

The Gallup Poll

Nixon's Popularity Stays in Doldrums

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—Two separate measurements in the latest nationwide Gallup survey give further evidence of Watergate's sharp impact on President Nixon's standing with American voters:

In a rerun of the 1972 presidential contest, President Nixon wins over Sen. George McGovern by a far smaller margin than in last fall's election.

Mr. Nixon's current popularity rating remains near his all-time low figure of 44 per cent approval. However, it should be noted that the President's popularity rating has apparently bottomed out and remained virtually unchanged over a period of nearly two months.

The possibility exists that Mr. Nixon's popularity would have been lower than the figure reported today had it not been for the recent visit by Communist party leader Lenoid Brezhnev. Previous surveys have shown that, typically, a President's popularity is boosted by summit meetings with Russian leaders.

In the latest survey, conducted after John Dean III's charges were made public but prior to his testimony before the Senate investigating committee, 45 per cent of all persons interviewed said they approved of the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job as President, while an equal number, 45 per cent, disapproved. Ten per cent expressed no opinion.

Here is the question asked which matches President Nixon against McGovern:

"If the presidential election were being held TODAY, which candidate would you vote for—Nixon, the Republican, or McGovern, the Democrat?"

Following are the national results, based on the choices of registered voters:

NIXON vs. MCGOVERN (June Return)	
Nixon	46%
McGovern	40
Others	5
Undecided	9

Here are the results, with the vote for other candidates excluded and the undecided vote divided equally between Nixon and McGovern. The actual two-party vote for the 1972 presidential election is given in the table at the right:

	June Return	1972 Election
Nixon	53%	62%
McGovern	47	38

The following question was asked to obtain a reading on Mr. Nixon's performance in office:

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

Here is the trend in Nixon's popularity since the beginning of the current year:

	Ap- prove	Dis- approve	No Opinion
June 22-25	45%	45%	10%
June 1-4	44	45	11
May 11-14	44	45	11
May 4-7	45	42	13
April 27-30	46	40	12
April 6-9	54	36	10
March 30-April 2	59	32	9
Feb. 16-19	65	25	10
Jan. 26-29	68	25	7
Jan. 12-15	51	37	12

The findings reported today are based on interviews with a total of 1,451 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during the period June 22-25.