PILOT STUDY OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CISW (GEORGE McLAIN):

Summary and Discussion

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## The Problem

This is, above all/else, a study in political participation. We wish
to know, very simply, what makes people join the McLain organization.
Beyond this, we would like to learn what gratifications they derive
from their membership (if any); thus, in a back-handed sort of way,
we are attempting to gain some insight into the problems of one
segment of the old-age population. Underlying our interests are,
unmistakably, certain preoccupations with social betterment: we wonder
whether the problems of these old people might not be solved by some
other means, less expensive to them and perhaps the community at
large.

Since these are our interests, the following discussion of the
pilot study results will concentrate on these two points: attributes
associated with participation, and the "therapeutic effect" of
membership.

The original questionnaire was constructed with two sets of hypothe-
ses in mind. The first set, derived from the frustration-aggression
hypothesis, led us to expect that participation in the organization
would go with the more acute cases of unpleasant experiences at
the end of the occupational career and in relations with the social
services; the organization would be seen, by these people, as a
fighting outfit. The second set postulated some sort of social
need which would induce people to join for the sake of having company;
these people would be more "isolated" than others of similar condi-
tion, and they would see the Institute primarily as a means of social
intercourse. Examination of the data will show that there is no
basis for further use of these hypotheses.

For this reason, the data presented in the attached table have been
organized according to a new hypothesis. According to this hypothesis,
the McLain organization should be regarded as neither an instrument
of aggression nor as a means of social intercourse, but as a
status conferring in-group having the following pecularities: (a) the
bond which holds the membership together is ideological rather than
personal, (b) the organization dispenses salvation for a consideration,
(c) the organization relieves its members of responsibility, yet
maintains in them a feeling of activity and self-respect.

The questions which are raised by this hypothesis are as follows:
(a) What makes for a particularly strong status drive among older
people? (b) Which older people are willing to incur rather large
expenses in money and energy in order to attain status? (c) What
accounts for the fact that these people tend to rephrase their
problems in ideological terms instead of searching for practical
solutions? (d) Why do they "escape from freedom"?

Concerning these questions, I shall try to offer some hypotheses in the final section of this summary. The following summary of the findings will present what prima facie evidence there is for the new hypothesis.

## Involvement

Since, for the time being, we have no control group for comparison, our only means of testing hypotheses is to compare groups having differential degrees of involvement in the organization. These groups are labelled X-O and 1 through 5 across the top of the attached table. It was found convenient to use the size of the financial sacrifice incurred by the member as an indicator of involvement. The meaning of the involvement classification is as follows:

X-O Those who state that they are not members or do not state that they are members and do not state that they have made any voluntary contribution.

1  Those who have contributed up to $2.00 as either subscription to the paper or voluntary contribution.

2. Those who have contributed up to $10.00 per year as membership fee and/or contribution.

3. Those who have contributed more than $10.00 per year as membership fee and/or contribution, but not as payment on a life membership.

4  Those now paying instalments on a life membership ($5.00 per month.)

5  Paid-up life members. (These are also among the highest voluntary contributors.)

All items in the attached table have been numbered for easy reference. Each line containing figures is an "item". Unless otherwise indicated, the numbers are to be read as percent of the people in the groups marked across the top of the table.

The "items" have been selected from approximately 60 separate tables. They were chosen in such a way as to give the best summary expression of the main trends or differences which I was able to detect in the tables. Where one line from a table did not seem to give an adequate picture, several lines were chosen and listed as separate items. A question mark following a figure signifies that this figure is probably much too low because of a large number of non-responses. This applies to practically all figures in the X-O group.

Items 1 trough 5 validate the involvement index used, since they show strong correlations between the index and other measures of involvement. Worthy of note is the "anomalous" behavior of group 4 (paying on life memberships) in items 3 and 4. These people collect signatures much more frequently than other groups, but they go to meetings less than either groups 3 or 5. The explanation is that work for the Institute is a means to attaining status -- the life members, having attained status already need not employ it as much as those now paying on life memberships. On the other hand, meeting attendance may be a means of status enjoyment; hence the life members go to parade their golden buttons while those who are still striving stay away: sour grapes or waiting for the Day.

## Status feelings and therapeutic effects of membership

Item 25 shows that giving up one's last job is a shock to nearly everyone. Nearly hlf the people admit that they felt "very bad". Whether this "bad feeling" relates to the loss of activity or else to the loss of job status is a matter of conjecture. I am inclined to believe the latter, since none of the questions related to work evoke any strong responses indicating wide-spread desire for creative expression or a regular job routine.

The number of people "feeling bad" is skightly highest in group 3 (although all differences are small on this question). Generally, group three may be regarded as the most "active" group, the group most eager to reconquer the status they held before becoming pensioners. See their responses on items 48 and 50. These people, although large contributors, do not buy memberships because they still prefer the "real" status they enjoyed (or strove for) in the outside world to the synthetic status which McLain has to offer. As they are sucked into the organization (i.e. into life membership), their work orientation tends to be supplanted by an in-group status orientation.

