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Gallup Poll on Inflation-- Where the Blame Lies

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President Nixon's recent speech on the economy — in which he exhorted the U.S. public to form an anti-inflation lobby and to control their spending — came at a time when a record number of Americans believe that the federal government is chiefly responsible for inflation.

Nearly half (48 per cent) of all persons interviewed in a mid-July survey blame the government, compared with only 19 per cent who name labor and 17 per cent who say business is chiefly responsible for inflation.

When persons in a recent survey were asked what steps the government can

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take to curb inflation, little agreement is found among the two-thirds who offer an opinion while the remaining one-third do not express an opinion. The only answers given with some frequency are wage-price controls and a reduction in federal spending.

While little change in views has occurred since the previous survey in July, 1973, on the question of responsibility for inflation, the proportion naming government has increased rather markedly when compared with a survey taken in July, 1972. That survey showed 39 per cent saying government is mostly to blame for inflation, as against 20 per cent who said business and 29 per cent who said labor.

The findings reported today are recorded at a time when the high cost of living is far and away the top worry of the American people, with a near record 48 per cent of all persons interviewed in a recent survey naming this as the nation's chief problem.

Although most persons say government rather than labor or business is chiefly to

blame for inflation, their views depend in considerable measure on such factors as political affiliation, occupation, educational attainment and income.

More than half of Democrats (54 per cent) say government is most responsible for inflation, while 17 per

cent blame business and 13 per cent blame labor.

In contrast, 35 per cent of Republicans blame the government, but almost as many, 34 per cent, say labor is chiefly responsible for inflation, and 13 per cent say business.

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The Question

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Here is the question asked to determine which of these three—government, business or labor—the public feels is mostly to blame for inflation:

“In your opinion, which is most responsible for inflation — government, business or labor?”

	Govt.	Bus.	Labor	No Opinion
July 1974	48%	16%	19%	17%
July 1973	46	19	25	10
July 1972	39	20	29	14
July 1968	46	12	26	16
Oct. 1959	14	15	41	30

Note: Total for 1972 column adds to more than 100 per cent since some persons gave a multiple response.

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