

GOP Weakened by Watergate

By George Gallup

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The impact of Watergate on party strength comes to light in a Gallup Poll designed to measure the political appeal of the two major parties in the coming congressional races of 1974.

Results show that Watergate is having an adverse effect on Republican fortunes and, if the next national election were being held at this time, the GOP loss of House seats would go far beyond the normal loss that an administration suffers in off-year elections.

The present standing of

the two major parties is revealed in the following figures which represent the likely division of the total popular vote cast for all 435 members of the House if the election were being held at this time:

- Democrats 55%
- Republicans 35%
- Other/Undecided ... 10%

After allocating the undecided vote on an equal basis to both major parties, the current vote is as follows:

	1972	Election Today	Change
Republicans	47%	40%	Minus 7
Democrats	53%	60%	Plus 7

While the American electorate in 1972 was giving President Nixon one of the

greatest majorities a president has received in this century, the Democrats succeeded in electing a sizable majority of members of the House. Interestingly, in nations with a parliamentary form of government this situation would be impossible, because the majority party in the legislative branch chooses the nation's leader.

The division of seats in the House — all of whose members come up for election every two years — as a result of the 1972 election was:

- Democrats 255
 - Republicans 179
 - Independent 1
- Percentages of the popu-

lar vote cannot be translated directly into seats, but the division of the popular vote in the present survey indicates a House division resembling that of 1964 when the Democrats won 57 per cent of the popular vote to 43 per cent for the Republicans and carried 295 seats to the GOP's 140.

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Abbey Visitors

London

More than 6 million visitors are expected during 1973 at Westminster Abbey.

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