Generally, people also feel bad about applying for the pension. Our figures do not adequately express their feelings of shame and humili-ation, partly because the alternatives from which they could choose were ill worded, partly because this shame is something people will rarely attest in public. Items 26 through 32 show the therapeutic effect of membership. For all groups except group 4, there is a difference of more than 20% between those who where glad when they applied for the pension and those who are glad to have the pehsion now. This difference is largest for the life membership group. Group 4 contains the largest number of people who state they were glad when applying and the smallest number of people who state they are glad to have it now. I doubt that all these figures should be taken at face value, i.e. as a reliable self-rating of respondents as to their feelings then and now. Rather, I think that those respondents who do not say that they were glad when applying but say that they are glad now attest to a felt change in their attitude toward the pension. The largest number of people who have felt such a change taking place is among the life members, the smallest among those now paying on life memberships. For the people in group 4, membership has had the effect of making the step of applying for the pension easier, but they do not yet make the difference between applying for the pension and living with it. Also, as item 29 shows, many people in group 4 have not yet learned to rationalize about their pension by adopting the more ideological argument of "entitlement". Note that for this group the difference between "felt entitled" and "feel entitled" is larger than for any other group, which is to say that they are in the process of assimilating the Maxkxim ideology of the organization. This group is also distinguished by the fact that there is no difference in the number of those who "wanted to work" when applying and those who want to work now (items 31 and 32), whereas all other groups contain some people who have experienced and admit to a decided change in their attitudes toward work.

## Activity, self-help and dependence

As indicated before, the need for a status conferring group member-
ship seems to arise out of feelings of humiliation. Loss of the last
job and the necessity of "going on relief" may, in themselves, be
humiliating experiences for many people; but it is quite possible
that these events merely serve      as emotional foci for much more
general feelings of inadequacy and waning self-respect. Among the
more involved respondents, there appear to be many who are unable
to solve their problems by "ordinary means", i.e. by remedial action
on their own part or by turning for help to those who are close to
them.

Thus, respondents in groups 4 and 5 are less likely to have moved
within the last 5 years even if they are dissatisfied with their
residence. Members of group 3, the "doers", are much more likely
to have moved, but they are still dissatisfied            (item 47).
Item 48 suggests that this inability to take remedial action is not
a new characteristic of the life member group: they are much less likely
than people in other groups to have looked for work after loosing
their last job. Item 49 shows that the life member group contains
the largest number of people who stopped working because of ill
health. But this does not explain the differences in the proportion
of people looking for work after losing their 1st job, since group 3
also contains a large proportion of people who quit working for
health reasons. Evidently, there are either some differences in the
two groups' definitions of what constitutes ill health, or else group 5
has re-interpreted and rationalized the experiences surrounding the
last job. Item 50 shows that group 3 people worked longer (after
age 65) then people in other groups; they quit for ill health at a
more advanced age. This is born out by the cross-tabulations of
items 52 and 53, showing that the life members psychological resis-
tance to ill health is lower than that of people in other groups.
In this case, however, people of poor health in group 4 show only
a rather small proportion of retirements before age 65, a fact which
is not easily explained. Item 51 shows the most striking differences
in this area: group 4 members are much less likely than members of
other groups to look for another job when forcibly retired or laid off.
The "normal" reaction of looking for a job under these conditions
is most common in Group 1.

The other "normal" reaction to social and medical misfortune - asking
children for help--is least common among life members and most
common in group 4 (item 55). Along with this goes, among the life
members, a greater reliance on strangers: the county, more specifically
the social worker, and the doctor. The figures show that group 4
members have not yet been able to adjust to their dependence upon
the social worker (items 57 and 58). Items 59 and 60 further illustrate
differences in the feelings of members in the several groups concerning
their children. The life members' relations with their children appear
to be loose and non-commital.

## Politization and ideological rephrasing

The last finding in the preceding section might remind us of our original
"isolation" hypothesis. But it does not appear that the life members'
relative remoteness from his children could be termed "isolation" in the
behavioral sense which we meant to give the word. Life members not
only get less advice from their children than respondents in other
groups, they also feel that they don't get enough visits from relatives
(item 36). Yet, when we examine the actual number of visits they receive,
we can detect no striking differences between life members and other
groups. I wonder, in this connection, whether one visit every week or
fortnight should be regarded, objectively, as "enough" or "not enough".
We have not cross-tabulated these items yet--perhaps there are differences
in the members' definitions. (Items 42-44)

Dissatisfaction with the number of family visits is the only instance of
a positive relationship between involvement and dissatisfaction. Dis-
satisfaction with income is lowest among life members and highest among
members of group 4 (item 33). A dissatisfaction index, based on four
separate responses, shows that dissatisfaction is lowest among life members
and highest in group three (item 37). Corroboration of this finding
may be found in items 39-41, concerning the "happiest years of your
life": life members are most likely to mention recent years, group 4
respondents are least likely to do so. Certainly, there is no evidence
for any claim that increased involvement goes with increased dissatis-
faction with one's own life; and if there is any relationship at all,
it would be negative. The relatively low amount of dissatisfaction in
the life member group may well be another therapeutic effect of member-
ship. It disposes, incidentally, of the frustration-aggression hypothesis
as applied in the case of this organization.

