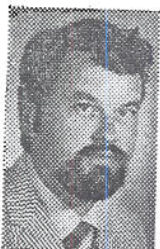


Civil Servants Polled on Watergate

By
Mike
Causey



Three out of four civil servants responding to a poll by the Federal Times newspaper believe that President Nixon was directly involved in the planning for the Watergate break-in, or the subsequent cover-up attempts.

The newspaper, with a circulation of 80,000 ran a five-question box in its last three issues, asking subscribers their opinion on the Watergate affair. From about 3,200 responses, The Federal Times reports:

• 72 per cent of those answering checked "yes" to the question, "Do you believe the allegations—wiretapping, use of unreported cash and related political activities—known as Watergate are factual?" Eight per cent said they did not believe the charges, and 20 per cent said they believed most of the newspaper accounts.

• 68 per cent said they be-

lieved Mr. Nixon had "prior knowledge" of the planned Watergate break-in, and 30 per cent said he did not.

• Asked about a "cover-up" of Watergate, 77 per cent said they thought Mr. Nixon did participate in attempts to bury or whitewash political espionage charges, and 22 per cent said they did not believe the President was involved.

• 69 per cent of those answering the ballot checked "yes" to the question: "Has Watergate shaken your confidence in the current administration?" Twenty eight per cent said "no" to the question.

• 32 per cent of the respondents said they had suffered as civil servants because of Watergate. Sixty-four per cent said it had not affected them.

Asked why the newspaper had conducted the poll, editor Tom Scanlan replied: "There are roughly 2.5 million employees in the executive branch of government. We felt they're involved, whether they like it or not. We had heard a lot of rumblings from people, and complaints that morale had been damaged by Watergate."

Scanlan said the newspaper felt this was a way to let government employees "blow off

steam" and get their views out. "We don't pretend that any vote of 3,200 speaks for all 2.5 million employees," Scanlan said, "but if more than 1,000 of those responding said they thought they had been damaged, as civil servants, by the Watergate, that is something."

The newspaper — on the stands today — said that ballots are still coming in. "We had them from every state, and from foreign service officers overseas," Scanlan said.

Newspaper employees who counted the ballots said that about 30 had been thrown out because they represented attempts to "stuff" or slant the vote. But the newspaper feels that the vast majority of votes it received represented the true feelings of individuals, some of whom identified themselves by grade and agency.

Earlier this year, the newspaper ran a survey on employee attitudes toward the four-day week. In that case the favorable response was much larger than the Watergate poll—with about 24,000 votes received. Part of this is attributed to the assumption that the poll ran longer — in about six issues of the newspaper as opposed to three issues

devoted to the Watergate ballot.

Scanlan said that most of the ballots came from outside of Washington, where the newspaper has about 75 per cent of its circulation. "The old idea that only people in Washington and New York care didn't hold up here," Scanlan said.

Government Information Workshop: The Public Relations Society plans a workshop today, beginning at 5 p.m. at the National Press Club. Panelists are William I. Greener Jr. of Housing and Urban Development; Alvin M. Hattal of IRS, and Treasury's Alan Wade. Call John Corris, 466-5762, for details.

Jobs: D.C. Unemployment Compensation Board has full-time and part-time openings for contact representatives, \$3.70 per hour. Call 393-7915, ext. 500.

Rockville Openings: HEW at the Parklawn Building has 10 clerk-typist and clerk-steno vacancies, Grades 2, 3 and 4. Call 443-4003.

Bureau of Public Debt wants a Grade 12 supervisory personnel management specialist. Call WO 4-7717.