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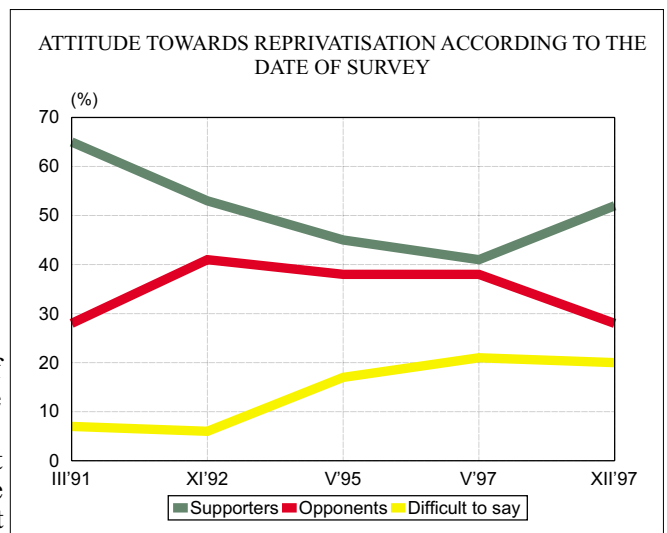
## SOCIAL ATTITUDE TO REPRIVATISATION

Attitude to reprivatisation has been changing over the last seven years. Generally speaking, the approval of returning property to former owners has been falling steadily. Now this tendency seems to be over - compared to May '97 the percentage of those who support reprivatisation has increased significantly, while the number of opponents has dropped. As a result, like in the years 1991 - 1992, the opinions in favour of reprivatisation form a considerable majority.

Among those who support reprivatisation more or less the same percentage believe that property should be returned for both moral and economic reasons.

Compared to May '97, much less respondents regard reprivatisation as necessary for moral reasons, sharing the view that its main aim should be compensation for past injustice, while the conviction about economic benefits following from reprivatisation is more frequent.

The government bill on reprivatisation assumes that persons who were Polish citizens at the time of loss of property and still are, or their heirs (if they are Polish citizens) have rightful claims to lost property. Therefore, according to the bill, nationality and present place of residence of persons claiming restitution of their property are not taken into consideration. Social opinion is more restrictive as far as this issue is concerned - almost two thirds of respondents supporting reprivatisation believe that only Polish citizens who permanently reside in Poland should be entitled to restitution of property. One in nine of respondents shares the view that nationality and not citizenship should be a decisive factor. One in five of respondents takes a liberal stand and supports the opinion that all former owners should have the right to restitution of their property, regardless of their nationality and present citizenship. As far as socio-occupational groups are concerned, those who share the liberal point of view are found the most frequently among private entrepreneurs, manual/ office workers, managerial staff and inteligentsia. Nationality issues are stressed first of all by skilled workers, while unskilled workers and farmers more frequently than others tend to limit the



group of persons entitled to claim restitution of property to Poles who are at the moment permanent residents in Poland.

The proposal included in the government bill that reprivatisation should apply to effects of nationalisation acts issued illegally between 1944 and 1962 is in accordance with social expectations, as over half of respondents believe that only the property taken over by the state in violation of the law in force at the moment should be reprivatised. As far as the form of restitution of property is concerned, a combination of two methods of compensa-

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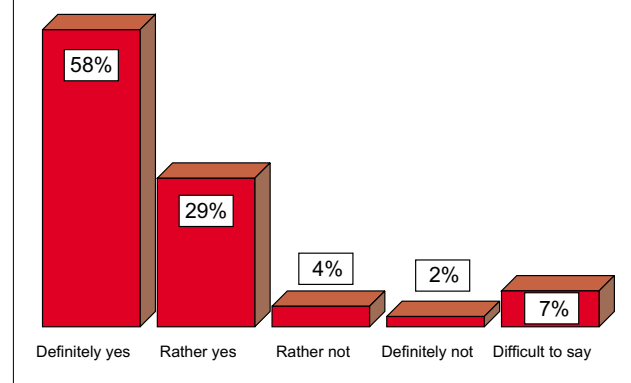
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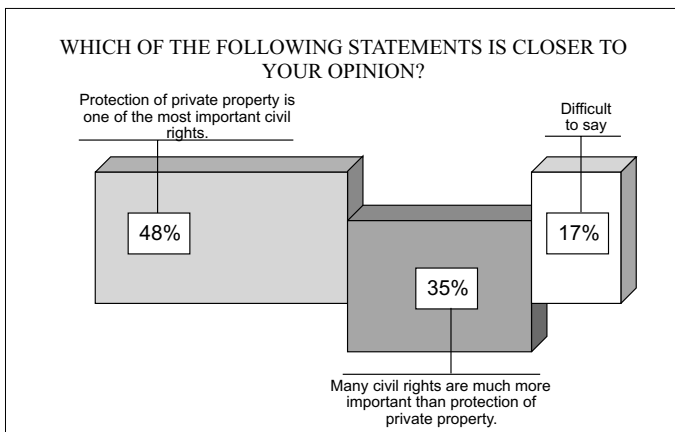
IN YOUR OPINION, IS PRIVATE PROPERTY SACRED AND SHOULD ALL STATE AUTHORITIES PROTECT IT OR NOT?