What is more, life members are less likely than any other members to feel
that pensioners are being treated badly by county officials; they are
most likely to feel that they are being treated well (items 61 and 62).
The only instances in which life-members express dissatisfaction
more frequently than other members are questions of an impersonal and
political nature. Thus, life-members are more likely than any other group
to consider the pension law "unfair": people don't wrong them, but the
"system" does. There is a straight, although not impressive, regression
of dissatisfaction with the pension law on involvement. At the same time,
both group 4 and group 5 are optimistic about a raise in the pension:
another psychic reward of membership (item 64). I believe that a
detailed analysis of the friends-enemies test (not yet done) will show
a similar tendency on the part of the life member to ideological and
political rather than personal dissatisfaction.

Admittedly, the data in this section are particularly meager. Still, I
think we have some reason to believe that increased participation in
the Institute brings with it a more abstract, more ideological attitude
toward the social and psychological problems of old age. This is what
was meant in the heading by "politization and ideological rephrasing.
We do not know, as yet, whether this propensity is a personality

characteristic of life members, or else, a function of the organizational pattern which George McLain has imposed upon the Institute. In the latter case, the status drive would be primary, group membership would be instrumental to attaining status, and ideological rephrasing would be an acquired auxiliary attitude which goes with membership.


## The state of redemption

Besides status pride, the characteristics of the saved member seem to be these: he has a diffuse and perhaps not quite warranted feeling of closeness to others, especially to George; he tends to become less affected by events outside the in-group; and, looking from the inside out, he neatly divides the world into half friends and half enemies. Items 69-73 illustrate the process of getting closer to George. Groups 3 and 5 are most likely to consider George as a friend (but the responses denoting a closer relationship, such as "father" and "brother" were                                seldom chosen). Group 4 whose members are still striving so hard to be saved are more reluctant to call George a "friend" (as reluctant as the members of group 1); but they are more likely than any other group to call Geroge a "good            shepherd". Am I going too far beyond the data when I say that this process of salvation involves some sort of union with the Deity--making God one's friend? Item 52 again exemplifies the feeling of closeness of the life member, the word "family" probably being chosen for want of a somewhat less commital term. Somewhat surprising are the perceptions of the Institute by members of group 4: the relatively low number of "service organization" responses (although this term appears on the mast-head of the paper and the Institute stationary) and the relatively large number of "union" responses (item 77). Note also the much greater frequency of the "religious group" response in groups 4 and 5, which lends some credence to my preceding hypotheses.

That the state of redemption bringspeace to the soul can be seen in item 78. Group four members tend to cathect more social objects than do life members. Items 79 and 81 show the tendency of group 3, 4 and 5 to divide their world into equal halves of friends and enemies; this propensity is particularly noticeable among life members in item 81. Examination    of items 80 and 82 reveals that group 3 may be considered the most aggressive group. .


## Demographic or pseudo-demographic data

Now that we have some superficial ideas concerning the members' attitudes, it may be time to look at the purportedly more "objective" data which we have been able to gather. My chief reason for presenting these data toward the end of this summary is that I rather distrust them. I think we have failed to elicit reliable information on such matters as occupation, and we probably shall continue to faib in this respect so long as members are driven by differential desires to emphasize or hide their previous status. Should we assume that     group 4 contains  a substantially higher proportion of skilled workers than the life member group? Or is it more reasonable to believe that all but the life members, and partifularly those now bucking for life memberships, tended to emphasize previous

occupational status and to slightly up-grade themselves? (item 11).
The large proportion of service workers (mostly domestic) (i em 10)
in the more involved groups is perhaps more credible.

Self-ratings of health are also subject to suspicion (items 13 and  )
It would seem that life members tend to over- or under-rate their
health. If we run health by age for all groups combined, it turns
out that the older groups tend to be a little more healthier. Since
the life member group is by-and-large a little bit older than the
other groups, one would expect it to enjoy a little better average
health. But the data show increases at both ends of the distribution
rather than a shift toward the "good" end.

It is difficult to make sense of the rather large representation
of fundamentalists among     group 4 members. Could it be that
fundamentalists are particularly attracted to the quasi-catholic
sale of indulgences by George with attendant redemption? Could it
be that once received into the circle of the elect (recognizable by
a golden button), they cease to describe themselves as "Pentecostal",
"Four Square Gospel" and the like and modestly label themselves
Protestants (which would make us put them into a different classifi-
cation)? In other words, does George compete with the fundamentalist
holy-roller sects? Or else, has there been a historical change during
the past year, so that the life membership group now attracts a
different class of people?

Size of community is one of the few accurate data we possess, since
we have taken it from the 1950 Census. It is not surprising that
the more involved and therefore more status conscious groups would
be found chiefly in middle size towns, since status feelings tend to
thrive in these environments.

