

'Big Government' Opposition Grows

PUBLIC opinion polls and political analysts indicate that a shift is occurring from "liberalism" toward "conservatism" among voters.

This is encouraging, but those who are concerned about the future of America and freedom from "too big" government should not assume that the battle against socialism has been won.

"Liberals" and "leftists" still hold powerful committee assignments in Congress and legislatures. They occupy policymaking positions in regulatory agencies and preside in federal courts.

Both liberals and conservatives are looking for strong, new leaders with popular appeal as voters tend to bunch in "the middle of the road" or claim "no opinion" regarding "left" or "right."

Clearly, though, a growing number obviously realizes that government can't solve all problems and that federal agencies are involved in areas that ought to be left to local governments.

People are looking more closely

at results of federal actions regarding schools, jobs, environment, health, safety and numerous other areas. Many are expressing disappointment.

People also are quite conscious of taxes they are paying, as well as the liberality with which Congress raises its own pay and continues to appropriate more than it takes in.

Business and industry have complained often and loudly about double taxation on earnings, excessive regulations and restraints that leaders say limit growth and productivity.

A Texas candidate for Congress is declaring that government interference with the working of the market system is the largest single cause of the American energy crisis.

Anti-business professors have been getting considerable publicity, but a recent survey by Stanford University's Hoover Institute indicates they are not a majority.

Eighty-one percent of 4,400 professors polled said that the private business system works better than any other and almost as many

agreed that the "growth of government in the United States poses a threat to the freedom and opportunity for individual initiative of the citizenry."

Ezra Taft Benson, secretary of agriculture during the Eisenhower administration, last month reiterated a statement he made when he assumed that position 24 years ago. He said:

"Freedom is a God-given, eternal principle vouchsafed to us under the Constitution. It must be continually guarded as something more precious than life itself.

"It is doubtful if any man can be politically free who depends upon the state for sustenance. A completely planned and subsidized economy weakens initiative, discourages industry, destroys character and demoralizes the people."

This philosophy seems to be gaining, but patriots ought not to become complacent. Enemies of liberty have not abandoned their fight, and millions still look to Washington for sustenance.