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Nixon's Popularity Declines 3 Points In Gallup Survey

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President Nixon still has the support of 65 per cent of Americans, according to the latest Gallup Poll, but his popularity has slipped a little in recent weeks. The survey was taken Feb. 16-19 and the results were released yesterday.

Following the President's announcement in January of a peace settlement in Vietnam, his popularity rose to match his record high of 68 per cent set in November, 1969, after he announced his plan for "Vietnamization" of the war.

The figure for those who say they disapprove of the President has remained constant at 25 per cent in the last two Gallup surveys.

These two recent surveys indicate that the President continues to be unpopular with blacks. The combined surveys show 38 per cent of blacks approve of Mr. Nixon's performance as President compared with 48 per cent who said they did not approve. The total number of blacks interviewed in both surveys was 334.

When 1,517 adults were asked, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President?" for the latest poll, the most favorable response was in the South, where 71 per cent said they approved. The West gave the President his lowest regional approval, 59 per cent.

The President's low front in popularity was recorded by Gallup in June, 1971, where 48 per cent said they approved. The Gallup Poll says this "reflected the public's growing concern over the flagging economy and the continuing war in Vietnam."