## Additional hypotheses to investigate

The foregoing data are mainly descriptive and offer very little
insight into the constituent factors of participation. We must
now attempt to construct additional hypotheses which might "explain"
status striving among these old people. No doubt, the status problem
is an acute one for almost all old people in our civilization. One
would still want to know what accounts for differential degrees of
acuteness.

A glance at items 7C and 71 might serve as a good starting point.
Item 70 shows the gap which exists, for all these people, between
aspiration and achievement. Item 71 again shows the therapeutic
effect of membership: for life members more often than for any other
group, there is a chance of closing the gap. Status, then, may
be a substitute for activity. That is to say, no matter whether
there is a gap between level of activity and level of activity
aspiration, or between status level and status aspiration, in either
case the answer of the McLain organization is in-group status.

We must, then, wonder how a large gap between level of achievement and level of aspiration might come about. Such small evidence as we have tends to point in two opposing directions. On health as on some other variables, the more involved members seem to bunch up in the tails of the distribution. This is to say that opposite, but extreme, factors may have identical effects. For instance, people who all through their lives have had high activity and status may persevere in old age and attempt to continue doing what they can't do any more. On the other hand people who have striven for status during their younger years without attaining it may persevere in their striving. It is even possible that people, at the end of their occupational career, will compare their achievement with that of others taken as a reference group and decide that at this late date they must strive to keep up with the Joneses. In the main study great attention should therefore be paid to the correlates of status and activity striving.

I think the fact that these old people will incur rather large expenses in order to attain membership must be interpreted as perseverance of striving or repetition compulsion. For most people, joining the McLain organization is a maladjustive response, because the constant high demands (in money and effort) of the organization upon the members make it impossible to close the gap between level of achievement and level of aspiration. Only a few attain, through heavy sacrifice, the state of redemption. I think that this compulsion to feeling guilty (or to having someone else tell you that you are falling down on the job) is related to a general feeling of inadequacy. As shown before, a good number of these people are unable to take remedial action even where this would be technically possible. Hence their increasing dependence upon the impersonal social welfare office and the rather impersonal (and not at all helpful) George. The question (for which Republicans have an answer) is whether taking relief kills "initiative" or whether those who suffer from some block which prevents their restructuring the environment are likely to become victims of social assistance and George McLain.

Ideological rephrasing is, I think, a corrolary of the inability to deal with practical questions in a practical way. This inability may have psychological, social or medical roots. At any rate, it may pay to investigate more carefully what I have termed the frequency of "remedial action".

Finally, we have paid very little attention so far to the authoritarian structure of the organization in relation to the members' needs. From all that was said before about the members' inability to restructure their environment and their dependence it would seem that they would shun responsibility and that an authoritarian type of organization would just fill their bill. It is quite possible that the neurotic tension resulting from the protracted discrepancy between levels of achievement and aspiration actually has an immobilizing effect. If we can, we should try to obtain some expression of the members thoughts on the structure of the Institute.

Frank A. Pinner.

Designation of groups

| | O-X | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Measures of Involvement** | | | | | | |
| 1. Returning first questionnaire | 73 | 68 | 75 | 80 | 87 | 95 |
| 2. Listening to G.M. 5 or more times per week | 7 | 15 | 29 | 37 | 42 | 57 |
| 3. Collecting signatures "always" and "sometimes" | 33 | 35 | 47 | 61 | 79 | 70 |
| 4. Attending "all" or "half" of meetings | 9 | 19 | 35 | 48 | 41 | 56 |
| 5. Listening to both G.M. and church often | 7 | | 29 | | 50 | |
| **General Characteristics** | | | | | | |
| 6. Size of median community | 42,500 | 35,000 | 85,000 | 65,000 | 42,500 | 42,500 |
| 7. Living in towns of 50,000 and over | 47 | 45 | 52 | 53 | 48 | 47 |
| 8. Democrats | 28? | 48 | 55 | 45 | 59 | 60 |
| Occupations:* | | | | | | |
| 9. Professional and white collar | 0 | 21 | 18 | 13 | 5 | 8 |
| 10. Service | 29 | 31 | 20 | 32 | 41 | 39 |
| 11. Skilled | 25 | 33 | 29 | 30 | 37 | 18 |
| 12. Semi-skilled | 10 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 11 |
| Health: | | | | | | |
| 13. "Excellent" and "good" | 12 | 20 | 19 | 15 | 16 | 21 |
| 14. "Poor" and "very poor" | 33 | 47 | 35 | 37 | 37 | 43 |
| 15. Psychoneurotic index | | | no differences | | | |
| 16. Source of income: pension | 67 | 69 | 77 | 85 | 75 | 88 |
| 17. Married: | 39 | 46 | 50 | 59 | 52 | 47 |
| 18. Religion: Fundamentalist | 17? | 15 | 13 | 14 | 29 | 19 |
| **Experiences at close of Occupational career** | | | | | | |
| 19. 2 kinds of work between 50 and 65 | 33 | 17 | 24 | 21 | 13 | 26 |
| 20. 3 or more kinds of work, 50-65 | 13 | 39 | 24 | 28 | 36 | 39 |
| 21. "Never unemployed", age 50-65 | 11 | 17 | 16 | 18 | 17 | 22 |
| 22. Stopped working before age 65 | 17? | 34 | 41 | 31 | 31 | 40 |
| 23. Downward job mobility, 50-65 | 15 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 12 | 18 |
| 24. Lost more than 3 years through illness, 50-65 | 9 | 8 | 16 | 19 | 14 | 18 |

