

**The Harris Survey**  
**Nixon Backed**  
**On Watergate**  
**In the Courts**

By Louis Harris

Although President Nixon's credibility on Watergate has been seriously damaged and many doubts about his role in the cover-up remain, despite his recent televised answer to critics, by a substantial 62 to 32 per cent a majority agree with Mr. Nixon that "it is time to turn the whole question of Watergate over to the courts and allow the President to concentrate on more important things."

When asked if the Senate Committee on Watergate should continue its hearings on "campaign dirty tricks" in September, by only a 51 to 45 per cent margin did a majority think the hearings should go forward. By 51 to 44 per cent, however, again a slim majority, most people oppose carrying the hearings on television.

By a decisive 59 to 33 per cent margin, a majority still give the committee high marks on the hearings held to date. But the number who are negative has risen steadily from 20 per cent in May to 29 per cent in July to 33 per cent in this latest Harris Survey.

The committee still has a powerful voice in the conclusions it might reach on the question of whether or not President Nixon knew about the cover-up. On this question, the cross section of 1,536 households were

asked in person on Aug. 18 and 19:

*"If the Senate Watergate Committee decides that President Nixon was involved in the Watergate cover-up, do you think Congress should impeach him or not?"*

	Total Public
Should	39
Should not	50
Not sure	11

The cross section was also asked:

*"Do you think President Nixon was more right or more wrong on (READ LIST)?"*

	More Right	More Wrong	Not Sure
	%	%	%
Refusal to testify before Watergate committee	41	52	7
Refusal to turn over White House files dealing with bugging and cover-up to committee	31	62	7
Refusal to turn over tapes of conversations dealing with Watergate to committee	34	59	7
Allowing H.R. Haldeman to take tapes home with him to listen to	15	73	12

On continuing the hearings on Sept. 12, the cross section was asked:

*"In September, the U.S. Senate Committee on Watergate intends to open up another round of hearings on campaign dirty tricks. Do you favor or oppose continuing the Watergate hearings in September?"*

	Total Public
Favor	51
Oppose	45
Not sure	4

Although a slim majority want to continue the hearings, an almost identical majority does not want them shown in their entirety on television:

*"If the U.S. Senate Committee on Watergate continues its hearings this fall, would you favor or oppose carrying the hearings in their entirety on television?"*

	Total Public
Favor	44
Oppose	51
Not sure	5