

Poll Reveals: Workers Hate Rocky

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (IPS) — Reports from around the country on the progress of the national anti-Rockefeller poll initiated by the U.S. Labor Party, are beginning to give a reading on the widespread hatred that the American working class feels toward Nelson Rockefeller. As the results come in, they are being used in the Labor Party campaign for a national plebiscite against Rocky this November.

Still-sketchy reports indicate that nearly 90 per cent of the working class hates Rockefeller's guts. The remainder either are passively supporting him or, in many cases, simply refusing to tell the poll-takers what they feel. The pattern of antipathy for Rockefeller holds true for a broad section of the working-class population in all regions of the country.

Further, reactions to Rockefeller largely are divided along class lines. Small samples from petit-bourgeois layers in New York, for example, show some support for Rockefeller. A *Philadelphia Bulletin* reporter told the Labor Party that a poll she conducted among atomized Philadelphia ghetto residents revealed a surprising amount of pro-Rockefeller sentiment. This result is consistent with the response Labor Party petitioners occasionally have met with among older people in New York City ghettos — that Rocky wasn't a "bad master." Yet the rapid politicization of the industrial working class already has begun to pull sections of both these strata towards the Labor Party.

The bourgeois press has been watching the Labor Party polls cautiously, sensing the potential groundswell of anti-Rockefeller sentiment despite their own accolades for Rockefeller. Two Hearst papers as well as various radio stations have expressed interest in using results of the Anti-Rocky poll. Radio stations in San Francisco and Boston also have started broadcasting "Rocky polls" of their own!

Congressmen, too, have been forced to notice the anger boiling up from their constituencies. One such congressman from Cleveland, observing that the industrial workers he represents do not usually write letters, mused: "But suddenly I have been flooded with letters from them opposing Rockefeller's nomination. . . I don't understand it." Another Congressman, from nearby Youngstown, announced that he is forwarding heaps of anti-Rockefeller mail to the House Judiciary Committee.

Poll Samples

The following sample of polls gives a representative sense of how workers feel about Rocky:

- In the Philadelphia region, a worker at Rockwell steel found that everybody in his shop hates Rocky, but are 50-50 on whether they support the Labor Committee.
- A worker at the decaying Wisconsin Steel deathtrap in Chicago told Labor Party organizers: "All the people in my department hate Rocky — and that's one-third of the workforce!"
- In Riverdale, an upper-middle-class area in New York City, petitioners found that 50 per cent of those polled were opposed to Rockefeller, while 30 per cent responded positively.
- A worker from Dayton Inland Manufacturing polled ten people: "All hate the bastard."
- A 50-year-old construction worker in Charlotte, N.C., happily was surprised to discover that all of his co-workers hated Rockefeller as much as he did.
- At Fischer Body in Detroit a worker found 50 per cent of his co-workers opposed to Rockefeller, while the other half claimed indifference.
- Three days after meeting Labor Party organizers, a gas station attendant in Syracuse, N.Y., reported that the eight people he polled were all against Rockefeller; and he asked for copies of *New Solidarity* to sell.