

# Nixon's Popularity Rises, But Most Doubt Speech

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—President Nixon has registered a gain in popularity following his speech on Watergate last Wednesday—from a low point of 31 per cent to 38 per cent approval—but at the same time a large majority of Americans continue to believe he was involved in the planning or cover-up of Watergate.

Further evidence that the president's speech failed to elicit widespread confidence among the American people is the finding that 33 per cent of those who have seen or heard the speech say they are dissatisfied with his explanation regarding Watergate, compared to 34 per cent who say they are satisfied.

Despite the fact that many people as ever still think Nixon played some role in the Watergate situation, only about one person in five (23 per cent) in the latest survey thinks the president should be impeached and compelled to leave the presidency.

Nixon's gain in popularity following his nationwide televised speech could, at least in part, be expected. Surveys taken immediately after major televised addresses by Presidents over a number of years on a wide range of topics typically have shown increase in the approval rating for the chief executive.

The President's lowest rating since he has been in office (31 per cent) was recorded in the previous (Aug. 3-6) survey, following several weeks of televised hearings on Watergate. That

season's lowest approval rating for Nixon's administration was recorded in the survey conducted in the week ending Aug. 13-16, 1973. He received the most favorable rating in a recorded survey since the period he was also the lowest rating since an approval rating of 20 per cent was recorded in 1952, when he first took office. The lowest approval rating since that time was 27 per cent in a survey conducted in the week ending Aug. 13-16, 1973.

The Gallup Poll shows that 38 per cent of those surveyed are satisfied with the president's explanation regarding Watergate, compared to 34 per cent who say they are dissatisfied. The question was asked about Nixon's explanation regarding Watergate in a survey conducted in the week ending Aug. 13-16, 1974.

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The question was also asked about Nixon's explanation regarding Watergate in a survey conducted in the week ending Aug. 13-16, 1967. The question was also asked about Nixon's explanation regarding Watergate in a survey conducted in the week ending Aug. 13-16, 1966.

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