

A def sent this to Atty. John W. Davis,
Democratic Candidate for President in 1924.

A Note on the Presidential Study

The questions on the sheets to follow are based on points which are thought to be of significance in biographical study. They are based on hypotheses which have occurred to numerous writers in the field of political parties. The experience of twenty years' study in the field of party leadership, ranging from my early study of Boss Platt of New York through other books in the field of national and local politics, has given me important data and criteria to apply to the forthcoming study of presidential candidates. It is necessary in a good comparative study of political leaders to possess a standardized set of characteristics and historical details for each man. I know that a deeper knowledge of the personalities of presidential candidates will reveal much more clearly how irrational behavior by the electorate will sometimes defeat a candidate who by any objective standard ought be elected.

Please don't hesitate to criticize any items you think misleading. Further comments and additional information would be extremely useful and desirable.

1. How old were your sisters at the time of your birth?

Four, Eight and ten years

2. As a youth did you hope for the same type of husband-wife relationships as your father or mother held or did you have ideas of your own?

I should suppose like every normal individual, I had ideas of my own

3. Was your father in his relations with the children a comrade or a re-
spected patriarch?

respected patriarch

4. How strict was your father when you were a boy?

quite so

5. How strict was your mother?

quite so

6. With what group in Clarksburg would you classify your parents according to their prestige?

the best

7. What group according to income?

middle

8. Was there much political discussion at home while a boy?

yes

9. Did your parents go out of their way to teach you patriotism?

no

10. Was Pantops Academy restricted in the students selected?

only in number= Fifty or Sixty

11. Were representatives from many different social groups in attendance?

yes

12. As a boy did you have much fear of being disciplined for misbehavior?

no

13. As a boy were you timid about doing certain deeds of which you thought your father would disapprove?

I was.

14. Did you engage in lively competition with your sisters to attain the approval and regard of your parents?

no

15. Did you form strong attachments with boy playmates, i. e., did you have "pals" or "buddies"?

of course

16. Were you inclined to cooperate in your boyhood playgroups or did you do much quarreling about leadership?

The former

17. Did you get into many fights as a boy?

My fair share

18. As a boy, did you have relatives who sometimes took you out with them and through whom you had new experiences with people?

This is not intelligible to me

19. During your "teen" age, what kind of ambitions did you have?

Don't Know

20. In your "teen" age did you feel a spirit of rebelliousness at restrictions imposed upon you by family standards of behavior?

Frequently: I suppose this symptom is universal.

21. Did you ever contemplate running away from home?

no

22. Before you held political office, did you participate in competitive and strenuous sports?

no

Did you do so while holding office?

no

23. When you failed to reach some much desired goal while a youth, did you sit down and think it over in silence, or did you quickly go after something else?

Am sure I don't know

24. As a boy, did you associate with girls to the normal amount, or were you shy and reticent in the presence of girls?

normal

25. When a politician, did you believe it was the duty of a lower member of the party hierarchy to follow strictly the lines of policy and the commands of the top, or did you believe in breaking away from the party when one's own principles were in conflict?

The latter

26. Did you form many strong and affectionate attachments with party workers while you were in politics?

Very many

27. Did you believe in having more of personal, man to man relationships with your electoral supporters, or did you regard yourself as serving them in a businesslike, representative capacity?

Both

28. Did you ever perform political acts which lost you support in the short run but gained you support in the long run?
Could you list examples, no matter how small?

Do not recall -

29. Have you ever acted politically in a way that brought increased popularity in the short run, but in the long run caused the alienation of a strong group? Examples?

As above

30. Did you have strong desires as a boy to grow up to be like your father?

Quite

31. Do you believe physical force may be justifiably used in cases where legal standards seem to be of no avail?

Yes - "I'm a God and take your own part"

32. After having made a political decision, have you at various times pondered whether you have acted rightly or wrongly?

Frequently

33. While in politics, did you have many outside matters that were bothering you and causing you anxiety?

Not beyond the custom of human life

34. In your political career, were you quite willing to accept support from all sources, whether or not they were once opposed to you?

Of course

35. When angered by the actions of others, did you make a practice of repressing your anger, as against being out-spoken?

A matter of circumstance

36. In your political activity, did you often come to decisions on the spur of the moment, or did you think over matters well in advance and act only upon careful calculation?

Sometimes one - Sometimes the other

37. Did you find it sometimes necessary, in the pursuit of a political goal, to act in opposition to conventional modes of behavior?

I do not know what this means

38. Did you enjoy politics as politics, i. e., did you enjoy playing "the great game of politics"?

Yes

39. Did you find that engaging in politics was a good way of forgetting about other more personal worries?

No

40. Were you more effective politically in small "caucus" groups, or at political mass meetings, or equally effective?

Equally, I should say

41. Do you enjoy and take an interest in matters of routine management?

No

42. Has a memory for faces and facts been of good service to you in politics.

Not especially

43. Do you visualize problems and situations?

I do not understand this

44. Are you accustomed to making "snap" decisions?

no

45. In solving problems, do you usually follow set patterns of attack, or do you often approach them in an unusual or unconventional manner?

I cannot say

46. Are good judgment and foresight of use to you in political management?

Yes - and everywhere else

47. What was the occupation of the father of the first Mrs. Davis?
What was the education of the first Mrs. Davis?

- (1) Lawyer - farmer
- (2) Public and private schools - No college

48. What was the occupation of the father of the second Mrs. Davis?
What was the education of the second Mrs. Davis?

(1) Lawyer

(2) Private schools - no college

Add any remarks you think of interest on an adjoining sheet of paper.