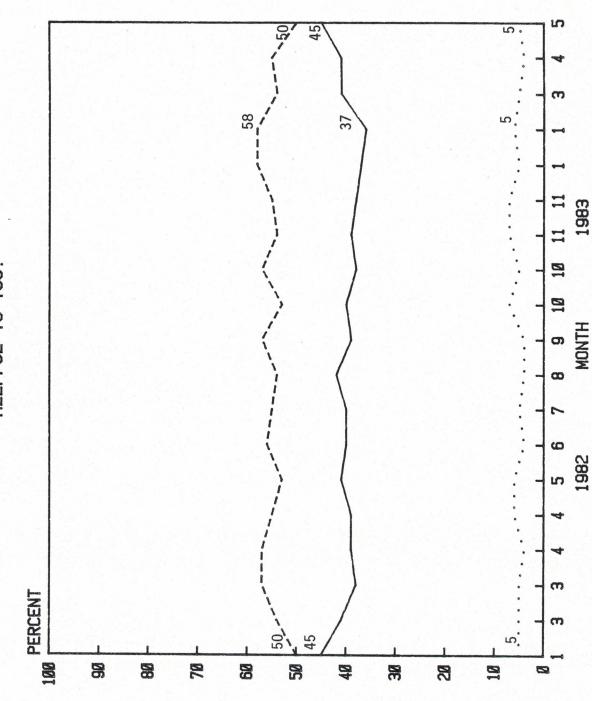
# Rating Reagan's Economic Program -- Helpful/Not Helpful?

# 

"How would you rate Reagan's proposed economic program? For instance, do you feel the program is  $\ldots$ ?"

	Feb	May	Oct	Jan	Jun	Sep
	20-22	12-17	5-14	11-19	15-22	23-27
	1981	1981	1981	<u>1982</u>	1982	1982
Helpful	63	61	52	45	40	39
Not helpful	28	35	44	50	56	57
No opinion	9	4	4	5	4	4
	Jan	Jan	Mar	Apr	Apr	May
	7-10	27-29	17-21	7-10	27-28	27-30
	1983	1983	1983	<u>1983</u>	1983	1983
Helpful	32	36	41	41	*	45
Not helpful	58	58	54	55	*	50
No opinion	5	6	5	4	*	5





HELPFUL

Decision/Making/Information

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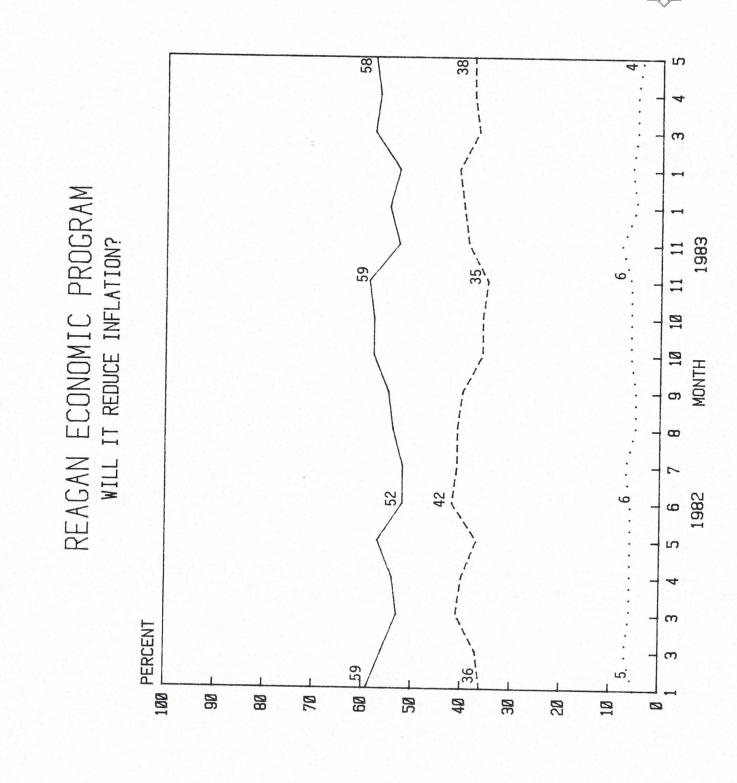
Decision/Making/Information

Rating Reagan's Economic Program -- Reduce Inflation?

### 

"How would you rate Reagan's proposed economic program? For instance, do you feel the program will ...?"

