

# Agnew Popularity Declines Further

By Louis Harris

At a time when President Nixon's standing with the American people has been rising, the popularity of Vice President Agnew has been declining. In the latest Harris Survey, the public gives the Vice President 40 to 50 per cent negative marks on the way he is doing his job. This 10-point deficit on the minus side for Agnew contrasts with a 10-point positive margin, 54-44 per cent, now accorded the President.

Here is the trend of ratings given the Vice President in response to the question:

*"How would you rate the job Vice President Agnew is doing—excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?"*

	Positive %	Negative %	Not Sure %
October, 1970	40	50	10
September	39	45	16
July	43	47	10
February	47	42	11
December, 1969	40	42	18

The high in popularity recorded for Agnew was last February, when his attacks on television and the Eastern press were well received by a majority of the public. For the past several weeks, the Vice President has spent almost his entire time stumping the country for Republican candidates in the fall elections.

Although he may have had a decisive impact in some specific elections, these results would indicate that it might well be on the debit side of the ledger. Both in September and again from Oct. 6 to Oct. 12, cross-sections of the public were asked:

"If Vice President Agnew came to your state this fall to urge you to vote for a Republican candidate, would this make you feel more like voting for him, less like voting for him or wouldn't it make much difference either way?"

These results, in which nearly three in every four voters profess not to be swayed either way by the Vice President's rhetoric, indicate the difficulty of transference of popularity or political power from a president or vice president to other candidates in the off-year elections.

	Oct. %	Sept. %
Feel more like voting Republican	8	9
Feel less like voting Republican	15	13
Not make much difference	73	72
Not Sure	4	6

An analysis of the shift in popularity for Agnew among key groups in the country since his high point in February is revealing:

	Positive %	Negative %	Not Sure %	Change from Feb. %
Nationwide	40	50	10	-7
By Region				
East	38	53	9	-10
Midwest	39	55	6	-9
South	43	41	16	-5
West	37	52	11	-4
Border States	42	42	16	-9
By Race				
White	43	49	8	-8
Black	19	54	27	-5
By Education				
8th grade or less	38	40	22	-1
High school	39	51	10	-5
College	41	54	5	-17
By 1968 Vote				
Voted Nixon	58	34	8	-8
Voted Humphrey	26	64	10	-7
Voted Wallace	63	31	6	+11
Union Members	36	54	10	-3