* Percent of those answering question

|  | Q-X | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Status feelings related to job and pension** | | | | | | |
| 25. Felt "bad" about loosing last job | 35 | 46 | 50 | 53 | 49 | 46 |
| 26. Feelings about pension: | | | | | | |
| 27. "Glad" when applying | 24 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 36 | 25 |
| 28. "Glad" now | 41 | 45 | 43 | 46 | 39 | 49 |
| 29. "Felt entitled" when applying | 16 | 15 | 28 | 28 | 21 | 36 |
| 30. "Feel entitled" now | 26 | 20 | 28 | 33 | 27 | 46 |
| 31. "Wanted to work" or "do something in return" when applying | 11 | 20 | 18 | 21 | 12 | 17 |
| 32. "Prefer to work" now | 7 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 5 |
| **Feelings of dissatisfaction** | | | | | | |
| 33. Income "not enough" | 26 | 33 | 33 | 37 | 41 | 25 |
| 34. Residence: pro-con and dissatisfied | 32 | 36 | 33 | 46 | 38 | 36 |
| 35. Number of friends' visits "not enough" | 24? | 52 | 43 | 47 | 45 | 48 |
| 36. Number of family visits "not enough" | 37? | 53 | 53 | 56 | 59 | 64 |
| 37. Index of dissatisfaction based on above four questions 3 or 4 negative answers. | 8 | 15 | 15 | 21 | 18 | 12 |
| 38. X dissatisfaction: | | no difference | | | | |
| 39. Happiest years: 40-60 | 18 | 21 | 23 | 19 | 15 | 24 |
| 40. Happiest years: since 60 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 16 |
| 41. Total | 20 | 28 | 33 | 32 | 25 | 40 |
| 42. Number of visits from friends and relatives: Less than 1 per month | 26? | 31? | 41 | 42 | 31 | 42 |
| 43. Two to four visits per month | 15? | 21? | 23 | 30 | 40 | 27 |
| 44. Total | 31? | 52? | 64 | 72 | 71 | 67 |
| **Activity** | | | | | | |
| 45. Self rating: "more to do than can manage" | 13? | 20 | 13 | 18 | 24 | 15 |
| 46. Self rating: "often time on my hands" | 15? | 9 | 21 | 24 | 11 | 24 |
| **Self Help - Frequency of remedial action:** | | | | | | |
| 47. Not "quite satisfied" with residence but never moved in 5 years | 15? | 17? | 20 | 29 | 15 | 15 |
| 48. Looked for work after loosing last job | 20? | 26 | 27 | 31 | 23 | 17 |
| 49. Gave up last job because of ill health | 32 | 30 | 37 | 40 | 33 | 43 |
| 50. Left last job above age 65 | 64? | 40 | 34 | 56 | 51 | 53 |
| 51. Was retired or laid off and looked for another job | 41 | 87 | 58 | 60 | 38 | 58 |

|  | 0-X | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Resistance** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 52. Health now fair, poor or very poor, retired before age 65* | 26? | 39 | 24 | 30 | 27 | 57 |
| 53. Health poor or very poor, retired before age 65* | 24 | 37 | 39 | 38 | 24 | 42 |
| 54. "Wanted to stop working" | 5 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 5 |
| 55. Dependence: one source of help only | 39? | 66 | 75 | 72 | 71 | 79 |
| 56. Dependence: children | 15? | 14 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 10 |
| 57. Dependence: officials and doctor | 39? | 63 | 65 | 60 | 53 | 63 |
| 58. Dependence: social worker only | 17? | 38 | 35 | 31 | 26 | 41 |
| **Children's attitude about applying** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 59. Approved | 38 | 31 | 43 | 38 | 45 | 26 |
| 60. Left it up to R | 41 | 55 | 43 | 47 | 45 | 58 |
| **Attitudes concerning Social Service** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 61. "Pensioners are treated well" | 33? | 42 | 34 | 88 | 36 | 25 |
| 62. "Pensioners are treated badly" | 7 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 14 | 9 |
| 63. "Pension law is unfair" | 31? | 46 | 50 | 60 | 59 | 66 |
| 64. "Good chance pension will be raised" | 26? | 26 | 35 | 29 | 45 | 44 |
| **Attitudes concerning C.I.S.W.** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aims pursued by contributing: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 65. "Better pensions" | 30 | 56 | 64 | 65 | 67 | 67 |
| 66. "Help the old and needy" | 28 | 58 | 53 | 53 | 48 | 53 |
| 67. "Help George" | 7 | 21 | 22 | 16 | 21 | 17 |
| 68. "Make friends" | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 69. "I and others are not doing enough for C.I.S.W" | 24 | 44 | 56 | 53 | 51 | 49 |
| 70. "I am doing enough, others are not" | 2 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 14 | 27 |
| **Perceptions of George** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 71. "Friend" | 48 | 59 | 63 | 74 | 59 | 70 |
| 72. "Advisor" | 50 | 32 | 46 | 56 | 42 | 49 |
| 73. "Good shepherd" | 35 | 30 | 33 | 29 | 47 | 40 |
| 74. "Statesman" | 4 | 23 | 19 | 22 | 23 | 27 |
| 75. "Political leader" | 22 | 17 | 15 | 19 | 15 | 21 |
| **Perceptions of C.I.S.W.** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 76. "Service organization" | 33 | 55 | 59 | 75 | 38 | 74 |
| 77. "Family" | 13 | 25 | 40 | 34 | 42 | 52 |
| 78. "Religious group" | 17 | 18 | 21 | 14 | 32 | 33 |
| 79. "Union" | 4 | 23 | 20 | 18 | 36 | 20 |