tion, depending on the situation, is the most popular. Cash compensation (not included in the bill) and return of another property of a similar value (a substitute) have the smallest number of supporters. A little more persons opt for restitution of taken property in kind or in the form of securities. It is interesting that the persons whose family lost some property after the World War II opt for restitution of property in kind less frequently than average (13%), while they more frequently regard adjusting the form of compensation to each individual case as right (41%).

Around one fifth of respondents support returning lost property to its former owners in kind. However, the extent of social acceptance of this form of restitution depends on the value of a property in question. Like five years ago, respondents approve first of all returning smaller estates of lower value, and at the same time it is important that return of a property to its former owners should not directly affect other persons who have been using the property so far (or have another connection with it). However, compared to 1992, the level of acceptance of reprivatisation of houses, manors, land and large factories (i.e. objects of big value, both in terms of money and usefulness for the society) has increased considerably. The changes of opinion in this respect confirm positive attitude towards the idea of reprivatisation declared by over half of respondents.

The considerable majority of respondents share the view that private property is sacred and all state authorities should protect it. This conviction prevails in all social groups and is connected with education - the higher the education of a respondent, the stronger his or her belief in sanctity of private property. Although persons with right-wing views share this conviction more readily than those who identify themselves with the left, it is a prevailing opinion among supporters of all significant political parties.



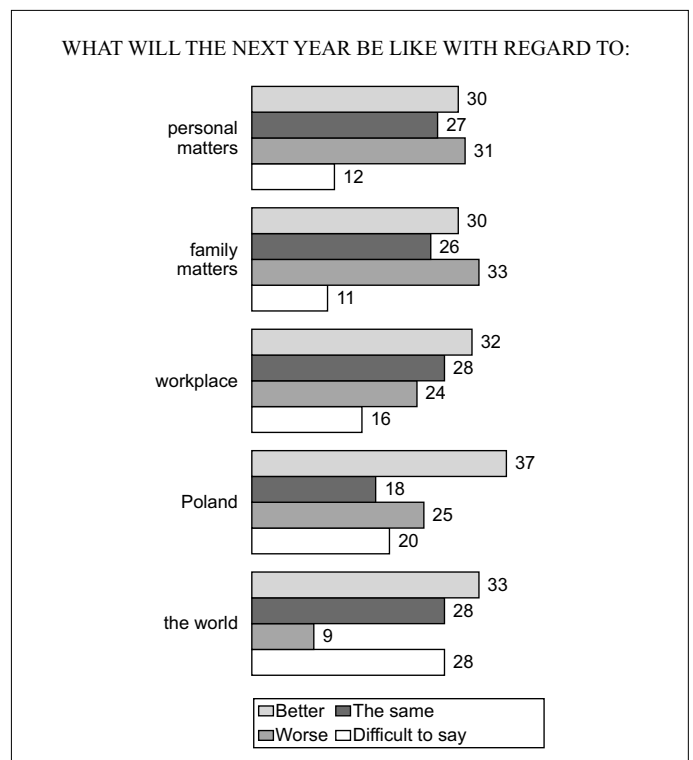
Despite the commonly expressed conviction about the sanctity of private property and the obligation of all state authorities to protect it, less than half of respondents regard protection of private property as one of the most important civil rights. On the contrary, more than one in three of respondents believe that many of those rights are more important than protection of private property.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Social attitude towards reprivatisation", January '98.

## EVALUATIONS OF THE YEAR 1997, FORECASTS FOR 1998

End of a year is an opportunity to sum up the year, to weigh profit and loss both in private and public life. Like in the previous years, CBOS asked respondents to evaluate the year 1997 with regard to five criteria: personal matters, family, professional life and the situation of Poland and the world. Respondents were also asked about their forecasts for 1998 with regard to the same criteria.

Compared to 1996, which according to Poles was better than the previous year, some evaluations of 1997 were equally high. It concerns first of all private and family life, where present evaluations are the best during the last eight years, i.e. since the year 1989, which was a turning point for Poland.



