

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THU

Gallup Finds Approval of Nixon at Its Lowest Point

Special to The New York Times

PRINCETON, N. J., Dec. 16—

President Nixon's popularity has slipped to 52 per cent, the lowest level since he took office, according to the latest Gallup Poll.

The Gallup survey pinpointed the nation's economic lapse as a major factor in the decline of approval for the President's performance in office. It

dropped five percentage points since November, based on 1,379 personal interviews with adults in more than 300 representative communities on Dec. 5 and 6.

Mr. Nixon's previous low in the Gallup ratings was 53 per cent approval, during the nationwide postal workers' strike last March.

The question asked in the

current survey was, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President?" Of those responding, 52 per cent approved, 34 per cent disapproved and 14 per cent had no opinion.

With unemployment at its highest level in seven years and consumer prices continuing to rise, Americans apparently reacted to Democratic charges in the November Congressional

elections that the Nixon Administration was at least partly to blame.

The Gallup organization reported that Mr. Nixon's popularity slipped about equally in the East, Midwest and Far West, but did not decline noticeably in the South, which has been least affected by rising levels of unemployment.

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!