

Michigan Governor. The Republican pro-lifer John Engler may try to paint Democratic incumbent James Blanchard as an extremist for vetoing the most popular abortion "restriction" — parental consent. Political strategists feel more comfortable playing the abortion issue at the margins; for pro-lifers it's parental consent, for pro-choicers it's rape and incest exemptions. Both of these positions have the support of at least three-fourths of voters in most states, and candidates vulnerable on either are good targets.

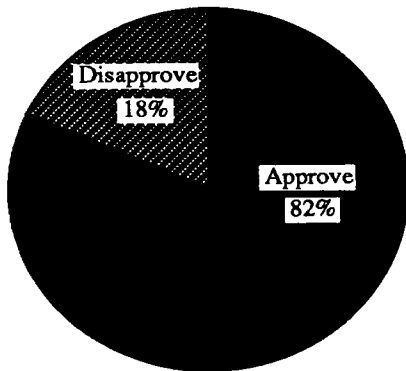
In addition to these high visibility races there are actual abortion referenda on the ballot in Oregon and Nevada (and possibly Oklahoma as well). The results of those referenda will be harder to obfuscate by activist "spin" — though even here spin will still be applied. Careful analysis of good survey data is needed to counter-balance the efforts of the spin doctors.

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PUBLIC OPINION, POST-IRAQ
Early Soundings

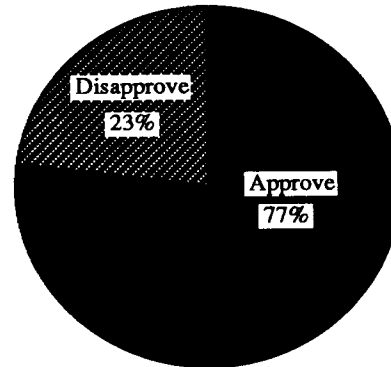
BASIC SUPPORT FOR US POLICY

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the US decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia as a defense against Iraq?



Note: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 9-12, 1990.

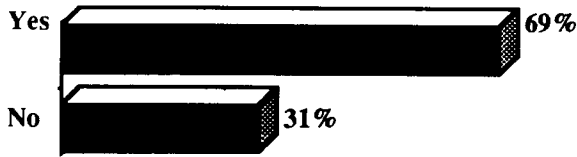
Question: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the US sending military forces to Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf?



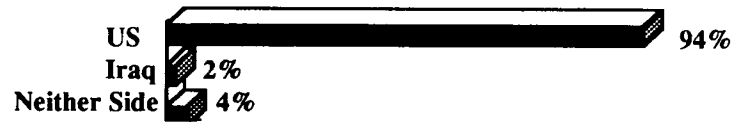
Note: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, August 18-19, 1990.

OVERALL COMMITMENT AND OPTIMISM

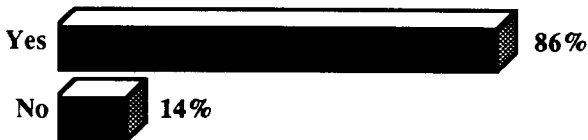
Question: Do you think the US is going to get involved in a war with Iraq?



Question: And if the US did get involved in a war with Iraq, who do you think would win?



Question: Do you think the US is prepared to fight a war with Iraq or not?



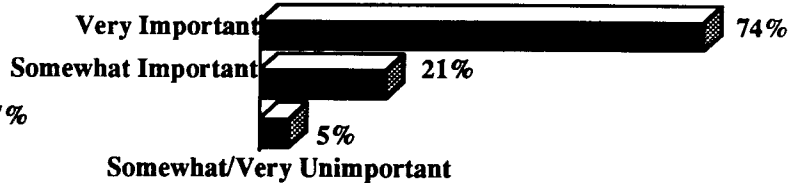
Question: Do you think a war between the US and Iraq would be a relatively short war lasting a few weeks or months or do you think such a war would last for a long time, a year or more?



Question: Do you think the US is heading for the same kind of involvement in the Middle East as it had in the Vietnam War, or do you think the US will avoid that kind of involvement this time?



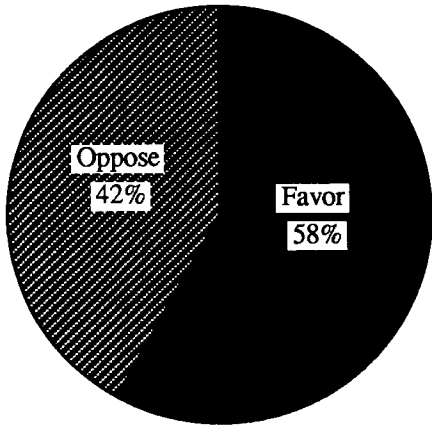
Question: How important to the US would you say it is for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait?