*Present health is closely related to leaving job because of ill health.

| | 0-X | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Aggression and Polarization** | | | | | | |
| 80. More than ½ of items checked in "Friends-enemies" test | 35 | 45 | 40 | 51 | 54 | 41 |
| 81. Ratio of "Friends" /Total = 50% | 30 | 31 | 27 | 41 | 29 | 35 |
| 82. Ratio of "Friends"/total more than 60% | 26 | 39 | 36 | 16 | 23 | 26 |
| 83. Ratio of "enemies"/total = 50% | 15 | 32 | 30 | 44 | 41 | 52 |
| 84. Ratio of "enemies"/total more than 60% | 24 | 19 | 22 | 26 | 21 | 25 |
| 85. X̄ enemy/friend ratio | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 5.3 | 4.8 | 5.4 |

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FORM C

# QUESTIONNAIRE
## Problems of Older People

## I. GENERAL QUESTIONS

This first group of questions is about your health, income and other circumstances of your life. We need to have this information in order to gain insight into the problems of older people.

**5**
**6**

1. Age................................................................
   years

**7**

2. ☐ ¹ Male      ☐ ² Female

**8**
**9**
**10**

3. In or near what town do you live?

   ...............................................................................
   Write name of town

**11**

4. Are you   ☐ ¹ Single     ☐ ² Married
            ☐ ³ Widowed   ☐ ⁴ Divorced
         or  ☐ ⁵ Separated?

**12**

5. What are your living arrangements?
   ☐ ¹ I have lived alone.......................years
   ☐ ² I live with my husband or wife
   ☐ ³ I live with relatives or friends
   ☐ ⁴ Other (explain).................................

**13**

6a. How long have you been living at your present residence?
   ................years

**14**

b. How many times have you moved during the last 5 years?
   ☐ ¹ Never        ☐ ⁴ Three times
   ☐ ² Once         ☐ ⁵ Four times
   ☐ ³ Twice        ☐ ⁶ More than 4 times

**15**

c. How do you like your present place?
   ☐ ¹ I am quite satisfied
   ☐ ² It has good and bad sides
   ☐ ³ I am quite dissatisfied

**16**

7a. What are your present sources of income?
   ☐ ¹ California Old Age Pension
   ☐ ² Federal Old Age Insurance benefits
   ☐ ³ Earnings    ☐ ⁴ Other (explain)........................

   ...............................................................................

**17**

b. Do you get enough money to live on?
   ☐ ¹ Enough
   ☐ ² Barely enough
   ☐ ³ Not enough

---

*If you are getting a PENSION now (California Old Age pension) answer these questions:*   **18**

8a. How do you feel about your pension now?
   ☐ ¹ I am glad I have it
   ☐ ² I feel entitled to it
   ☐ ³ I would prefer to work
   ☐ ⁴ I still can't get used to accepting it.

b. At what age did you first apply for your pension?   **19**
   ☐ ¹ At 65
   ☐ ² Between 65 and 70
   ☐ ³ After 70

c. How did you feel about applying at the time?   **20**
   ☐ ¹ I was glad I could apply
   ☐ ² I took it as something I was entitled to
   ☐ ³ I was glad about getting the money, but sorry I couldn't do anything in return
   ☐ ⁴ It was a hard step to take because I wanted to go on working
   ☐ ⁵ I felt ashamed to ask for the Pension

d. Did your adult children know that you were applying for the pension?   **21**
   ☐ ¹ Yes     ☐ ² No     ☐ ³ Don't know

e. How did your adult children feel about your applying for the pension?   **22**
   ☐ ¹ They insisted I apply
   ☐ ² They approved
   ☐ ³ They left it up to me
   ☐ ⁴ They disapproved
   ☐ ⁵ They strongly objected