	Feb	May	Sep	Jan	Jun	Sep
	20-22	12-17	9-13	11-19	15-22	23-27
	1981	1981	1981	1982	1982	1982
Will reduce	70	69	65	59	52	55
Will not reduce	20	26	30	36	42	40
No opinion	10	6	5	5	6	5
	Jan	Jan	Mar	Apr	Apr	May
	7-10	27-29	17-21	7-10	27-28	27-30
	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983
Will reduce	55	53	58	57	*	58
Will not reduce	40	41	37	38	*	38
No opinion	5	6	5	5	*	4



WILL NOT REDUCE REDUCE Decision/Making/Information

Rating Reagan's Economic Program -- Increase Employment?

### 

"How would you rate Reagan's proposed economic program? For instance, do you feel the program will ...?"

	Feb	Sep	Jan	Jun	Sep	Jan
	20-22	9-13	11-19	15-22	23-27	7-10
	<u>1981</u>	1981	1982	1982	1982	1983
Will increase	56	53	48	43	43	44
Will not increase	33	41	47	52	53	52
No opinion	11	6	5	5	4	4
	Jan 27-29 <u>1983</u>	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983	
Will increase	47	53	51	*	55	
Will not increase	47	42	45	*	40	
No opinion	6	5	4	*	5	

Decision/Making/Information

Rating Reagan's Economic Program -- Balance the Federal Budget

### 

"How would you rate Reagan's proposed economic program? For instance, do you feel the program ...?

	Feb 25-6 1982	Mar 20-29 1982	Apr 1-2 1982	Apr 12-18 1982	May 20-26 1982	June 15-22 1982
Will balance the federal budget	32	33	31	33	35	31
Will not balance the federal budget	61	59	63	61	57	63
No opinion	7	8	6	6	8	6

	Nov 23-24 1982	May 27-30 1983
Will balance the federal budget	28	32
Will not balance the federal budget	63	62
No opinion	9	6

42

Economic Program: Fair Chance

#### \_\_\_\_\_

Here are some statements people have made to us about the country. As I read each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with what is said.

"The Democrats want to change the Reagan economic program even before it has had a fair chance to work."

	Nov 23-24 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	
Agree strongly Agree somewhat Disagree somewhat Disagree strongly No opinion	31 26 19 21 3	* * * *	34 31 18 14 4	27 28 22 19 4	41 28 14 13 4	* * * *	
	May 27-30 1983						
Agree strongly Agree somewhat Disagree somewhat Disagree strongly No opinion	28 29 22 17 4						

Decision/Making/Information

### Economic Program: A Failure

### 

Here are some statements people have made to us about the country. As I read each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with what is said.

"Reagan has had enough time to fix the economy but hasn't; his economic program is a failure."

Sept 23-27 1982	Oct 14-16 1982	Nov 23-24 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983
24 15	25 15	23 15	* *	27 16	27 16
					24
32	35 2	37	*	32 1	32 1
Apr 7-10 <u>1983</u>	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983			
28	*	*			
15	*	*			
23	*	*			
33					
1	*	*			
	23-27 <u>1982</u> 24 15 26 32 3 3 Apr 7-10 <u>1983</u> 28 15	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

Decision/Making/Information

OTHER ISSUES

### Importance of a Balanced Budget

#### 

"How important do you feel it is that the Congress and the President adjust spending and taxes so that the federal budget will be 'balanced by 1988' ... extremely important ... somewhat important ... or not important at all?

	Sept*	Sept*	Feb**	Nov**	Jan	May
	9-15	18-28	13-14	4-8	7-9	27-30
	1981	1981	1982	1982	<u>1983</u>	1983
Extremely important	57	55	53	58	65	59
Somewhat important	35	37	38	33	27	34
Not important at all	7	7	7	7	5	5
No opinion	1	1	2	2	2	2

\*...'balanced by 1984.' \*\*...'balanced by 1985.'

# Cause of Federal Debt

"From what you've heard and read, who or what do you think is the main cause of our present federal debt?"

Government/Spending	25%
Congress	10
Past administrations	8
Government/Generally	7
Reagan/Republicans	6
Trade/Balance of payments/	
Foreign factors	5
Inflation	3
Carter/Democrats	3
Present administration	1
Government/taxes	1
Poor economy/Generally	1
Business/Industry	1
High interest rates	-
Other	6
No main cuase	3
No opinion	20

Decision/Making/Information

### Rationale for Increasing Taxes

# 

"Now on another topic, I'd like to read you the opinions of an imaginary Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones about taxes. No one likes to pay more in taxes, but sometimes they have to be increased. Please tell me whether your own opinion about tax increases is just like Smith ... more like Smith than Jones ... more like Jones than Smith ... or just like Jones.

