

Gallup Poll

The President And Watergate

By George Gallup

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A large majority of the American people — seven out of every ten — believe that President Nixon planned or was involved in a coverup of the Watergate bugging of last year. But most of those same people do not think that the President should be impeached and compelled to leave office.

Fewer than one-fifth of Americans (18 per cent), as determined by the most recent Gallup survey, believe the President should be impeached and removed from the Presidency.

Support for removing the President from office depends on the degree of Mr. Nixon's perceived involvement.

Those interviewed who think Mr. Nixon planned the Watergate bugging from the beginning are 2 to 1 on the side that he should be impeached and compelled to leave office.

However, support for such drastic action falls off sharply among those who think Mr. Nixon was involved in a coverup but did not plan the bugging. And finally, among those who think Mr. Nixon had no knowledge of the bugging and spoke up as soon as he learned about it, the vast majority (94 per cent) oppose impeachment and compelling the President to leave office.

Should Mr. Nixon be compelled to leave office?

	Yes %	No %	No Opn. %
Nationwide	18	71	11
Nixon planned bugging	60	29	11
Not planned but knew in advance	28	61	11
Found out and tried to cover up	12	81	7
No knowledge of bugging	3	94	3

Another question in the Watergate series sought to find out whether the public believes Mr. Nixon was in-

involved and to what extent.

The findings show seven of ten Americans believe Mr. Nixon was involved to some extent in Watergate, with little change in opinions noted since the previous survey.

This question was also asked:

"Which of these two statements comes closer to your point of view about Watergate? (1) It's a very serious matter because it reveals corruption in the Nixon administration. (2) It's just politics — the kind of thing that both parties engage in."

The percentage who see Watergate as a "very serious matter" has increased considerably since an April survey, although little change has occurred between the two surveys in June.

In April, 31 per cent of the public said Watergate is a very serious matter, revealing corruption in the Nixon administration. This percentage increased to 47 per cent in early June and 48 per cent in the latest (late June) survey.

Here are the findings in tabular form:

Serious Matter — Or Just Politics?	April June June		
	6-9	1-4	22-25
Serious matter— reveals corruption	31%	47%	48%
Just politics	53	46	45
No opinion/not heard or read	16	7	7

Interviewing was conducted after John Dean III's charges were made public but before he testified at the Senate investigating committee hearings.

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