

SFChronicle

A Slight Nixon Gain on

By George Gallup

Princeton, N.J.

Public opinion has shifted slightly in favor of President Nixon on the issue of resignation, with 49 per cent against his resigning compared to 42 per cent in favor. An early January survey showed opinion evenly divided, 46 to 46 per cent.

On the question of removing the President from office through the process of impeachment, the current vote is 51 opposed to 38 per cent in favor. These findings, based on a survey conducted the weekend following Mr. Nixon's State of the Union message January 30, closely match those recorded in an early January survey. That poll showed a 53 to 37 division of opinion.

Opinions regarding Mr.

Nixon's involvement in Watergate have show remarkably little change during recent weeks, or, in fact, since early June when this trend measurement was started.

About one person in 11 (9 per cent) in the latest survey thinks Mr. Nixon actually planned the Watergate bugging. Another 28 per cent say he did not plan the bugging but knew about it before it took place. A similar proportion, 34 per cent, hold the opinion that Mr. Nixon found out about the bugging after it occurred but tried to cover it up.

Only 17 per cent express the view that Mr. Nixon had no knowledge of the bugging and spoke up as soon as he learned about it. Twelve per cent do not express an opinion.

Opinion on the issues of res-

ignation and impeachment have a strongly partisan flavor. The overwhelming majority of Republicans oppose resignation (79 per cent) and compelling Mr. Nixon to leave office through impeachment (81 per cent). Democrats, on the other hand, lean in favor of both resignation (61 per cent) and impeachment (51 per cent).

Here is the first question asked:

"Do you think President Nixon should resign from the presidency, or not?"

Here is a comparison between the latest findings and those from an earlier survey conducted during the first week of January:

Should Mr. Nixon resign?	Early Feb.	Early Jan.
Yes, should	42%	46%
No, should not	49	46
No opinion	9	8

FEB 19 1974

FEB 19 1974

Resignation Issue

Here is the question asked to determine attitudes on removing Mr. Nixon from office through impeachment:

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

The following table shows the latest nationwide results and trend, showing little change since early November:

Should Mr. Nixon be compelled to leave the presidency?

	Yes	No	No opinion
Feb. 1-4	38%	51%	11%
Jan. 4-7	37	53	10
Nov. 30-Dec. 3	35	54	11
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) Mr. Nixon planned the Watergate bugging from the beginning. (B) Mr. Nixon did not plan the bugging but knew about it before it took place. (C) Mr. Nixon found out about the bugging after it occurred, but tried to cover it up. (D) Mr. Nixon had no knowledge of the bugging and spoke up as soon as he learned about it."

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

Here is the trend:

Views on Mr. Nixon's involvement.

	Planned	Knew About	Covered Up	No knowledge	No opinion
	%	%	%	%	%
Feb. 1-4, '74	9	28	34	17	12
Nov. 2-5, '73	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