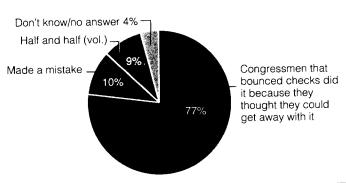
# THE CRITIQUE OF CONGRESS

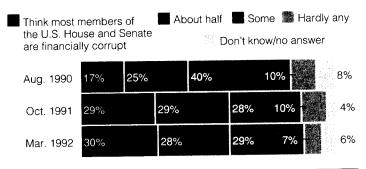
The public now views Congress harshly. As a result, it is inclined to endorse sharply worded criticisms—like those below—offered by pollsters.

Question: A number of Congressmen have written checks on their House bank account when they did not have enough money to cover them and they did not have to pay a bounced check charge. Do you think those Congressmen deliberately did this because they knew they could get away with it or do you think they just made a mistake?



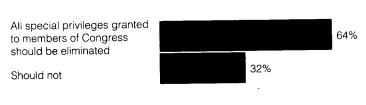
Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, March 26-29, 1992.

Question: Now think about all the members of the U.S. House and Senate. How many of them do you think are financially corrupt?



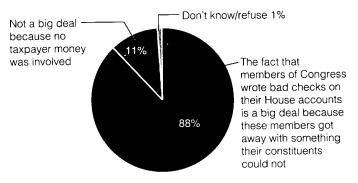
Source: Surveys by CBS News/New York Times, latest that of March 26-29, 1992.

Ouestion: Some people say all special privileges granted to members of Congress should be eliminated to remove any unfairness. Others say those special privileges should not be eliminated because they make public service an affordable option for capable men and women who could make more money in private life. How about you ...?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, March 3, 1992.

Question: Some people say it is not a big deal that members of Congress wrote bad checks on their House accounts, because no tax-payer money was involved. Others say it is a big deal because these members of Congress got away with something their constituents could not. Which of these comes closest to your view?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, March 3, 1992.

Question: Have you heard or read about some members of Congress writing bad checks that were covered for them by the House of Representatives' bank? Do you think this represents business as usual in Congress, or is this an isolated exception to the rule in Congress?

Think some members writing bad checks represents business as usual in Congress



Source: Surveys by ABC News/Washington Post, latest that of March 18, 1992.

Question: Two years ago, Congress voted to increase members' salaries in exchange for cutting the speaking fees they could accept from special interest groups. Looking back, do you think this Congressional pay raise was a good idea or a bad idea?

Congressional pay raise in exchange for cutting speaking fees from special interest groups was a bad idea



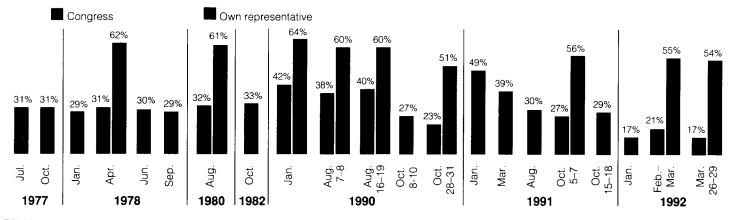
Note: 'Represents respondents who opposed pay raise at the time it was proposed. Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, March 3, 1992.

### Congress, My Congressman

Although ratings of Congress haven't been high for a long time, they are extremely low today. Fewer than one in five Americans say they approve of the way Congress is doing its job. A solid majority of Americans would deny most members—but not their own representative—re-election.

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job? How about the representative in Congress from your district? Do you approve or disapprove of the way your representative is handling his or her job?

