

OPINION CLOSE ON DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Survey Shows 52.68 of People for It and 47.32 Against — Mostly Favored in Cities.

BOSTON, Mass., July 15—An ERA survey just completed shows that daylight saving time in New England is not as popular as its widespread observance might seem to justify, and that while at the present time there is a slight percentage in favor of its observance, the margin is so small that if the issue should again be put to a referendum, the issue might be considerably in doubt.

CITY PEOPLE FOR DAYLIGHT

City dwellers are strongly in favor of daylight saving time, but those who dwell in the rural areas are just as strenuously opposed. While younger persons are prejudiced in its favor, their elders make no effort to conceal their opposition.

All this information has been deduced from a study made by ERA specialists of answers to questionnaires published in the Boston Post. The survey was carried out in collaboration with the Massachusetts Division of Public Welfare and under the guidance of a committee of Harvard professors, with Carle C. Zimmerman of the Department of Sociology acting as chairman.

As one of the many phases of social behavior in determining the effect of unemployment on such behavior, the study was made as part of an ERA project, and each of the answers to the questionnaires submitted was carefully analyzed.

52.68 P. C. FOR DAYLIGHT TIME

Of the thousands of answers submitted, 52.68 per cent favored the observance of daylight time, while those opposed were 47.32 per cent., which means that but 5.3 per cent more of those submitting answers favored daylight time.

Those who believe in the benefits of daylight time include single women, persons with full time employment and travellers.

Those most strenuously opposed to its observance include married women, those who are employed but part time and those who are not employed at all, housewives with large families and with a great deal of household work to do and those who do not often have the opportunity to travel.

Of those who gave reasons for favoring daylight time, 4 per cent did so because they said, it allows more time for various types of recreation, such as outdoor play, automobile riding,

watching baseball games and for putting around the garden.

Seeing it as an aid to better health in that it gives people an extra waking hour with sunlight, 16 per cent of the favorite ones expressed their opinions in this way. Of the favorable, 10 per cent believe in it because it reduces expenses for electric lighting, as the lights are needed an hour less in the evening. The same percentage favored it because it gives more opportunity, they thought, to get more work done, particularly, in odd jobs and chores about the home.

REASONS OF OPPONENTS

Reasons for opposing daylight time fall into much more numerous classifications. The chief reason, supported by 19 per cent, of those who are against the observance, is their belief that it undermines the health, especially of children and old people, and because they lose their extra hours of sleep in the evening. Then this loss of sleep, the answers read, causes nervousness, and irritability. Several bemoaned the loss of that extra hour of sleep in the cool of the morning.

Because they say it brings confusion in catching trains and in making business appointments, 18 per cent of the opposition forces cast their votes against it. Eight per cent believe that it is not right or natural to interfere with the clocks.

Eleven per cent oppose it because it makes the farmer's day more difficult, declaring, for instance, that it lengthens his day, because he rises an hour earlier and works until dark anyway.

In rising so early he often is late in getting to work because he has to wait a considerable time for the dew to vanish.

Five per cent say that daylight time injures their business. A painter, for example, declared that he must wait until the painting surfaces are dry before he can begin his work, which makes him work late. In the meantime, nevertheless, his workmen all stop work by daylight time, which shortens his working day by one hour. A third of those who oppose observance of daylight time say that it upsets the family routine.

EFFECTS ON CHILDREN

Believing that the observance of summer time keeps the children on the streets longer than they should be

there, four per cent declared their opposition. Fifteen per cent believes that daylight time creates a great deal of added care of children, especially since it is much more difficult to get children into the home at bedtime, and since it is hard for the children to sleep while it is still light.

Fifteen per cent of those opposed to daylight time declared that the working day of mothers is lengthened and that mothers are given less time for relaxation and recreation after the children are put to bed. Eight per cent believe that summer time prolongs the heat of the day too far into the evening, and that it is not yet cool when bedtime arrives.

