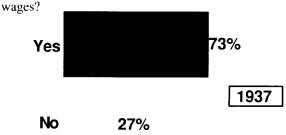
## **Social Security**

## From Day One, A Very Popular Program

Question: Do you approve of the present Social Security tax on



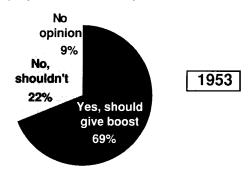
**Source**: Survey by the Gallup Organization, December 30, 1937-January 4, 1938.

**Question**: Do you **approve of the present Social Security laws** which provide old age pensions and unemployment insurance?



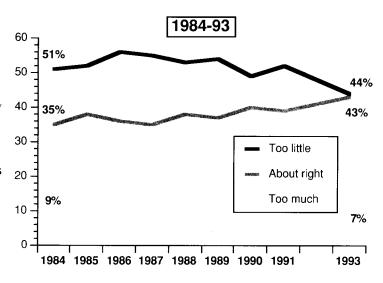
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, July 4-11, 1938.

Question: Do you think the federal government should give a big boost to Social Security, that is, pay bigger benefits and include many more people, or shouldn't they?



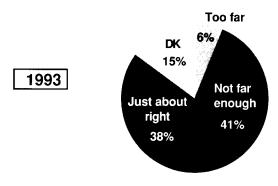
Source: Survey by the Opinion Research Corporation, April 1953.

Question: We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively...[A]re we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on...Social Security?



**Source**: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center-General Social Survey, February-April of each year shown.

Question: Do you think the government program during the past few years...providing pensions under Social Security...goes too far, not far enough, or is just about right?



Source: Survey by the Roper Organization, November 9-20, 1993.

## Becoming A More "Normal" Issue? Group Differences

Question: [Do you agree or disagree that]...You would like to contribute half of your Social Security taxes to an I.R.A. (Individual Retirement Account) now, and take a smaller Social Security benefit when you retire?

Question: When thinking about health and retirement, do you have more confidence in an employer or the government when it comes to paying the employee pension or government Social Security benefits that have been promised?

% Agree	% Disagree		% Employer	% Gov't
58	41	Everyone	52	40
		By Age		
54	44	18-34	61	32
61	38	35-54	55	35
37	63	55+	37	56
		By Income		
44	53	Less than \$20,000	42	52
56	43	\$20,000-\$74,999	55	36
73	26	\$75,000 and over	60	34
		By Education		
27	73	Less than 12th	47	47
46	52	12th grade	54	39
58	38	Some college	52	39
69	29	College graduate	56	32
72	28	Post graduate	46	47

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for Employee Benefit Research Institute, November 1992.

**Source**: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Employee Benefit Research Institute, December 1993.

Question: Do you think that the government should gradually raise the retirement age so that people qualify for full Social Security benefits at age 67 rather than at age 65, or should the age for receiving Social Security benefits be kept at 65?

Everyone	By Age				
Raise age for receiving Social Security	20%	<b>18-29</b> 10%	<b>30-44</b> 17%	<b>45-59</b> 28%	<b>60+</b> 28%
Keep age at 65	77	90	79	72	66
Not sure	3	1	4	0	7

Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, January 23-26, 1993.