

Judiciary Panel Backed On Transcript Stand

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—By more than 2 to 1, the American people believe the House Judiciary Committee was right in its decision to reject President Nixon's offer of edited transcripts as a substitute for the 42 Watergate tapes it subpoenaed.

This finding is based on nationwide telephone survey, conducted Thursday evening, of 694 adults who saw or heard the President's speech Monday night or who read any part of the transcripts.

By a ratio of 3 to 1, the informed groups say their opinion of Mr. Nixon has become "less favorable" rather than "more favorable" as a result of the developments of the past few days.

The survey also shows opinion to be almost evenly divided on the question of whether Mr. Nixon or John W. Dean III has been more truthful in his statements on Watergate, with the President ahead by 2 percentage points. Opinion is closely divided on whether or not there is enough evidence of possible wrongdoing to bring Mr. Nixon to trial before the Senate. However, public sentiment is 5 to 4, against his being removed from the presidency.

Following are the questions asked in the survey and the findings:

1. Did you happen to see

or hear President Nixon's speech on television Monday night?

Yes 51 per cent
No 49 per cent

2. Did you happen to read or hear reports on any of President Nixon's transcripts of the Watergate tapes?

Yes 63 per cent
No 37 per cent

3. As a result of the developments of the last few days, has your opinion of President Nixon become more favorable or less favorable?

(Based on aware group)
More favorable 17 per cent
Less favorable 42 per cent
Stayed the same 35 per cent
No opinion 6 per cent

4. The House Judiciary Committee did not accept Nixon's proposals regarding the tapes. Do you think the committee was right or wrong in taking this action?

(Based on aware group)
Right 62 per cent
Wrong 24 per cent
No opinion 14 per cent

5. Whose statements about Watergate are you more inclined to believe, John Dean's or President Nixon's?

(Based on aware group)
Dean's 36 per cent
Nixon's 38 per cent
No opinion 26 per cent

6a. Impeachment, as you probably know, involves the following: first, the lower house — that is, the U.S. House of Representatives must decide whether there is enough evidence to bring a

President to trial before the Senate. If the House of Representatives decides there is enough evidence, the Senate then conducts a trial to determine whether or not the President's actions are serious enough to warrant his being removed from the presidency.

Now, let me ask you first of all, if you think there is enough evidence of possible wrongdoing in the case of President Nixon to bring him to trial before the Senate, or not?

(Based on total sample)

Yes 44 per cent
No 41 per cent
No opinion 15 per cent

6b. Just from the way you feel now, do you think his actions are serious enough to warrant his being removed from the presidency, or not?

(Based on total sample)

Yes 38 per cent
No 49 per cent
No opinion 13 per cent

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