9a. How would you rate your health?   **23**
   ☐ ¹ Excellent     ☐ ² Good     ☐ ³ Fair
   ☐ ⁴ Poor          ☐ ⁵ Very poor

b. Is it easy or hard for you to get around?   **24**
   ☐ ¹ It is easy
   ☐ ² Sometimes it is easy, sometimes it is hard
   ☐ ³ It is hard

c. Are you *often* troubled with any of the following things? Which ones?   **25**
   ☐ ¹ Sleeplessness (can't sleep)
   ☐ ² Bad dreams
   ☐ ³ Get tired too easily
   ☐ ⁴ Food doesn't taste good
   ☐ ⁵ Feel "blue"
   ☐ ⁶ Nervousness
   ☐ ⁷ Dislike noise
   ☐ ⁸ Worry about my health
   ☐ ⁹ Forgetfulness
   ☐ ⁰ Troubled with none of these

**26** 10a. (If employed) Do you have a regular job?

☐ ¹ Yes ☐ ² No

b. What kind of work do you do?

................................................................
Name of job

---

**27** *If you DON'T WORK FULL TIME now, answer these questions:*

11a. What was the last full-time job you had?

................................................................
Name of job

................................................................
Kind of business

---

**28** b. How old were you when you gave up your last full-time

job?................................................................
Write age

---

**29** c. Why did you leave your last job?

☐ ¹ I reached the age where the company made people retire

☐ ² I was laid off

☐ ³ I was unable to work because of ill health

☐ ⁴ I wanted to stop working

☐ ⁵ Other reasons (explain)................................

................................................................

---

**30** d. After you left your last job, did you look for work?

☐ ¹ Yes ☐ ² No

---

**31** e. How did you feel about leaving your last job?

☐ ¹ I felt very bad

☐ ² It didn't make much difference to me

☐ ³ I was glad to leave it

---

**32** 12a. About how many years, altogether, were you out of a job (*unemployed*) between 50 and 65 years of age?

.....................years

---

**33** b. Between the ages of 50 and 65, about how many years were you *not working* because of *ill health?*

.....................years

---

**34** 13a. What was your main line of work before you were *50?*

................................................................
Name of job

................................................................
Kind of business

---

**35** b. Please list (in order) the kinds of work you have done since you were *50.*

................................................................

**36** ................................................................

................................................................

---

**37** 14. *If you are (or have been) A HOUSEWIFE answer this question.*

What was your husband's main line of work?

................................................................
Name of job

................................................................
Kind of business

---

**38** 15. During which of these times were you the happiest?

☐ ¹ Before I was 20

☐ ² From 20 to 40

☐ ³ From 40 to 60

☐ ⁴ After 60

---

## II. YOUR CONTACTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Through the next group of questions, we would like to learn something about the social life and the activities of our elderly citizens.**

---

**39** 16. In general, do you feel that you are pretty well occupied, or do you often have time on your hands?

☐ ¹ I have more things to do than I can find time for

☐ ² I am mostly busy

☐ ³ I often have time on my hands

---

**40** 17a. How often do you have visits with members of your family or friends?

☐ ¹ Less than once in three months

☐ ² About once every two or three months

☐ ³ About once a month

☐ ⁴ About once every two weeks

☐ ⁵ About once a week

☐ ⁶ About twice a week

☐ ⁷ About three times a week

☐ ⁸ More than three times a week

---

**41** b. Do you see members of your family as often as you would like to?

☐ ¹ Yes ☐ ² No ☐ ³ Can't say

---

**42** c. Do you see your friends as often as you would like to?

☐ ¹ Yes ☐ ² No ☐ ³ Can't say

---

**43** 18a. What organizations (such as clubs, lodges, unions, and the like) do you belong to? (Please write down all of them)

................................................................

**44** ................................................................

................................................................

---

**45** b. To how many meetings have you gone during the last month?

................................................................
Write number of meetings

---

**46** 19a. What is your religion or denomination?

................................................................
Write religion or denomination

**47** *b.* About how often do you attend church services?
- ☐ ¹ Never
- ☐ ² Seldom
- ☐ ³ Once or twice a month
- ☐ ⁴ Once a week
- ☐ ⁵ More than once a week

**48** *c.* Do you attend church services more often or less often than when you were 55?
- ☐ ¹ More often     ☐ ³ About the same
- ☐ ² Less often

**49** *d.* Do you participate in any church activities or groups (such as service groups, missionary society, etc.)?
- ☐ ¹ Yes     ☐ ² No

**50** *e.* Do you listen to church services on the radio?
- ☐ ¹ Often     ☐ ² Sometimes     ☐ ³ Never

**51** 20.  How often do you listen to George McLain's broadcasts on the radio?

...................times a week

**52** 21.  What does George McLain mean to you? (Check *no more than THREE words* which tell best what George McLain is like)

**53** To me, George McLain is like a
- ☐ ¹ Father          ☐ ⁶ Adviser
- ☐ ² Statesman       ☐ ⁷ Political leader

**54**
- ☐ ³ Friend          ☐ ⁸ Good shepherd
- ☐ ⁴ Brother         ☐ ⁹ Fountain of love
- ☐ ⁵ Teacher         ☐ ⁰ None of these

**55** 22*a.* What are your contributions to the Institute of Social Welfare?
- ☐ ¹ I pay $2.00 a year for the National Welfare Advocate
- ☐ ² I pay $5.00 a year for a regular membership
- ☐ ³ I am paying on a life membership

**56**
- ☐ ⁴ I am a paid-up life member
- ☐ ⁵ I sometimes make contributions through the mail or in meetings

    If so, about how much during the last 3 months?

