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Better Government If More Women in Office? Women Agree - - But Males Express Doubt

But Males Agree There Would Be Less Corruption If More Women Held Top U.S. Positions

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PRINCETON, N. J., July 4—If there were more women holding public office, would we have better government?

That question provokes a sharp argument between the sexes.

The weight of opinion among women is that we WOULD have better government.

The weight of opinion among the males is that we WOULDNT.

But the males are willing to concede—and by a big margin—that if we had more women in responsible positions in Washington there'd be less graft and corruption.

The whole role of women in politics is taking on increasing importance this year



because of the likelihood of a big turnout of women at the polls in November.

Recent Institute surveys have found much greater interest among women in the presidential election this year than in either 1948 or 1944.

With women participating more in voting, the question arises as to what kind of a government we would have if more women ran for public office.

To find out the sentiments of the public on this point, interviewers for the Institute asked:

"Some people say that if there were more women in Congress and holding important government positions, the country would be better governed. Do you agree or disagree?"

Here is the vote by men and women:

VOTE OF MEN

Agree	31%
Disagree	54
No difference	8
No opinion	7

100%

VOTE OF WOMEN

Agree	47%
Disagree	38
No difference	7
No opinion	8

100%

The combined vote totals 39 per cent agree, 46 per cent disagree, 8 per cent no difference, and 7 per cent no opinion.

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Less Graft Seen

Each person, regardless of how he voted on that question, was then asked:

"If there were more women in important positions in the Federal government, do you think there would be more graft and corruption or less?"

On that point the men and women are in substantial agreement, as follows:

VOTE OF MEN

Less	51%
Same	32
More	10
No opinion	7

100%

VOTE OF WOMEN

Less	59%
Same	27
More	7
No opinion	7

100%

Actually, there is growing sentiment in the United States in favor of women in politics.

In 1949, an Institute survey found that as many people would favor as oppose having a woman for President, whereas 12 years earlier the vote had been nearly 2-to-1 opposed.

There is also substantial sentiment for naming women as ambassadors to foreign countries.

A poll conducted shortly after President Truman appointed Perla Mesta as our minister to Luxembourg found a majority of the public approving the appointment.

COMING SUNDAY (MONDAY) — Can Republicans win on a "me-too" platform?