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Poll Says Half of People Believe Nixon Helped Cover Up Watergate

with poll 5/4/73

Half of those interviewed in a special Gallup Poll said they believe that President Nixon participated in a "cover-up" of the Watergate affair.

Four out of 10 said they thought Mr. Nixon knew in advance about the bugging of the Watergate last June. The same percentage did not believe that he told the "whole truth" in his address to the nation Monday night.

A large majority—74 per cent—said they think that someone outside the Nixon administration should be appointed to head the Watergate investigation.

The special survey consisted of telephone interviews with 456 persons Wednesday night. A normal Gallup Poll consists of about 1,600 personal interviews. The shorter, telephone poll was undertaken in an at-

tempt to gauge the impact of the President's speech Monday, a Gallup organization official said.

One of the questions was, "Do you think President Nixon has participated in a cover-up of the Watergate situation?" Fifty per cent said "Yes," 35 per cent said "No," and 15 per cent said they had no opinion.

In answer to another question, 40 per cent said they thought Mr. Nixon knew in advance about the Watergate bugging. Forty-seven per cent said they did not think so, and 13 per cent had no opinion.

Asked if they felt the President "told the whole truth" in his speech, 30 per cent said "Yes," 40 per cent said "No," and 15 per cent had no opinion or were not aware of the Nixon speech.

Fifty-eight per cent said

they believed there is little difference between the Nixon administration and previous administrations in the extent of corruption. Twenty-nine per cent thought there was more corruption in the Nixon administration, and 8 per cent thought there was less. Five per cent had no opinion.

A majority indicated that the Watergate affair had reduced to some degree their confidence in the federal government. Thirty-seven per cent said their confidence had been reduced "somewhat" and 21 per cent said their confidence had been reduced "a great deal." Another 37 per cent said their confidence had not been reduced at all, and five per cent had no opinion.

Three-fourths favored appointment of an outside investigator.