

## ANALYZING THE VOTE (Originally published February 1965)

The 27,000,000 votes cast in the past election for the undermined and landslided Republican candidate have received lots of attention as the subject of numerous analytical interpretations. The hard-core, prehistoric conservatives have claimed all twenty-seven million as an indication of the nation's conservative strength. The defeated candidate, Mr. Goldwater, however, true to his conservative nature, reckoned only about 12,000,000 of this total in the genuine conservative column.

On the other hand, opposition party analyses of the Republican vote presented a picture that differed considerably from the interpretations above. In most of their tabulations, anywhere from two to ten million votes were attributed to solid Republican regulars who would vote the straight Republican ticket no matter what. The rest of the millions were variously divided up between kooks, extremists, A.M.A. unionists, disreputable Democrats, fascists, racists and white supremacists, Birchites and Klansmen.

Almost entirely ignored by the hard-working analysts were the forty-two-odd million votes cast for President Johnson. The apparent reason for this oversight is that all of these votes undoubtedly must have come from only intelligent straight-thinking citizens, those middle-of-the-road people too smart to have been taken in by the alarmist arguments of the Radical Right.

This analytical oversight is in need of correction, and recently an unbiased political analyst has come through with the following breakdown of the straight-thinking vote: rock-ribbed Democrat regulars – 10%; frightened Republicans – 5%; government service employees – 15%; social security pensioners – 10%; welfare rollers – 5%; recipients of unemployment insurance – 5%; mainstream liberals – 5%; communists and other moderates – 10%; labor unionists – 5%; racists (Negro) – 10%; psychiatrists and social workers – 3%; communications industry – 3%; high school dropouts – 3%; Appalachians – 2%; family friends, Lady Bird – 2%; Washington Call-Girl Association and clients – 2%; business associates, LBJ – 2%; friends and victims, Bobby Baker – 3%.