Note: Survey by ABC News, August 17-20, 1990.

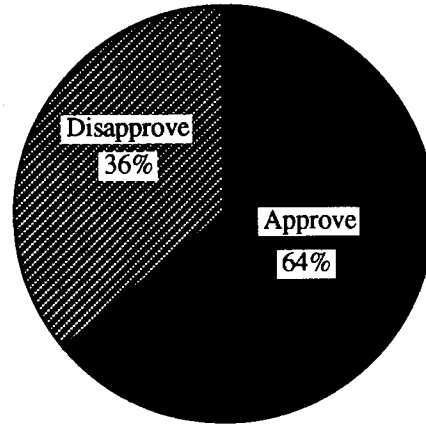
**REMARKABLY STRONG SUPPORT
FOR USING MILITARY FORCE**

Question: (Here are some actions which the US might take against Iraq. Which...do you favor and which do you oppose?)...
Military action to force Iraq to remove its troops from Kuwait?



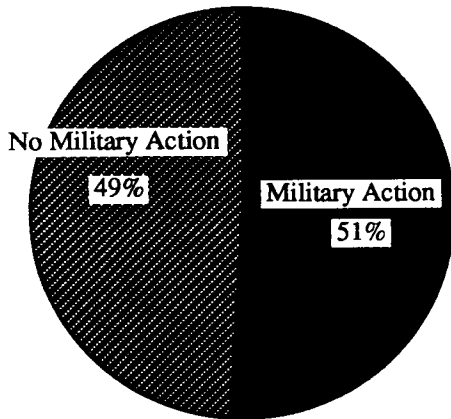
Note: Survey by Time/CNN/Yankelovich Clancy Shulman, August 9, 1990.

Question: Would you approve or disapprove of using US troops to force the Iraqis to leave Kuwait?



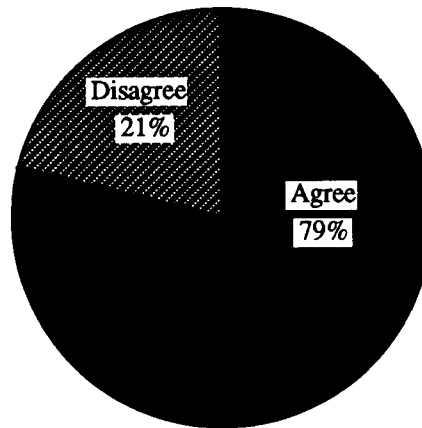
Note: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 9-12, 1990.

Question: (I'm going to mention some things that may or may not happen in the Middle East and for each one, please tell me whether the US should or should not take military action in connection with it.)...If Iraq refuses to withdraw from Kuwait?



Note: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, August 18-19, 1990.

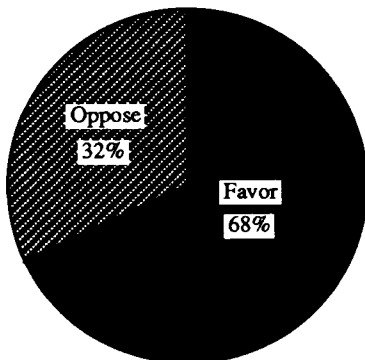
Question: The US should take all action necessary, including the use of military force, to make sure that Iraq withdraws its forces from Kuwait.



Note: Survey by ABC News, August 17-20, 1990.

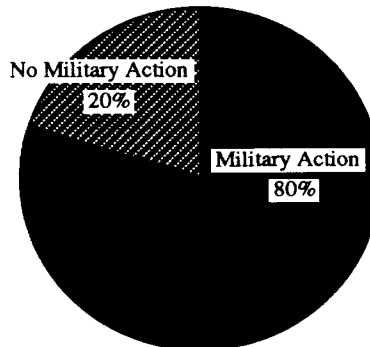
DO WHAT WE CAN TO PROTECT AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE

Question: If US civilian hostages are taken, would you favor military rescue missions, even if some hostages or US troops might be killed? Or would you oppose such missions?



Note: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 9-10, 1990.

Question: Please tell me whether the US should or should not take military action...If Iraq imprisons or mistreats Americans left in Kuwait?



Note: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, August 18-19, 1990.

BUSH APPROVAL RATINGS -- BEFORE AND AFTER

(% Who Approve)

