ABSTRACT. Relationships between self-ratings and expectations of an ideal U.S. president, were studied in 43 men drawn from a university setting in the eastern coast of the U.S.A. The men first rated themselves on personality variables, life choices (agency and communal), peacefulness, spirituality, and morality. Then they were presented with a vignette requesting that they describe an ideal U.S. president on inventories measuring personality variables, life choices, peacefulness, spirituality, and morality. For the rating of the ideal U.S. president, they also were asked to respond to a 20 item questionnaire that was a composite of several factors on organization and leadership, morality, spirituality, and peacefulness. The respondents belonged to one of seven different political persuasions, similar in some ways to different cultures. Self-ratings of the men and expectations of the president were highly correlated for extraversion, openness, trait morality, agency and communal life choices. However, no significant correlations were found between the self-ratings and expectations of the president for neuroticism, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and overall peacefulness, and lowest in neuroticism. The men were also presented with vignettes for the ideal physician and ideal automechanic and asked to rate each of them on the inventory items. Overall, the U.S. President was rated as more neurotic and immoral in terms of ingrained ideas of right and wrong, but also as more caring for others, transcendent, seeking goodness and truth, forgiving, cooperative, and most concerned with matters of justice and mercy, and more concerned with both agency (power-seeking) and communal (community-minded) life choices than were either the ideal physician or ideal automechanic. The ideal physician was rated as highest in extraversion, openness, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and overall peacefulness, and lowest in neuroticism. The ideal automechanic was rated as highest in state or situational immorality, and lowest in both agency (power-seeking, business-mindedness) and communal (community-minded) life choices, and also lowest in caring for others well-being, transcendence, seeking goodness and truth, forgiveness and cooperation, being concerned with justice and mercy, overall expectations, overall spirituality, and overall organization and leadership. In general, the self-ratings were significantly related to ratings/expectations, of the U.S. President, ideal physician, and ideal automechanic. The men seemed to identify more with the automechanic than with the present or physician.

Introduction

Much interest has been paid to the choice of the U.S. President and the factors involved in candidate preference. To study some of these factors, the present investigation has been done, with self-ratings and ratings/expectations of the U.S. President and two other idealized workers. To study relationships between self-ratings and ratings of various expectations of the U.S. President, the ideal physician, and the ideal automechanic, and correlations between these expectations, the Bipolar Adjective Rating Scale (Piedmont, 1995), State-Trait Morality Inventory

Carole A. Rayburn, Ph.D., is a clinical, consulting, and research psychologist in Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A. Past-President of the American Psychological Association's Society of Psychology of Religion (Division 36) and of the Maryland Psychological Association, she has received mentoring awards, the William Bier Award (Division 36) for her research and publications, and has copyrighted 13 psychological inventories and formulated theobiology – a theory and field involving the interface of theology and the sciences. She is a fellow of APA Divisions of Clinical, International, Family, General, Consulting, and Media Psychology, and Psychology of Women, Psychology of Religion, State Psychological Affairs, and Psychotherapy.

Reference: (Rayburn et al., 1998), Peace Inventory (PI) (Rayburn et al., 1999), Inventory on Spirituality (IS) (Rayburn and Richmond, 1999), and the Life Choices Inventory (LCI) (Rayburn et al., 1999), and overall expectations for the President, physician, and automechanic (with subscales on spirituality, morality, life choices, organization and leadership, and peacefulness) were administered to 43 men at a university setting on the eastern coast of the U.S.A. The men were asked to rate themselves on all of these instruments, except the overall expectations composite measures. Then they were presented, one at a time, with a vignette of the U.S. President (asking them to describe the ideal presidential candidate), or the ideal automechanic (asking them to describe the ideal automechanic to whom they could go for long-term service), and the ideal physician (one to whom they would want to go on a regular basis, and for whom they would like to know more than that that person had a medical degree). For the ratings of each of these ideal persons, the men first responded to a 20 item questionnaire that was a composite of factors of organization and leadership, morality, spirituality, peacefulness, and agentic and communal life choices (yielding five subscales of four items each and a total score). Then, for each of the ideal persons, the men responded to the BARS, STMI, LCI, PI, and IS in terms of what they thought the ideal U.S. President, physician, or automechanic would answer.

The mean age of the men was 19.5349 years, with a range of 17 to 24 years. There were 41 Euro-Americans, one African-American, and one Hispanic-American. None were married. Educationally, two were graduates from a junior college, 40 had master's degrees, and one had a doctorate degree. For religious affiliation, 5 indicated “none,” two “atheist,” one “agnostic,” one “Muslim,” 17 “Protestant,” 14 “Roman Catholic,” and 3 “other.” For religious group identity, reflecting the background of their religious groups, 20 indicated “traditional,” 2 “conservative,” 7 “liberal,” 13 “middle-of-the-road,” and one as “other.” In terms of political identity, 7 indicated Independent, 15 Democrats, 13 Republicans, one Liberal, 4 Green Party, one Reform party, and 2 “other.”

Self-ratings of the 43 Men

For the self-rating, the LCI Agentic (a subscale emphasizing career-mindedness and a business orientation) and the BARS Conscientiousness were significantly related (r = 0.470**, p = 0.002). LCI Communal (focused on family-mindedness and relating to other people in a meaningful way) was significantly related to the men’s view of themselves as spiritual and religious (r = 0.320*, p = 0.036), to their Spiritual Self (r = 0.335*, p = 0.028), and to their Religious Self (r = 0.418**, p = 0.005). BARS Agreeableness and IS Seeking Goodness and Truth (r = 0.434**, p = 0.004) and IS Forgiveness, Cooperation, and Peacefulness (r = 0.316*, p = 0.041) were also correlated. BARS Openness was related to the men’s view of themselves as spiritual or religious (r = −0.365*, p = 0.17), to their Religious Self (r = −0.394**, p = 0.010), and to their Spiritual Index (several spirituality factors combined, r = −0.330*, p = 0.033). For PI Peacefulness, the men had significant correlations with STMI Trait Morality (r = −0.548**, p = 0.000), BARS Agreeableness (r = 0.622**, p = 0.000) and BARS Conscientiousness (r = 0.575**, p = 0.000). The STMI is scored such that high scores indicate lower morality and low scores indicate higher morality; state morality reflects thoughts and feelings of a recent nature of ideas of right and wrong, and trait morality reflects those thought and feelings that are relatively of a more permanent and general nature.

For STMI State Morality, a negative correlation was found for BARS Neuroticism (r = 0.477*, p = 0.001) and BARS Agreeableness (r = −0.344*, p = 0.026). Trait Morality was related to BARS Neuroticism (r = 0.332*, p = 0.032), BARS Agreeableness (r = −0.412**, p = 0.007), IS Seeking Goodness and Truth (r = −0.504**, p = 0.001), IS Forgiveness, Cooperation, and Peacefulness (r = −0.575**, p = 0.000), and IS seeing the equal importance of showing both Justice and Mercy (r = −0.316*, p = 0.039), and view of oneself as spiritual or religious (r = −0.320*, p = 0.036).

For the self-ratings in IS Caring for Others, significant findings with IS Transcendence...