Moreover, the situation of the world was evaluated higher last year than in 1996. It should be noted that since 1992, when this situation was perceived with the most criticism, the evaluation has been gradually getting higher. On the other hand, the evaluation of the situation in Poland and, although to a lesser extent, the evaluation of the situation in respondents' places of work was lower than a year ago. Both of these evaluations were improving systematically since 1991 - 1992 (when they were the lowest) until this year. For the first time since 1993 respondents evaluated the situation in Poland as worse than the situation in the world.

The evaluation of the year 1997 clearly depends on the social status of a respondent. Respondents with higher education and professional skills, better financial situation, younger and living in big cities evaluate their personal, family and professional situation, as well as general situation in our country in the last year as better.

After the increase of cultural and social activity of Poles observed in 1996, in 1997 it went down a little, by a few percentage points. A little less persons read at least one book for pleasure last year (59%, compared to 63% a year before), less persons gave a party for friends (62%) or took part in a sports event (27%). On the other hand, the percentage of those who attended a theatre performance last year or went to a restaurant with family remained almost the same (14% and 27%, respectively). Only the group of cinema goers grew a little (from 22% to 25%).

Speaking of the aspects of daily life included in the survey, the previous year was the same as the year before. Like in 1996, one in ten Poles was robbed, one in three borrowed money from friends, two fifths of respondents complained about dangerous streets and one fifth complained about difficulties with settling official matters at the municipal council. Like a year before, almost one in five of respondents travelled abroad, the same number of people bought a lottery ticket, and two fifths of respondents bought something attractive which they had not planned to buy.

Forecasts for the year 1998 in most of the considered areas were much more pessimistic than a year ago. The most pessimistic expectations are related to family and personal matters (the percentage of pessimists increased by 25 and 21 percentage points, respectively). Forecasts related to general situation in our country and in respondents' places of work are also more pessimistic than a year ago. It should be stressed, however, that respondents who expect the year 1998 to be better for Poland and their places of work still outnumber those who expect a change for the worse in these areas.

Compared to the previous year, forecasts concerning the situation of the world in 1998 changed the least. Moreover, they were relatively the most optimistic of all forecasts, as only one in eleven of Poles expects the situation of the world to get worse in 1998, compared to one fourth who expect the situation in Poland and in their places of work to get worse and one third who expect a change for the worse in their family and personal life. It should be stressed that such a high level of pessimism has not been observed since 1992, which was the critical point as far as social moods are concerned. At the beginning of the new year many Poles feel concerned about their future and the future of their families and the country, but one should bear in mind that one third of the society begin the new year with hope for improvement, and a considerable part expects this year to be the same as the previous one.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Evaluations of the year 1997 and forecasts for the year 1998", January.

## PROFESSIONAL HONESTY AND RELIABILITY

Although the issues of honesty, reliability and competence of people in different professions have repeatedly appeared in our research, this is our first attempt at a more general study of social opinions and beliefs concerning this question. The list of professions

presented to respondents for evaluation included first of all those professions which we have contact with in different aspects of our daily life.

First positions on our rating list of professional honesty are occupied by scientists, nurses and teachers. The first and the second of these professions were positively evaluated by especially large numbers of respondents. Such high opinions about scientists are understandable, as science is held in high esteem and reliability and honesty are closely connected with the very nature of a scientist's or researcher's role. On the other hand, such a high evaluation of nurses is a little surprising, as the evaluations of public health service are in many respects negative. Perhaps the conviction about honesty and reliability of nurses is connected with the belief that it is a difficult profession which often requires sacrifices, while at the same time it is badly paid.

High evaluations of honesty and reliability of teachers are less surprising. Social opinion about teachers seems to be more favourable than it could follow from quite frequently expressed criticism.

Teachers are followed by dentists, however, honesty and reliability of dentists, as well as doctors (and also judges and priests) is seen as controversial - positive opinions are accompanied by quite many clearly negative ones.

Next positions on the rating list of professional honesty are occupied by financiers and bankers, stockbrokers, journalists and craftsmen doing different repair works and providing services. Relatively high evaluations of professions connected with financial institutions indicate significant social confidence in those institutions. The last positions on the list of professions in relation to which positive evaluations of honesty and reliability prevail over clearly negative evaluations are occupied by doctors, insurance agents and shop assistants. Middle positions on the rating list are occupied by professions which received more or less as many positive evaluations as negative ones. They are the following: lawyers, merchants, directors of companies, high state officials and priests. At the same time priests are the professional group which raises the most controversy.

Policemen, who are situated just below priests, are the first of the group of professions which received significantly more negative evaluations than positive ones. Other professions which were evaluated as the worst as far as professional honesty and reliability are concerned include private entrepreneurs, trade union activists, and first of all deputies, politicians and local officials.

