

Impeaching

By Any Other Name

New York

A poll conducted for Newsweek magazine indicates a majority of Americans wants President Nixon tried in the Senate on charges relating to Watergate, but a plurality balks when the word "impeachment" is used to describe the proceedings, the magazine says.

Newsweek reported yesterday that pollster George Gallup's organization asked 546 Americans by telephone

last Wednesday these two questions:

• "Would you be for or against your congressman voting for the Senate to hold a trial on whether President Nixon should be removed from office because of charges relating to Watergate?"

• "Do you think it would help or hurt the country more if the House of Representatives voted to impeach the President?"

To the first question — which Newsweek said was "a civics book definition of what impeachment means," without using the word — 60 per cent said they wanted

their congressman to move for such a trial, and 30 per cent said they didn't. Ten per cent were undecided.

However, to the second question — containing the word "impeach" — only 43 per cent said it would help the country, and 47 per cent said it would hurt. Again, ten per cent were undecided.

The survey also produced

these responses on related questions:

Asked if Mr. Nixon has been telling the truth about his role in the Watergate affair, only 23 per cent answered yes, and 68 per cent said they believe he has been withholding information. Nine per cent had no opinion.

Associated Press