

Watergate Known To 90% in Britain

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N. J.— Awareness of the Watergate case is nearly as widespread in Britain as in this country, with 90 per cent saying they have heard or read about Watergate compared to 96 per cent in the United States. In addition, the views of the British public regarding President Nixon's involvement in the Watergate situation closely mirror the views of the American people.

Nearly half of the British interviewed (48 per cent) say they think President Nixon knew in advance about the Watergate bugging, while 20 per cent feel he did not; 32 per cent have no opinion.

A comparable proportion of Americans (46 per cent) share the British view that Mr. Nixon had prior awareness of the bugging. A somewhat greater proportion of Americans than British say he did not know, but it should be borne in mind that the "no opinion" percentage is approximately twice as large in Britain as here.

Comparable majorities in both nations (56 per cent) hold the view that Mr. Nixon participated in a cover-up of the Watergate situation. Again, the proportion holding the opposite view is higher in the United States than in Britain.

Following are the questions asked in both nations and the comparison:

"Have you heard or read about Watergate?" (In Britain: "Have you heard or read about the so-called 'Watergate affair' in the United States?")

Britain	90%
U. S.	96%

Following is the trend in awareness among Americans, starting with an early measurement during last fall's presidential campaign:

Sept. 22-25, 1972	52%
April 6-9, 1973	83%
April 27-30	91%
May 11-14	96%

All persons in both nations who say they had heard or read about Watergate were asked the following questions:

"Do you think President Nixon knew in advance about the Watergate bugging of last June, or not?"

	Yes, Knew	No, Did Not	No Opinion
Britain	48%	20%	32%
U. S.	46%	36%	18%

"Do you think President Nixon has participated in a cover-up of the Watergate situation, or not?"

	Yes, Has	No, Has Not	No Opinion
Britain	56%	16%	28%
U. S.	56%	28%	16%