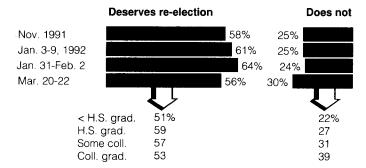
#### Approve of the way ... is handling job



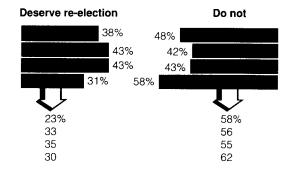
**Note:** Of those who said in the March 1992 survey that they disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job (75%), 76% said they mainly disapprove of both the Democrats and the Republicans in Congress; 13% said mainly the Democrats, and 8% said mainly the Republicans. **Source:** Surveys by CBS News/New York Times, latest that of March 26–29, 1992.

Question: Please tell me whether or not you think each of the following political officeholders deserves to be re-elected.

#### U.S. representative from your district



#### Most members of the U.S. House of Representatives



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of March 20-22, 1992.

Question: Now let me read you some statements about November's congressional elections. For each, tell me if you agree or disagree.

My own member of Congress knows our needs and does a good job of servicing our individual and district needs, so it's a mistake not to vote him or her back to office this fall

Disagree

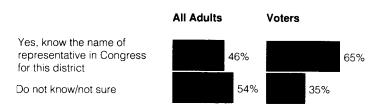
Sep. 1990

Mar. 1992

44%

50%

Question: Do you happen to know the name of the member of Congress who represents this district in the House of Representatives?

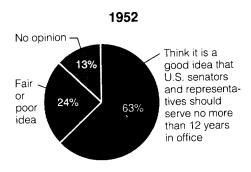


Source: Surveys by Louis Harris and Associates, March 18-24, 1992

## **Reaching Our Limit?**

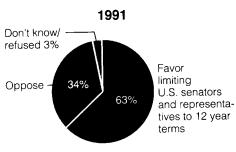
Americans have long supported term limits for members of Congress, but now the intensity of support for change may be growing. Fifty-five years ago, only 16 percent of respondents complained that "congressmen spend more time thinking of their own political futures than they do in passing legislation"; today 41 percent feel that way.

Question: It has been suggested that no United States senator or representative should serve more than a total of 12 years in office. Do you think this is a good idea or a poor idea?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 27-April 1, 1952

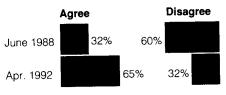
Question: There is a proposal to limit the terms of members of Congress to 12 years. Senators would be limited to two six-year terms. U.S. representatives would be limited to six two-year terms. Would you favor or oppose a 12 year term for members of Congress?



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 10-13, 1991

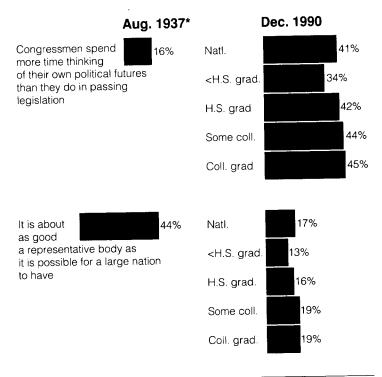
Question: Now I'd like to read you some statements we have heard from other people concerning their vote for Congress this year. After each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with that statement.

Congress never seems to get anything done, so maybe we ought to replace them all, including my Congressman



Source: Survey by American Viewpoint, March 28-April 1, 1992.

Question: Which one of these statements best expresses your attitude toward the present U.S. Congress as a whole?

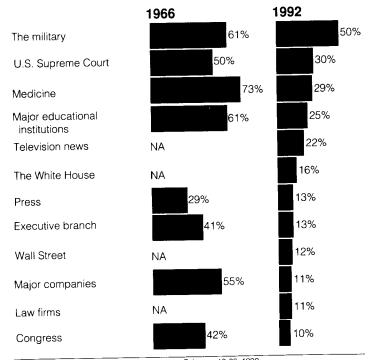


Note: \*=Roper Organization survey for Fortune. Slight wording change in 1990.

Source: Surveys by the Roper Organization (Roper Reports 91-1), latest that of December 1-8, 1990.

Question: As far as people in charge of running...are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?

Have a great deal of confidence in the people in charge of running...



Source: Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, February 19-26, 1992