

# SKEPTIC SURVEY

How do America's most affluent, influential people feel about President Nixon these days? Do they think he should be impeached? We asked a random sample of people listed in *Who's Who in America* for their opinions. By and large, they neither trust the President nor approve of the way he is handling his job. On the other hand, they don't think he should resign or be impeached. The questions are identical to those asked in a recent Gallup Poll.

Results . . . and a few selected comments:

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President?		3. Some people think it would be in the best interests of the country for President Nixon to resign at this time. Others think it would not be in the best interests of the country. What is your opinion?	
	Percent		
Approve	36.9	In the best interests	38.2
Disapprove	53.6	Not in the best interests	55.2
No Opinion	5.4	No Opinion	3.8
2. Do you think President Nixon should be impeached and compelled to leave the Presidency, or not?		4. How much trust and confidence do you have in the Nixon administration?	
Yes	36.9	A great deal	18.0
No	53.0	A fair amount	24.3
No Opinion	6.6	Not very much	25.9
		None at all	28.1

"We are suffering from lack of leadership in this country, both in the Presidency and in the Congress. Our need is for statesmen — men of vision who can inspire confidence in our government and in ourselves."

"I believe President Nixon is doing his very best as President of our country. I wonder how he has been able to carry on as well as he has — at the same time maintaining his sanity and physical well-being — under the terrific pressures, criticisms and almost inhuman harassment to which he has been subjected. He and his family have shown great courage."

"I believe that law and order applies to all Americans equally and should apply also to government officials. Nixon should be held accountable for his actions just the same as any other citizen; executive privilege has no place in America if it goes against the law."

"I fail to see that his opponents have proven sufficient grounds to justify either impeachment or resignation — as yet. He has been guilty of a common failing: inability to select honest and capable co-workers."

"More than any head of state in modern times, Nixon has brought about an attitude of cynicism, alienation from and distrust for the process of government and the workings of politics."

"Nixon's success in the field of foreign affairs and his valiant drive for world peace far outweigh Watergate in importance from the long-haul standpoint."

"Impeachment of any President by a Congress dominated by the opposition party for any but the best and non-controversial reasons would set a horrible precedent."

"I see no reason to assume that impeachment would be a disastrous and traumatic event. The real obstacle to impeachment seems to be the reluctance of congressmen to risk personal repercussions in an election."

"If Nixon is not ousted, there will be no effective limit on the autocratic use of power by future Presidents. I would prefer to see him impeached, tried and convicted rather than allowed to resign, for the latter would avoid the educational effect of a public trial."

"What can one say when, in a time of violent revulsion against war, Ellsberg becomes a hero for self-confessed violations of his own vows; and a federal judge who imposes 35 to 40 year sentences for violations of a minor nature — and then drastically reduces such grossly intimidating and unjust sentences — is also canonized instead of impeached?"