

THE COLUMBIA SURVEY INC.

PUBLIC OPINION ANALYSTS

1026 SEVENTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

LOOK

Dear Friend —
Today (Tuesday,
Sept 8th) LOOK
Magazine publishes
this 58% to 39% <sup>38% to 39% —
not 38% to 39%</sup>
rebuttal to the
critics of Congress.
We thought you
would like to see
this advance copy.
Sincerely,
Chas. T. Wingo
The Columbia Survey



THE TRUMAN COMMITTEE of the Senate has been investigating the entire war program and has made headlines doing it. Here, left to right, are assistant counsel Charles P. Clark, Senator Truman (Mo.), Senator Brewster (Me.).

Is Congress Hindering the War Effort?

Administrators of the executive branch of the government answer this question for LOOK

39% say YES

58% say NO

3% have NO OPINION

This is an election year for all Representatives and many Senators. Critics have charged that they are preoccupied with less important things than the life-and-death business of war.

Congress has often been in conflict on war policies with such bureaus as the OEM, the WPB and the OPA. To find out what the men in these and other executive agencies think of Congress' wartime role, LOOK asked the Columbia Survey, public-opinion analysts, to poll 448 chiefs of bureaus and divisions in the executive branch of the government. Here are the three questions these administrators were asked:

1. Critics have recently charged that Congress has NOT been aiding the war effort but has been hindering it—do you agree?

As stated at the top of this page, 58 per cent of those answering declared Congress is not hindering the war effort; 39 per cent believed that it is.

2. If your answer was "YES" to Question 1, what in your opinion are the motives or reasons for the hindrances?

Sample answers: "Politics." "Elections." "Hatred of Britain and Roosevelt." "Congressmen do not realize we are in a tough war."

3. If your answer was "YES" to Question 1, in what ways do you think Congressmen have hindered the war effort?

Typical answers: "Failure to control labor, farm legislation, needless investigations." "Non-support of Henderson." "Not being firm on taxes, rubber, gas, etc."

LOOK showed the results of this poll to congressional leaders. Here are some reactions:

Alben W. Barkley, Senate majority leader: "I urge that Congress be judged by its total accomplishment and not by two or three shortsighted or foolish things it may have fallen into."

Harry S. Truman, chairman of the Senate War Investigation Committee: "We are much more interested in the winning of the war than almost any other group for we are going to be held accountable for it by the voters."

Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House: "Congress has responded to all suggestions helpful in the war. That doesn't say each individual has, but the majority of the Senate and House is 'Congress'."

Joseph W. Martin, Jr., House minority leader: "The majority of the poll reflects the actual facts. Congress has been extremely cooperative in the war effort."