

How Nixon Is Rated Now

By George Gallup

Princeton, N.J.

President Nixon has failed to register any gains in popularity following his tour of the Middle East. Only 26 per cent in the latest Gallup Poll survey say they approve of the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job, only one point above his low point to date.

Despite the fact that President Nixon's personal diplomacy has on earlier occasions boosted his standing with the American public, this effect is not found in the current survey. The reason lies in the fact that concern over domestic affairs today far outweighs concern over foreign affairs in the public's assessment of Mr. Nixon's performance.

Recent surveys show domestic problems overshadowing international problems in the public's thinking by the widest margin recorded in recent decades. High prices and Watergate top the list of problems named.

When persons in the survey are asked to rate Mr. Nixon on his handling of international affairs, 54 per cent express approval. In contrast, only 18 per cent approve of his handling of domestic affairs.

While Mr. Nixon's over-all rating has remained virtually unchanged since the previous survey, he has registered a sharp eight-point gain among those with a college background. In contrast, his rating has fallen off slightly among persons whose formal education is

limited to high school or grade school.

Among college persons, a group which surveys reveal to have a greater interest in foreign affairs, as many as seven in ten (72 per cent) say they approve of the way Mr. Nixon is handling international relations. In contrast only 54 per cent of persons with a high school background and 34 per cent of those with a grade school education say they approve.

Following is the question asked to determine attitudes on the President's over-all performance in office:

of foreign policy, this question was asked:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mr. Nixon is handling our foreign policy — that is, our relations with other Nations?"

Here are the results:

Approve 54%
Disapprove 32
No Opinion 14

To determine attitudes toward the President's handling of the domestic scene, this question was asked:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mr. Nixon is handling our domestic problems — that is, our problems here at home?"

Approve 18%
Disapprove 71
No opinion 11

President Nixon's over-all job rating for the 12 measurements thus far this year appears to have been little affected by events and has fluctuated within a narrow margin of three percentage points—from a high of 28 per cent to a low of 25 per cent, his lowest point since taking office.

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"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job as President?"

Here are the latest results, based on a survey conducted following the President's five-nation tour of the Middle East but before his recent trip to Russia: ^{19 JUN} ^{25 JUN}

Approve of way Nixon is handling job?

Approve 26%
Disapprove 61
No opinion 13

To determine attitudes toward the President handling