In the matter of age, the returns of the study show that those persons favoring summer time tend to be younger and that those who oppose it tend to be older. It was found that the average age of those opposed to it is 1 years older than those who favored it. The average age for those who favored it was 41 years—of those opposed, 53 years.

MAJORITY IN CITY AREAS

Persons living in urban area—city folks—voted in favor of daylight saving time by 67 per cent to 33 per cent, while those living in rural sections voted against it by 74 per cent to 26 per cent. While city men favored it by 74 per cent to 26 per cent, the city housewives were less enthusiastic, a little more than half, 55 per cent, voting in favour of the observance. While rural men opposed summer time by 65 per cent to 35 per cent, it was the rural women who opposed it most strenuously. By their opposition vote of 87 per cent to 13 per cent, they succeeded in fairsing the total opposition vote to 74 per cent.

Taken as whole classes, there appeared no significant distinction in the votes of those who are single and those who are married. In both classes, a little over half favored summer time. In the case of single men, the favorable vote was 55 per cent, with 45 per cent opposed. In the case of the married men, the vote favorable to the observance was 59 per cent, with 41 per cent opposed.

MARRIED AND SINGLE VOTING

Little difference appeared between the attitudes of the married men and the single men. The number of married men favoring daylight time was 10 per cent greater than the number of single men. Both votes were decidedly in favor of its observance, with 57 per cent of the single men favoring it and 67 per cent of the married favoring it.

Between the married and the single women, the greatest contrast occurred. While the single women favored daylight time by 61 per cent to 39 per cent, the married women were opposed to it by 72 per cent to 28 per cent. Since there were more married women who answered the questionnaire, however, the weight of their greater numbers made the final female vote stand 59 per cent in opposition to daylight time and 41 per cent in favor of its observance.

Persons with full time employment seemed to stand slightly in favor of daylight time, with 55 per cent voting in favor of it and 45 per cent against it. Those, however, who already have a large amount of leisure time on their hands because of reduced employment do not seem to appreciate the added daylight hour. For those with only part time employment, the vote against it was 80 per cent to 20 per cent. Those unemployed voted voted against it 67 per cent to 33 per cent.

HOUSEWIVES HEAVILY AGAINST. Housewives with different reasons, expressed themselves in opposition to daylight time by 79 per cent to 21 per cent. This is larger by seven per cent than the percentage of women as a whole who opposed it. Married women who are employed outside the home do favor daylight time and show appreciation of the extra hour of daylight after working hours which this brings.

In spite of the high opposition vote of the housewives and those of reduced employment, the fact that the majority of returns were from persons with full time employment kept the final vote on the side favoring daylight time. Of all returns, 53 per cent favored daylight time, while 47 per cent were opposed to it.

In analyzing the records of daily activities, the study group discovered

that the most significant item seemed to be the amount of time consumed in household duties. Of the women who reported they were engaged in this type of activity in a normal day, those who opposed daylight saving time averaged 7 hours 53 minutes each, while those who favoured summer time average only 3 hours and 24 minutes each, or only opposed it.

EFFECT ON HOUSEHOLD DUTIES

Considering all the women reporting he average amount of time spent thus was as follows: For those opposing daylight time, 5 hours and 15 minutes; or those favoring it, 1 hour and 53 minute, or 36 per cent as much. The obvious conclusion is that the women who do their own housework and have families are the chief objectors to daylight time. It also may be a fair conclusion, the study revealed, that those women who can afford to hire household help or who work in offices or do other work outside the home, do as a general rule favor daylight time.

Further analysis suggests that it is chiefly those who get away from home for business or social activities who favor daylight time. Those favoring its observance reported more than twice as much time spent in transportation than did those who opposed it. Those who favored it averaged 54 minutes a day in this activity, whereas those who opposed it averaged only 24 minutes. Similar conclusions are suggested by the time reported spent in personal care. Those who favored daylight time spent nearly twice as much time in personal care.

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