Mr. Smith says we should only raise taxes if we are going to increase spending on new or existing government programs.

Mr. Jones disagrees. He says we should only increase taxes to reduce the national debt, not to fund new or bigger government programs."

Is your opinion ...

Just	like	Smith			14%
More	like	Smith	than	Jones	19
More	like	Jones	than	Smith	28
Just	like	Jones			33
No op	inior	1			6

Decision/Making/Information

Tax Increases

"Let's suppose that taxes had to be increased. I'm going to read you several

options that exist, and I'd like you to rate each one on a scale where a minus 5 means you strongly oppose that plan, while a plus 5 means you strongly favor the plan. A zero therefore means that you neither favor nor oppose the plan, but are neutral about it. Of course, you may use any number between minus 5 and plus 5 to indicate how much you personally favor or oppose each proposed tax increase."

	-5	<u>-4 to -1</u>	Zero	<u>+1 to +4</u>	+5	No <u>Opinion</u>
Impose a consumption tax on individuals $(\bar{x} = -2)$	39	10	28	9	8	6
Impose a sales tax on businesses $(\bar{x} = 0)$	25	12	18	19	25	1
Improve compliance with existing tax laws $(\bar{x} = +2)$	10	6	20	21	40	3
Impose taxes on energy consumption such as excise taxes on oil and taxes on gasoline $(\bar{x} = -2)$	44	17	17	12	9	1
Reduce the amount of deductions individuals can take off their federal income taxes for consumer interest and state tax payments $(\bar{x} = -1)$	34	12	20	15	18	1
Tax fringe benefits such as excessive employer contributions for medical and life insurance ( $\bar{x} = 0$ )	30	10	22	13	23	2

49

Decision/Making/Information

### Tax Increases

#### \_\_\_\_\_

"Let's suppose that taxes had to be increased. I'm going to read you several options that exist, and I'd like you to rate each one on a scale where a minus 5 means you strongly oppose that plan, while a plus 5 means you strongly favor the plan. A zero therefore means that you neither favor nor oppose the plan, but are neutral about it. Of course, you may use any number between minus 5 and plus 5 to indicate how much you personally favor or oppose each proposed tax increase."

	Negative (%)	Neutral (%0	Positive (%)
Impose a consumption tax on individuals (Mean: -2)	39	28	17
Impose a sales tax on businesses (Mean: O)	37	18	44
Improve compliance with existing tax laws (Mean: +2)	16	20	61
Impose taxes on energy consumption such as excise taxes on oil and taxes on gasoline (Mean: -2)	61	17	21
Reduce the amount of deductions individuals can take off their federal income taxes for consumer interest and state tax payments (Mean: -1)	46	20	33
Tax fringe benefits such as excessive employer contributions for medical and life insurance (Mean: 0)	40	22	36

Definition of Welfare State

**************	 	 		=====

"When you hear the phrase 'welfare state,' what do you think of?"

Welfare abuses/Corruption	14%
People receiving welfare benefits	11
Poor people/Poverty	8
Unemployment	8
Too much welfare	7
Specific states	6
Government spending/Give-away programs	6
Big government/Government control	6
Socialism	5
On the Dole/No incentive/No effort	5
Workingman supporting those who	
refuse to work	3
Welfare/Generally	3
Taxes/Taxpayers	3
General negative	2
No opinion	12

Decision/Making/Information

Decision/Making/Information

Welfare State: Impression

#### 

"Generally speaking, would you say you have a positive or negative impression when you hear the phrase 'welfare state?'"

Positive	impression	20%
Negative	impression	75
No opinio	n	5

# Spending Preferences

#### 

"Let's talk for a few minutes about government spending on various programs. I'm going to read you a list of programs. For each one, just tell me in your opinion whether the federal government should spend more or should spend less on each program. (NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT SAYS 'SPEND MORE,' ASK:) And would you be willing to have your own taxes increased to support this program."

