

53% in a Gallup Poll Consider News of Watergate Is Excessive

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A majority of Americans believe that newspapers, radio and television are devoting too much space and time to covering the Watergate scandals, according to a Gallup Poll released yesterday.

The poll said that 53 per cent of the people believed there was too much coverage—four times as much as the 13 per cent who believed there was too little coverage of Watergate. Thirty per cent believed the coverage to be just right, according to the poll, while 4 per cent had no opinion.

A year ago, in a similar poll, 44 per cent said the press was providing too much coverage, while 12 per cent believed it was too little, 36 per cent thought it just right, and 8 per cent had no opinion.

The findings are based on a nationwide survey of 1,509 persons 18 years or older living in more than 300 localities. The poll was taken between June 21 and June 24.

The rise in belief that the press was devoting too much space to Watergate cut across partisan lines. In June, 1973, for instance, 31 per cent of the Democrats believed the coverage of Watergate was too much. This was compared with 43 per cent of the Democrats in the current poll.

Among Republicans the percentage believing there was "too much" coverage increased from 66 to 75 over the year, and among independents the figure increased from 43 to 51 per cent.

The question asked was:

"With regard to the Watergate affair, do you think the mass media—that is, newspapers, television and radio—have provided too much coverage, about the right amount, or too little?"

The following table shows the change by groups in the percentage who said the media coverage of Watergate was "too much":

	June, 1973	June, 1974
National	44	53
College	44	48
High school	44	54
Grade school	42	55
Under 30 years	38	43
30-49 years	44	57
50 and over	48	56
East	42	47
Midwest	44	55
South	50	56
West	39	53
Professional and business	45	54
Clerical and sales	41	56
Manual workers	42	52
Republicans	66	75
Democrats	31	43
Independents	43	51