$...........................

**57** *b.* When you pay dues or make contributions to the Institute, what are your main aims? (Check no more than *TWO*)
- ☐ ¹ To get better pension laws
- ☐ ² To help George McLain
- ☐ ³ To make up for the laziness of others
- ☐ ⁴ To make up for my own shortcomings
- ☐ ⁵ To beat our enemies
- ☐ ⁶ To help the old and needy
- ☐ ⁷ To join the group and make friends

**58**
- ☐ ⁸ Some other aim (explain)...........................

...........................

**59** *c.* How often do you go to meetings of the Institute of Social Welfare?
- ☐ ¹ I go to nearly every meeting that is held in my town
- ☐ ² I go to just about half of the meetings being held in my town
- ☐ ³ I seldom or never go to meetings of the Institute

**60** *d.* How often have you worked with the Institute in collecting signatures on petitions?
- ☐ ¹ I always collect a lot of signatures
- ☐ ² I have done some signature collecting
- ☐ ³ I never collected signatures

**61** 23*a.* Do you feel that you are doing enough for the Institute of Social Welfare?
- ☐ Yes     ☐ No

*b.* Do you feel that most members are doing enough for the Institute of Social Welfare?
- ☐ Yes     ☐ No

**62** 24.  What does the Institute of Social Welfare mean to you? (Check *no more than THREE words* which tell best what the Institute of Social Welfare is like.)

**63** To me, the Institute of Social Welfare is like a
- ☐ ¹ Club             ☐ ⁵ Religious group
- ☐ ² Union            ☐ ⁶ Family

**64**
- ☐ ³ Political Party   ☐ ⁷ Service organization
- ☐ ⁴ None of these

**65** 25.  In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, or an independent voter?
- ☐ ¹ Democrat        ☐ ³ Independent
- ☐ ² Republican      ☐ ⁴ Other (explain)...........

...........................................................................

### III.  THE PENSIONERS' PROBLEMS
Through the next questions, we should like to find out what you think about pensioners in general and about their problems.

**66** 26*a.* A person is no longer young at about what age?

...................years

**67** A person is beginning "middle age" at about what time?

...................years

**68** Old age begins when a person is about.................................. years old.

**69** *b.* I myself, am
- ☐ ¹ a young adult
- ☐ ² an adult, not young, but not middle-aged
- ☐ ³ of middle age
- ☐ ⁴ past middle age
- ☐ ⁵ old

**70** **27.** *Pretend that you know the people mentioned in the next question, and make a guess.*

Suppose Ella Jones, an elderly lady who lived next door to you, was failing in health. Mrs. Jones has trouble getting around nowadays. She has to have a special diet and needs a good bit of help. Which of the following would you advise her to turn to for help?

- ☐ ¹ Children and other young family members
- ☐ ² The social worker
- ☐ ³ Friends her own age
- ☐ ⁴ The doctor
- ☐ ⁵ The county
- ☐ ⁶ Others (explain) ......................................................

**71** **28a.** Do you feel that the pension law—as it stands now—is fair or unfair to the pensioners?

☐ ¹ Fair        ☐ ² Unfair        ☐ ³ Can't tell

**72** **b.** Do you feel there is a chance the pension will be raised?

- ☐ ¹ A good chance
- ☐ ² A fair chance
- ☐ ³ Little chance

**73** **c.** Do you feel that pensioners get decent treatment from most county welfare offices—or not?

- ☐ ¹ Pensioners are mostly treated well
- ☐ ² Pensioners are sometimes treated well, sometimes badly
- ☐ ³ Pensioners are mostly treated badly

**74** **29.** *Who are the friends and enemies of the pensioners and of other elderly citizens?*

In the list below you will find the names of persons and groups which some people regard as either friends or enemies of the pensioners. If you think a person or group is a friend of the pensioners, check the word "Friend." If you think a person or group is an enemy of the pensioners, check the word "Enemy." You

**75**

don't have to check each one, just the ones which you think are mostly friends or enemies of the elderly citizens.

**76**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Boards of Supervisors | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| State Senators | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Social workers | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| C.I.O. Labor Unions | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Catholics | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Senator Weybert | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Hospital personnel | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Governor Warren | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Big business | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Democrats | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Negroes | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Veterans | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| A. F. of L. Unions | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Dr. Townsend | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Jews | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Politicians | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Chambers of Commerce | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Congressmen | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Communists | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Assemblymen | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| President Truman | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Republicans | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Protestants | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |
| Ham 'n Eggers | ☐ Friend | ☐ Enemy |

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