	Education (%)	Crime <u>Prevention</u> (%)	Welfare (%)	Defense (%)
Spend more (even if own taxes increased)	64	60	20	31
Spend more (no tax increase)	15	17	7	9
Spend less	12	12	59	41
Spend same	8	9	11	16
No opinion	1	2	3	3

Decision/Making/Information

Spending Preference (Over Time)

# 

"Let's talk for a few minutes about government spending on various programs. I'm going to read you a list of programs. For each one, just tell me in your opinion whether the federal government should spend more or should spend less on each program. (NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT SAYS 'SPEND MORE,' ASK:) And would you be willing to have your own taxes increased to support this program."

	Jan	Jan	Nov	Mar	Apr	May
	9-12	28-31	4-8	17-21	7-11	27-30
	1981	1982	1982	1983	1983	1983
Spend More (Even if Own Taxes Inc	reased)					
Education	*	53	61	61	62	64
Defense	55	37	33	28	36	31
<u>Spend More</u> (No Tax Increase)						
Education	*	14	11	15	14	15
Defense	21	13	6	7	7	9
Spend Less						
Education	*	16	16	13	12	12
Defense	13	30	44	46	41	41
Spend Same						
Education	*	15	9	9	9	8
Defense	8	17	13	14	13	16

RNC83-6: May 27-30, 1983

Decision/Making/Information

# Spending Preference -- Defense

#### 

"Let's talk for a few minutes about government spending on various programs. I'm going to read you a list of programs. For each one, just tell me in your opinion whether the federal government should spend more or should spend less on each program."

	9-12	11-19	4-8	17-21	7-10	27-30
	1981	1982	1982	1983	1983	1983
Spend more	76	50	39	35	43	40
Spend less	13	30	44	46	41	41
Spend same	8	17	13	14	13	16

Decision/Making/Information

EDUCATION

# Reagan Job Rating: Education

### 

"Now, a little more specifically. I am going to read you a list of issues. For each, I would like you to tell me whether you strongly approve ... somewhat approve ... somewhat disapprove ... or strongly disapprove of the way Ronald Reagan is handling each of these issues: Education."

Strongly approve	18%	
Somewhat approve	31	
Somewhat disapprove	20	
Strongly disapprove	23	
No opinion	8	

Decision/Making/Information

# Responsible for Education

#### 

"And from what you've heard and read, which level of government should have the primary responsibility for elementary and secondary education; that is, should it be the federal, state or local government?"

Federal	12%
State	46
Local	38
A11	1
No opinion	3

Decision/Making/Information

Status of American Education: Students and Schools

#### 

"Here are some statements people have made to us about the country. As I read each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with what is said. Would that be <u>strongly</u> (agree/disagree) or just <u>somewhat</u> (agree/disagree)?"

	Agree <u>Strongly</u> (%)	Agree Somewhat (%)	Disagree <u>Somewhat</u> (%)	Disagree <u>Strongly</u> (%)	No <u>Opinion</u> (%)
In order to improve the quality of American education, we should require either a longer school day, or a longer school year, or both.	25	22	22	30	1
Before receiving a high school diploma, students should be required to take 4 years of English, a half year of computer science and 3 years each of math science and social studies.	55	25	11	7	2

59

Decision/Making/Information

Status of American Education: Teachers

# 

"Here are some statements people have made to us about the country. As I read each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with what is said. Would that be <u>strongly</u> (agree/disagree) or just <u>somewhat</u> (agree/disagree)?"

	Agree Strongly (%)	Agree Somewhat (%)	Disagree Somewhat (%)	Disagree <u>Strongly</u> (%)	No <u>Opinion</u> (%)
College students who want to become teachers should be required to pass competency tests before being allowed to teach in our nation's schools.	78	15	3	2	2
Grants and loans should be made to encourage outstanding student to become teachers, particularly in those areas of critical teacher shortages.		28	9	8	2
We will never have enough high quality teachers unless we pay those teachers higher salaries than average teachers receive.	40	24	18	16	2

60

Decision/Making/Information

Decision/Making/Information

# Department of Education

#### 

"Ronald Reagan believes that the Department of Education should be abolished. Others disagree. How about you? Do you think the federal Department of Education should be abolished, or not?"

Abolish	22%
Do not abolish	71
No opinion	7

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# Reagan Job Rating -- El Salvador

#### 

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ronald Reagan is handling the situation in El Salvador?"

	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983
Approve	36	29
Disapprove	44	53
No opinion	20	18

### El Salvador -- Military Advisors

#### \_\_\_\_\_

"How far should the United States go to save El Salvador from being taken over by communist rebels? In your opinion, should the U.S. increase the number of its military advisors in El Salvador?"

