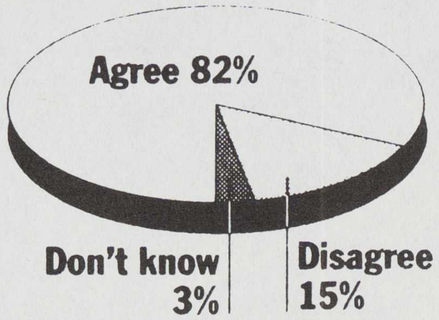
PARTY ANIMUS

Growing anger with politicians and politics-as-usual has loosened the ties that traditionally have bound Americans to the Republican or Democratic parties. In a recent Washington Post-ABC Poll, an overwhelming majority of Americans believe the two parties are not in touch with the people.

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Both political parties are pretty much out of touch with the American people.



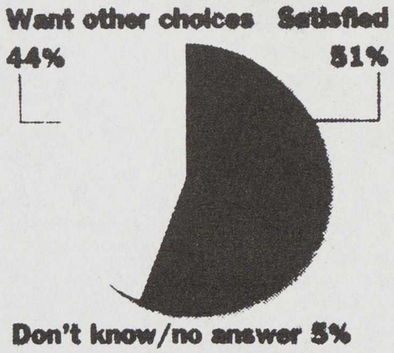
THE WASHINGTON POST

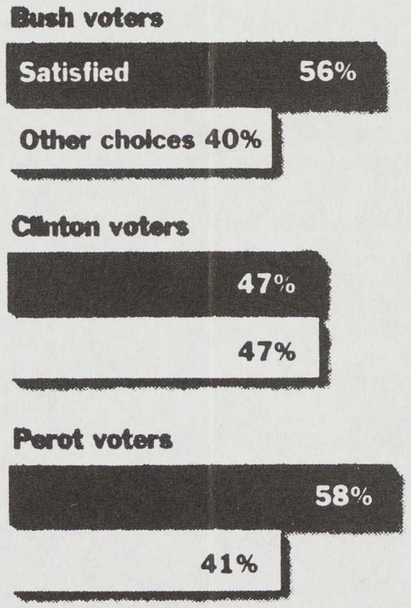
THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1992

The New York Times | CBS NEWS Poll

Are Three Candidates Enough?

"If those three men — Bush, Clinton and Perot — ran for President this fall, would you be satisfied choosing among them, or would you want other choices?"





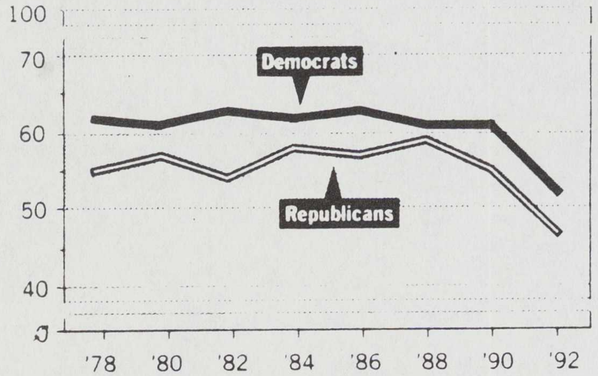
Based on telephone interviews with 1,029 registered voters nationwide conducted June 17 to 20.

The New York Times

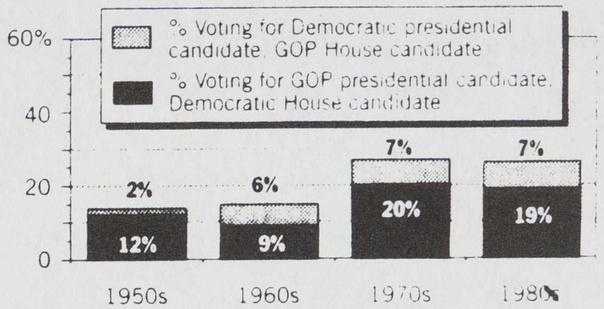
THE TROUBLED PARTIES

AFTER YEARS OF STABILITY, *Americans appear to be cooling to both the Republican and Democratic parties. Data collected between 1978 and 1990 by the University of Michigan and a new Washington Post survey suggest that favorable feelings toward the two parties declined significantly in just the past two years.*

Q. How would you rate "the Republican Party" on a scale of zero to 100 degrees? Ratings between 50 to 100 degrees mean that you feel favorably and warm. Ratings between zero and 50 degrees mean that you don't feel particularly warm toward the group. (Also asked for the Democratic Party. Shown are the average ratings.)



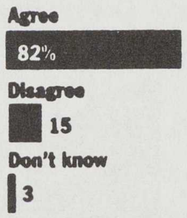
The declining significance of party is seen in the increase in the number of Americans who are voting for one party's presidential candidate and voting for the other party's candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. Surveys suggest the proportion of these "split-ticket" voters has nearly doubled since the 1950s, with Democrats far more likely to vote for the Republican presidential candidate and their own party's House candidate.



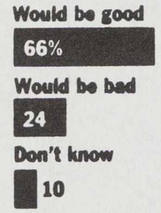
VIEWS OF THE PARTIES

An overwhelming majority of Americans agree that both political parties are not in touch with the American people. Two out of three also said it would be good for the country if a new third party were to emerge to challenge the Republicans and Democrats, including big majorities of those who currently identify with one of the major parties. But Americans are equally divided whether independent Ross Perot should form a third political party.

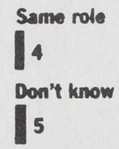
Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Both political parties are pretty much out of touch with the American people.



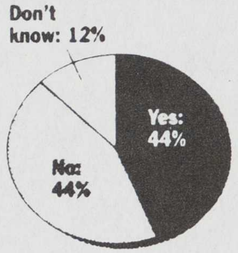
Q. Do you think it would be good or bad for the country if there were a new major political party to compete with the Democrats and Republicans?



Q. Thinking about both the Republican and Democratic parties, do you generally think that political parties are playing a bigger role or a smaller role in people's lives today than they did in the past?



Q. Do you think that Ross Perot should form his own independent political party, or not?



NOTE: 1992 trend line and Perot questions are based on a Washington Post telephone national survey of 1,003 randomly selected adults interviewed June 26–30. The 1978–1990 data are from the University of Michigan's, National Election Studies Survey. Slight methodological differences in the way Michigan and The Post conduct surveys possibly could account for some or all of the apparent decline in party ratings. But other national survey organizations have reported similarly sharp declines in party standing in recent years, a period in which the general attitudes of Americans toward politics has grown increasingly negative. Questions about attitudes toward political parties are based on a Washington Post-ABC News Poll of 1,007 adults conducted June 24–28. Margin of sampling error for overall poll results is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Sampling error, is however, only one of many potential sources of error in this or any public opinion poll. Interviewing was conducted by ICR Survey Research of Media, Pa.

THE WASHINGTON POST

7/27/92