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Survey Finds 74% Felt Nixon Knew of Cover-Up

In the week before President Nixon left office on Aug. 9, 74 per cent of the American people had come to believe that he knew of the Watergate cover-up while it was going on, the Harris survey reported yesterday. Only 16 per cent thought he did not.

The polling organization said the same question in May, 1973, showed only 50 per cent convinced of Mr. Nixon's knowledge of the cover-up, with 34 per cent believing him ignorant of it, according to The Associated Press.

The Harris organization said it surveyed a cross-section of 1,552 adults between July 31 and Aug. 2 and found that by majorities ranging from 60 to 68 per cent the respondents agreed that Mr. Nixon had been guilty of serious acts of obstructing justice in the Watergate case. Those who felt differently comprised 19 to 22 per cent of the sampling.