

3% More in Poll Oppose Resignation by President

While more than 70 per cent of Americans surveyed continue to believe that President Nixon either planned, tolerated or tried to cover up the Watergate burglary, according to the Gallup Poll, the latest sampling found that 49 per cent opposed his possible resignation and that 51 per cent opposed his removal from office.

The poll was taken on the weekend after the President's State of the Union address on Jan. 30. The findings indicated that a majority of those who believe that the President tried to cover up the burglary feels that such an act is not grounds for resignation or removal from office through impeachment.

The question, "Do you think President Nixon should resign from the Presidency or not?" was asked in interviews of 1,591 adults in more than 300 scientifically selected localities. Of those, 49 per cent said the President should not resign, 42 per cent said he should and 9 per cent gave no opinion. In early January, 46 per cent favored resignation and 46 per cent did not.

On the question, "Do you think President Nixon should be impeached and compelled to leave the Presidency or not?" 38 per cent favored his removal and 51 per cent opposed it, differing little from the January findings.

On the two issues, the latest poll found that Republicans were overwhelmingly opposed to both resignation (79 per cent) and removal (81 per cent). Democrats favored resignation (61 per cent) and removal (51 per cent).

The poll found that 9 per cent of those interviewed believed the President had planned the Watergate burglary from the beginning, 28 per cent believed he knew about it in advance and 34 per cent be-

lieved he found out about it after it occurred, but then tried to cover it up.

Only 17 per cent said they thought the President had no knowledge of the burglary and spoke up as soon as he learned about it. Those figures have changed little over the last eight Gallup surveys, which started in early June, 1973.

Forty-one per cent of the Republicans surveyed felt that Mr. Nixon spoke up as soon as he learned about the burglary. That view was shared by 8 per cent of the Democrats.