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**Ford Rating in Poll
 Slips to Low of 42%**

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 Special to The New York Times

VAIL, Colo., Dec. 25—Widespread concern over the nation's economy has caused President Ford's popularity with the American people to slide to its lowest point since he took office less than five months ago, according to the most recent Gallup Poll.

The poll, taken between Dec. 6 and Dec. 9, showed that 42 per cent of the national sample questioned approved of the job Mr. Ford was doing, while 41 per cent disapproved and 17 per cent registered no opinion.

Shortly after Mr. Ford took office last August 9, his approval rating, based on a similar sample of about 1,500 adults, was 71 per cent.

The result of the poll, released for publication in

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**FORD POLL RATING
 DIPS TO 42% LOW**

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Thursday papers, compared with the 48 per cent approval rating Mr. Ford had registered in mid-November, a decline of six percentage points. On a sample of 1,500, the result is subject to a margin of error of three percentage points either way.

The decline from November was of particular concern to the Ford White House because the poll was taken shortly after the President returned from his trip to the Far East where, in Vladivostok, he reached a tentative agreement with the Soviet leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev, on control of offensive strategic nuclear weapons.

Traced to Economy

In the past, foreign travel and meetings with other world leaders, particularly when a major agreement is reached, have resulted in an improvement of Presidential popularity at home. Those who took the poll said a key reason for Mr. Ford's rapid decline in popularity was the state of the economy, first inflation and more recently a recession that is resulting in widespread un-

employment and a slowdown in commerce.

President Ford, sensitive to public discontent, has asked his top economic advisers to come here for a meeting with him on Saturday. The White House press secretary said that the group would "review the work the Economic Policy Board has been doing under the President's guidance and direction." New steps to improve the economic situation are expected to be worked at in this and subsequent meetings.

Mr. Ford is spending the holidays at this skiing resort with his family, but he has said it is a working vacation. On Friday, his chief advisers on energy matters will come here from Washington to consult with him.

The Gallup survey and the White House efforts to show that the President is seeking to do something about the economy, pointed up the belief among a number of Ford advisers that the new President's ability to govern the nation in the two years remaining in his term may depend on whether he can show that his Administration is dealing effectively with the economic situation.

Gallup surveys in the past have shown that the public often blames the President for economic problems, whether or not he has control over them.

Following is a table of response since August to the Gallup question, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Ford is handling his job as President?"

	Ap- prove	Disap- prove	No opinion
DEC. 6-9	42%	41%	17%
NOV. 15-18	48	32	20
NOV. 8-11	47	33	20
OCT. 18-21	55	28	17
OCT. 11-14	52	29	19
SEPT. 27-30	50	28	22
SEPT. 6-9	66	13	21
AUG. 16-19	71	3	26

Mr. Ford worked briefly this morning, then went skiing for the fourth straight day.