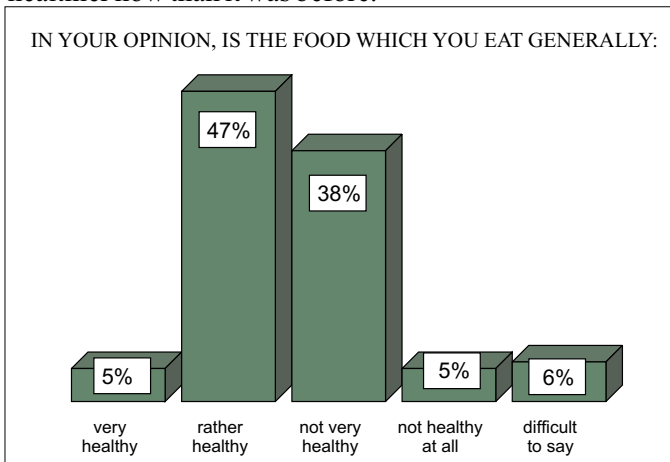
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Professional honesty and reliability", January '98.

## EATING HABITS OF POLES

A change of eating habits is a lengthy process which requires changes in mentality and should be supported with knowledge about proper nutrition. The research carried out by CBOS for *Reader's Digest* was aimed at preparing a diagnosis of present eating habits of Poles and their opinions, evaluations and ideas about proper nutrition.

Over half of respondents believe that they have a healthy diet. This opinion is the most frequent among inhabitants of small towns, managerial staff and intelligentsia and manual/ office workers. Almost two fifths of respondents claim that their diet is rather unhealthy, while only one in twenty evaluates his/ her daily diet as definitely unhealthy.

According to their own opinion, nearly half of Poles have a more healthy diet now than ten years ago, while over one fourth of respondents have not observed any changes in their diet. More or less one in six of respondents believes that he/ she and their family eat less healthy food now than before. Evaluation of the change of diet is clearly related to respondents' education and financial situation of their households. The higher the education and the evaluation of financial situation of one's family, the more frequently people believe that their diet is healthier now than it was before.

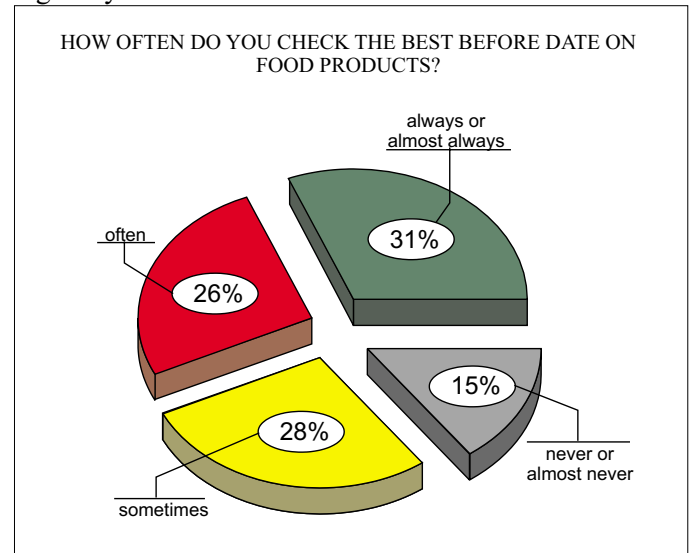


Generally speaking, Poles are happy with their *menu*. The majority are convinced that it contains everything it should contain in the proper amount. The only thing that people have reservations about is the amount of fish eaten - over half of respondents believe that they eat not enough fish. More than one in four Poles believe that they consume too little milk and milk

products; the same percentage admit that they eat too little fruit, and one in five is aware that his/ her diet contains too little vegetables.

The considerable majority of respondents (70%) have no intention of changing their daily eating habits. On the other hand, almost one in three of those polled has such plans - almost half of them believe that they need more fruit, vegetables and juices and almost one in five would like their diet to include light food rich in vitamins. One in ten of those dissatisfied with their diet would like to cut down on fat and fried dishes. 7% of this group of respondents think of eating less sweets, while only 3% declare that they would like to cut down on meat or go on a meatless diet.

The most important thing for an average customer of a grocery department is whether the food he/ she is buying is fresh. They pay much less attention to ingredients of food products, and buying the so-called healthy food regularly is rare.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Eating habits: evaluations, opinions, behaviour", January '98.

**In addition to the bulletins referred to above, the following have been published recently:**

- New Year's Eve '97
- Social moods in December
- Event of the year and politician of the year
- Increases of prices, tax and excise '98
- Material aspirations of Polish families
- Opinions on the necessity of systemic reforms
- Attitude towards the government
- Knowledge and opinions about the work of special services
- The work of public institutions

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