		0ct 17-26 1981	Mar 17-21 1983	May 27-30 1983	
Yes		42	35	34	
No		47	59	60	
No opinion	-	11	6	6	

Decision/Making/Information

### El Salvador -- Solve Problems

### 

"The problems in El Salvador have been very much in the news recently. I'm going to read you a series of statements others have made about the situation there and our relations with the Salvadoran government. For each statement, again tell me whether you agree or disagree with what is said: We should let those who live in El Salvador solve their problems without any help from the United States."

	Mar 6-9 <u>1981</u>	Mar 25-29 1982	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983
Agree strongly	27	30	33	28	29
Agree somewhat	22	21	24	18	23
Disagree somewhat	29	24	25	25	25
Disagree strongly	17	18	15	25	18
No opinion	5	7	3	4	5

Decision/Making/Information

# El Salvador -- Another Vietnam

### 

"The problems in El Salvador have been very much in the news recently. I'm going to read you a series of statements others have made about the situation there and our relations with the Salvadoran government. For each statement, again tell me whether you agree or disagree with what is said: The kind of help we are now providing El Salvador could easily get us into another Vietnam."

	Mar 6-9 1981	Feb 13-14 1982	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983
Agree strongly	37	36	45	35	43
Agree somewhat	28	32	30	28	30
Disagree somewhat	17	16	11	14	12
Disagree strongly	11	9	9	17	8
No opinion	7	7	5	6	7

Decision/Making/Information

### El Salvador -- National Elections

#### 

"The fact that the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador refuse to take part in national elections is strong evidence that they, themselves, believe that most of the citizens of El Salvador do not support their cause and they must continue to resort to violence rather than to the ballot box."

	Apr 7-11 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983	
Agree strongly	25	27	24	
Agree somewhat	33	24	30	
Disagree somewhat	15	16	15	
Disagree strongly	11	17	10	
No opinion	16	16	21	

Decision/Making/Information

# El Salvador -- Extreme Rightists

#### 

"The problems in El Salvador have been very much in the news recently. I'm going to read you a series of statements others have made about the situation there and our relations with the Salvadoran government. For each statement, again tell me whether you agree or disagree with what is said: Most of the killings in El Salvador have been done by extreme rightists."

	Mar 6-9 1981	Mar 17-21 1983	May 27-30 1983	
Agree strongly	11	18	17	
Agree somewhat	21	27	26	
Disagree somewhat	17	19	22	
Disagree strongly	6	8	5	
No opinion	45	28	30	

Decision/Making/Information

# El Salvador -- Killings/Communists

# 

"The problems in El Salvador have been very much in the news recently. I'm going to read you a series of statements others have made about the situation there and our relations with the Salvadoran government. For each statement, again tell me whether you agree or disagree with what is said: Most of the killings in El Salvador have bee done by Communists."

	Mar 6-9 1981	Mar 17-21 1983	May 27-30 1983	
Agree strongly	24	27	30	
Agree somewhat	22	25	23	
Disagree somewhat	15	19	19	
Disagree strongly	9	8	5	
No opinion	30	21	23	

Decision/Making/Information

Decision/Making/Information

PARTISANSHIP

# Congressional Job Rating

### \_\_\_\_\_

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way the <u>U.S. Congress</u> is handling its job? Would that be <u>strongly</u> (approve/disapprove) or just <u>somewhat</u> (approve/ disapprove)?"

