

Changing Attitude On Nixon, Scandal

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Although three Americans in four believe that President Nixon is involved at least to some extent in the Watergate scandal, the public votes 54 to 37 per cent against removing Mr. Nixon from office.

At the same time, however, the percentage of Americans who favor compelling Mr. Nixon to leave the presidency has increased steadily since June and is now at a high point (37 per cent).

The trend in the percentage who favor compelling Mr. Nixon to leave office has accelerated in the last few weeks, following the President's firing of special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox on October 20 and the more recent announcement that two of the nine Watergate tape recordings never existed.

The public's view that Mr. Nixon played a role in the Watergate scandal likely underlies attitudes regarding the veracity of the tapes being delivered to the courts. By the ratio of 2 to 1, persons interviewed in the latest survey expressed the belief that the White House tapes would be altered to remove evidence that showed Mr. Nixon was involved in the planning or coverup of Watergate.

Following is the question asked to determine the public's views on removing Mr. Nixon from office:

"Do you think President Nixon should be impeached and compelled to leave the presidency, or not?"

The latest results and trend:

	Should Nixon be compelled to leave presidency?			
	Yes %	No %	No Opinion %	
Nov. 2-5	37	54	9	
Oct. 19-22	33	52	15	
Aug. 3-6	26	61	13	
July 6-9	24	62	14	
June 22-25	19	69	12	

This is the question asked to measure attitudes on Mr. Nixon's involvement in Watergate:

"Here are four statements concerning President Nixon's connection with the Watergate affair. Will you tell me which one comes closest to your own point of view? (A) Nixon planned the Watergate bugging from the beginning. (B) Nixon did not plan the bugging but knew about it before it took place. (C) Nixon found out about the bugging after it occurred, but tried to cover it up. (D) Nixon had no knowledge of the bugging and spoke up as soon as he learned about it."

Views on Nixon involvement

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	No
	%	%	%	%	opinion %
Nov. 2-5	10	32	34	15	9
Sept. 7-10	11	28	33	18	10
Aug. 17-20	9	24	40	23	4
Aug. 3-6	8	29	37	15	11
July 6-9	9	30	34	15	12
June 22-25	8	27	36	17	12
June 1-4	8	28	31	19	14

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