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Poll on Nixon's Popularity

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President Nixon's popularity shows a further decline in the latest survey, with 59 per cent today expressing approval of the way he is handling his job. This percentage compares with 65 per cent in a mid-February survey and a high point of 68 per cent in January, recorded during a time of profound relief among Americans following the Vietnam peace settlement.

Among the key factors contributing to the erosion of President Nixon's popularity are concern over high prices (particularly food prices) and the President's cutting back on social programs. In addition, some decline normally follows exceptionally high ratings, such as recorded by Nixon in late January.

Interestingly the Watergate affair has yet to emerge as a significant source of dissatisfaction with the President's performance in office.

Approval stems in considerable measure from support for Nixon's success in bringing the war to a conclusion.

President Nixon's popularity has not slipped below the 50 per cent mark since January of last year when 49 per cent expressed approval.

The President's high point

in popularity, 68 per cent approval was recorded this January following the peace settlement, as well as in November, 1969, just after he had announced his plan for withdrawing U.S. troops from Vietnam and training the South Vietnamese to take over the fighting.

His low point to date 48 per cent was recorded in

June 1971, and reflected the public's growing concern over the flagging economy and the continuing war in Vietnam.

Here is the question asked in the current survey during the period between March 30 and April 9. (The same question was asked in previous surveys on the subject):

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President?"

Following is the trend since the beginning of the year:

	Ap- prove	Disap- prove	No Opin.
Mar. 30-April 9	59%	33%	8%
Feb. 16-19	65	25	10
Jan. 26-29	68	25	7
Jan. 12-15	51	37	12

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