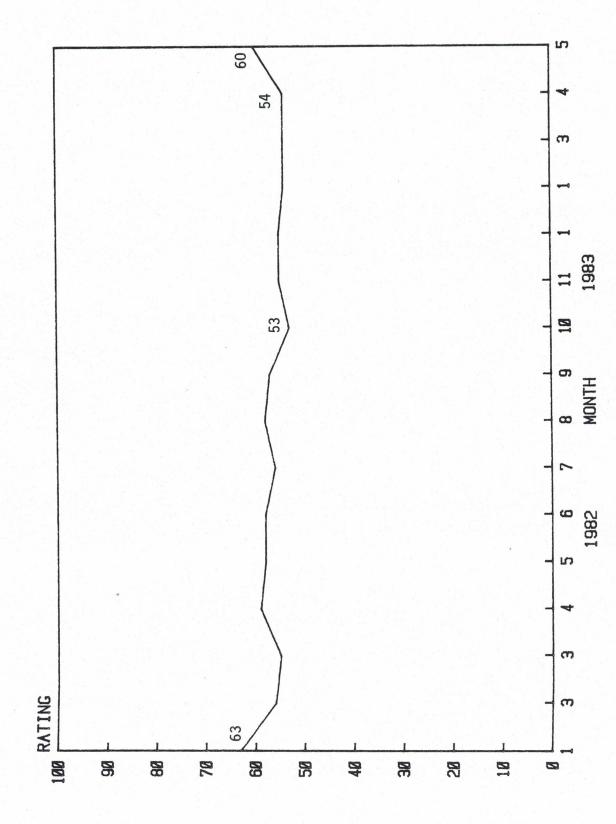
	Jan 30 Feb 3 1981	Jan 11-19 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983
Approve Disapprove No opinion	36 48 16	38 50 12	35 60 5	34 59 7	42 52 6	* *
	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983				
Approve Disapprove No opinion	* * *	46 50 4				

# Thermometer Ratings -- Political and Others

		=======	=======			======
	Jan 9-12 1981	May 12-17 1981	Sep 18-28 1981	Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982
Jimmy Carter	50	*	*	*	*	*
John Glenn	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ted Kennedy	49	56	50	49	51	51
Walter Mondale	51	58	55	52	50	51
Tip O'Neill	*	*	53	*	50	*
Paul Volcker	*	*	*	*	*	*
Anne Gorsuch Burford						
Menachem Begin	*	*	50	*	49	36
	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983
limmy Canton	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jimmy Carter John Glenn	61	62	61	59	*	60
Ted Kennedy	*	*	*	*	*	*
Walter Mondale	52	54	54	52	*	54
Tip O'Neill	53	57	58	56	*	*
Paul Volcker	*	*	51	*	*	*
Anne Gorsuch Burford	*	*	43	*	*	*
Gary Hart	*	*	*	50	*	*
Menachem Begin	*	*	*	*	*	*

#### Sep Sep Jan May Jan Jun 18-28 15-22 23-27 30-3 12-17 11-19 57 72 77 64 63 58 Ronald Reagan \* \* 54 \* 66 56 George Bush \* \* \* \* 55 \* Bill Brock \* \* \* 40 53 39 James Watt \* \* \* \* \* 59 Al Haig \* \* \* \* \* 61 Caspar Weinberger May Mar Apr Apr Jan Jan 27-30 7-10 27-28 7-10 27-29 17-21 1983 1983 1983 1983 1983 1983 \* 55 54 54 54 60 Ronald Reagan \* 57 \* \* 55 \* George Bush \* \* \* \* \* \* Bill Brock \* \* \* \* \* 35 James Watt \* \* \* \* \* \* Al Haig \* \* \* 50 \* \* Caspar Weinberger \* \* \* \* \* 42 Raymon Donovan \* \* 49 \* \* \* Donald Regan

# Thermometer Ratings -- White House and Cabinet People



Decision/Making/Information

# Thermometer Ratings -- Organizations

	Sep 9-13 1981	Dec 18-22 1981	May 20-26 1982	Nov 4-8 1982	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983
The Supreme Court	60	*	*	*	*	*
Labor Unions	45	*	*	*	*	*
White House Staff	62	55	*	*	*	*
Reagan Cabinet	62	*	*	*	*	*
Federal Reserve Board	*	*	48	48	*	*
	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983		
The Supreme Court	*	*	*	*		
Labor Unions	52	*	*	*		
White House Staff	*	*	*	55		
Reagan Cabinet	*	*	*	*		
Federal Reserve Board	53	*	*	*		

