

15 Feb through 3 Mar 75

Nixon (public opinion) - From comment by Mervin D. Field, of the California Poll, on public reaction to Nixon in poll completed between 15 Feb and 3 Mar:

"A significant change is occurring in the California public's feeling toward former President Nixon. Simply stated, it is a mixture of a sense that justice was not done when Mr. Nixon the President escaped standing trial for his actions in the Watergate affair [62% believe he should have had to stand trial, 36% do not], and a growing feeling of compassion for Mr. Nixon the man.

"More Californians today think Mr. Nixon has paid enough penalty for what he did than think he has not been penalized enough [53% yes, 44% no]. This is a significant trend in a state which has, over the years, been found to be consistently more unfavorable toward Mr. Nixon than the rest of the U.S. when data from state and national polls are compared.

"The rise in sympathy for Mr. Nixon's personal position has not, however, altered the public's firm belief he should not hold a high government position again. Overwhelmingly, the public rejects the idea that he become U.S. ambassador to China [77% disapprove, 18% approve] or run for the U.S. Senate [87% would not vote for him, 9% would]. Additionally, virtually all Republicans [83%] believe he would hurt rather than help the GOP if he became a spokesman for the party."

The figures given above (except for the last item on Republican opinion) are for reaction statewide. See clipping for break-down of opinions of Democrats and Republicans.

See also poll taken by WXP 21 Feb 75.

SFC 15 Mar 75, Field Research Corporation

Nixon (as ambassador? - return to public life?) - See entry, Nixon (public opinion).