

Poll Finds Most Against the Pardon

New York

Pollster Louis Harris says a new poll shows 74 per cent of those questioned believe former President Nixon was guilty of obstruction of justice and abuse of power and 60 per cent think President Ford was wrong to pardon him.

Harris also reported yesterday that the cross-section of more than 1500 adults, polled between September 23 and 27, felt by sizable majorities that the pardon showed the country has "two standards of justice" (66 to 28 per cent); that it made the system of justice

"look weak and hypocritical" (61 to 32 per cent); and that the pardon will keep the full story of Watergate from being told "and that is bad" (63 to 28 per cent).

Those polled rejected all President Ford's arguments for the pardon, disagreeing by 62 to 29 per cent that Mr. Nixon's mental and physical health was a good reason; by 59 to 37 per cent rejecting the argument that he had "suffered enough," and by 48 to 37 per cent discounting Mr. Ford's belief that a Nixon trial would polarize the country into "warring factions."

Associated Press