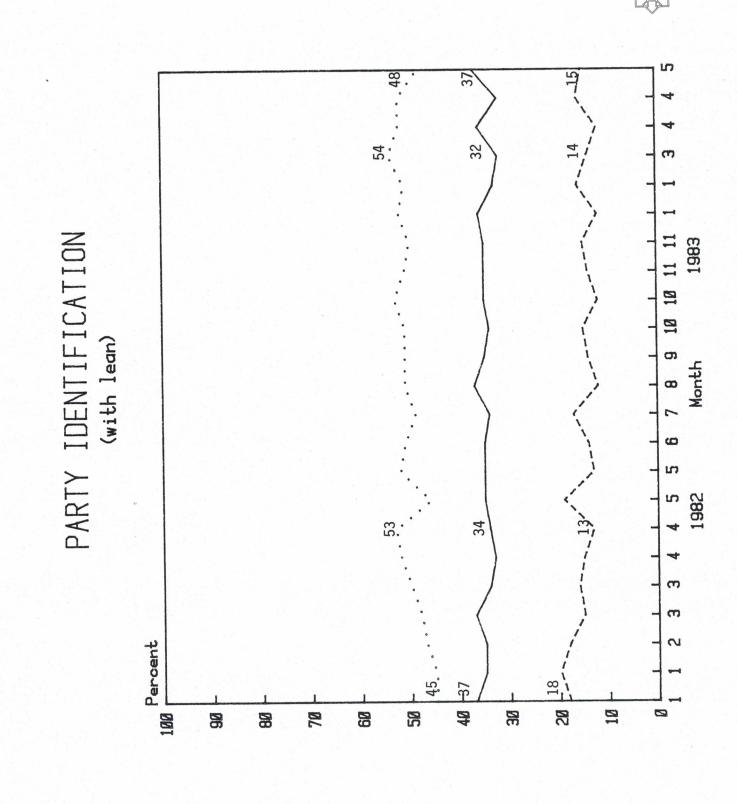
### Party Identification With Lean

### \_\_\_\_\_

"Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else? (IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not-so-strong (Republican/Democrat)? (IF INDEPENDENT/OTHER/NO PREFERENCE, ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or the Democratic party?"

	Feb	Jun	Sep	Jan	Jun	Sep
	20-22	12-14	18-28	11-19	15-22	23-27
	<u>1981</u>	1981	1981	1982	1982	1982
Republican	37	38	34	37	35	35
Independent	27	19	16	18	14	14
Democrat	37	43	49	45	51	51
	Jan	Jan	Mar	Apr	Apr	May
	7–10	27-29	17-21	7-10	27-28	27-30
	1983	<u>1983</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1983</u>	1983	1983
Republican	36	33	32	36	*	37
Independent	12	16	14	12	*	15
Democrat	52	51	54	52	*	48

Decision/Making/Information



Independent

Republican

5

Democrat

78

Decision/Making/Information

# Thermometer Ratings -- Party

				=======	=======	=====
	Jan	Jul	Sep	Jan	Jun	Sep
	30-3	16-18	18-28	11-19	15-22	23-27
	1981	1981	1981	1982	1982	1982
Republicans	64	62	55	56	54	52
Democrats	57	56	58	59	60	60
	Jan	Jan	Mar	Apr	Apr	May
	7-10	27-29	17-21	7-10	27-28	27-30
	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983
Republicans	49	52	50	50	*	54
Democrats	61	63	63	61		61

C

Party of the Future

### 

"Here are some statements people have made to us about the country. As I read each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with what is said. Would that be <u>strongly</u> (agree/disagree) or just <u>somewhat</u> (agree/disagree)?"

	Agree <u>Strongly</u> (%)	Agree Somewhat (%)	Disagree Somewhat (%)	Disagree <u>Strongly</u> (%)	No <u>Opinion</u> (%)
The Republican Party is the party of the future it has the fresh ideas to deal with America's problems.	13	27	24	30	6
The Democratic Party is the party of the future it has the fresh ideas to deal with America's problems.	20	26	25	22	7

0

Decision/Making/Information

### Endorsements

#### \_\_\_\_\_

"Now let's think about the <u>1984 presidential</u> elections for a moment. As you know, many things determine how we vote. I'd like to read you the names of some persons and groups. Please tell me whether you would be more likely or less likely to vote for a presidential candidate who, before the primary elections, was endorsed by each person or group I mention. Here's the first one. Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a presidential candidate endorsed by:"

0

	More Likely (%)	Less Likely (%)	No <u>Difference</u> (%)	No <u>Opinion</u> (%)
The AF of L-CIO	27	48	18	7
The National Education Association (NEA)	62	18	15	5
The Chamber of Commerce	51	26	18	5

### Democratic Telethon

#### 

"This weekend on television, have you seen or heard any of the telethon sponsored by the Democratic party? (IF "YES," ASLO ASK:) Have you contributed, or do you intend to contribute, any money to the Democratic party telethon?"\*\*

No/have not seen or heard	79%	
Yes/contributing	6	
Yes/Not contributing	15	

\*\*asked of 457 respondents only

RNC83-6: May 27-30, 1983

Decision/Making/Information