

# 45% Approved Ford's Performance

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—President Ford ends his first year in office with a 45 per cent approval rating, down 7 points from his high point this year, recorded in late June.

The latest survey was conducted during the final days of the President's recent trip to the Helsinki summit. While the summity of American presidents often boosts their popularity rating with their countrymen, Mr. Ford's recent trip appears to have had little positive effect on his rating.

Any gains as a result of the trip, however, may have been blunted by the public's concern over the economy. Nearly seven in 10 Americans currently name an economic problem as the nation's top problem. In addition, optimism regarding the economic outlook, which had climbed steadily during the first months of this year, has now leveled off, with the public about equally divided on whether economic conditions will get worse or better.

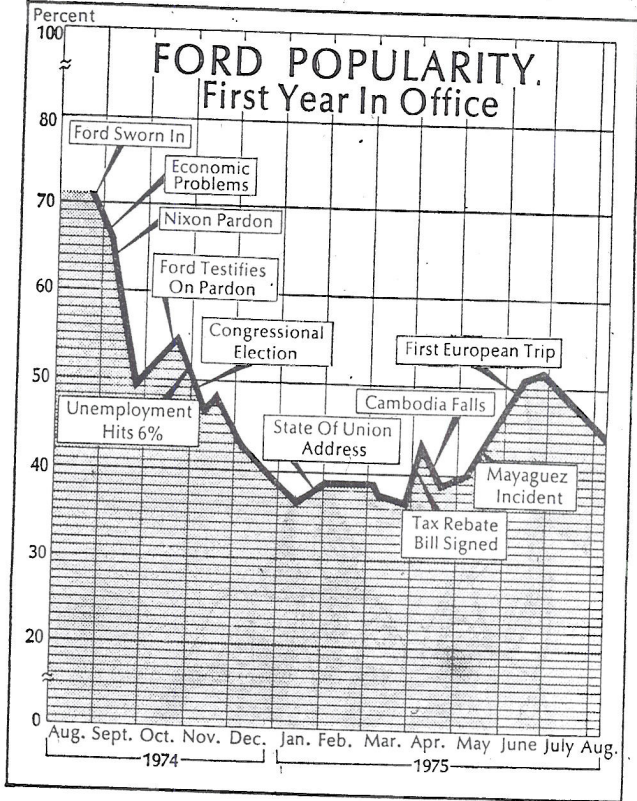
Mr. Ford took office a year ago with a high vote of confidence—71 per cent. But just a month later, he touched off a storm of criticism when he pardoned former President Nixon. The public disapproved by a 2-to-1 margin and Mr. Ford's overall performance rating slipped to 50 per cent.

The President recouped some ground when he agreed to testify on the pardon, but his rating declined as a result of public concern over the

economy, reaching a low point of 37 per cent in early January. His approval score rose from 40 to 51 per cent following Mr. Ford's ordering U. S. forces to free the captured merchant ship Mayaguez in mid-May.

Following is the question asked 1,529 adults in more than 300 localities across the nation in interviews Aug. 1 - 4:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way (Mr. Ford) is handl-



The Washington Post

Date	Do you approve or disapprove of the way (Mr. Ford) is handling his job as President?		
	Approve	Disapprove	No Opinion
Latest (Aug. 1-4)	45%	37%	18%
June 27-30	52	33	15
May 30-June 2	51	33	16
May 2-5	40	43	17
April 18-21	39	46	15
April 4-7	44	37	19
March 28-31	37	43	20
March 7-10	38	45	17
Feb. 28	39	45	16
March 3	39	43	18
Jan. 31-Feb. 3	39	39	22
Jan. 10-13	37	39	24
Dec. 6-9, 1974	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