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THE HARRIS SURVEY by Louis Harris

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The American public, by an overwhelming 2 to 1, views with disfavor the efforts of northern students to push for civil rights for Negroes in Mississippi.

At the same time, an even larger majority--72 to 28%--favors President Johnson's sending federal troops to the state to restore peace if violence breaks out. Even among white southerners, most resistant to the use of federal force, 52% favor such action in such a case.

A carefully drawn cross-section of Americans was also asked if it favored or opposed the President's use of federal troops in Mississippi this fall if state authorities resisted current court orders to desegregate schools in Jackson, Biloxi and Leake counties. The result: 78 to 22% in favor of the use of troops if necessary; white southerners support the move by 54 to 46%.

Further questioning reveals that Mr. Johnson might stand to derive political benefits from the forthright use of federal power to quench an outbreak of violence or enforce school desegregation. Four times as many voters said they would think more of the President if he sent troops to Mississippi as said they would think less of him.

The use of troops, however, could lose votes for the Democratic President in the South--as much as a third of his present 60% rating below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Despite southern defections, and despite general opposition to the current student movement, the survey shows conclusively that the American people would rally behind the President in a showdown over federal law enforcement of court desegregation orders.

Americans throughout the country were asked:

"This summer white and Negro students are going to Mississippi to organize Negroes to vote. Do you generally approve of this move or disapprove of it?"

Approve
Disapprove
Not sure

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