

WATERGATE NEWS TOO MUCH, 44% SAY

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Only 38% in Gallup Poll Call
Coverage 'About Right'

A popular feeling throughout the country is that the Watergate affair has received too much attention from newspapers, radio and television, according to the latest Gallup Poll, released yesterday.

The survey found that 44 per cent of those interviewed believe the media have provided "too much" coverage, compared with 38 per cent who say the coverage has been "about right," and 11 per cent who say it has been "too little." Seven per cent had no opinion.

Opinion on the issue is highly partisan, with 66 per cent of those who identified themselves as Republicans saying the Watergate scandals have received "too much" coverage. Thirty-one per cent of the Democrats agreed.

"The press and television somehow have not awakened to the fact that the Watergate movie is over," a retired business executive told a Gallup interviewer. "The lynching party has hanged the bad guys."

Between June 1 and June 4, the Gallup Poll asked 1,552 adults, "With regard to the Watergate affair, do you think the mass media—that is, newspapers, television and radio—have provided too much coverage, about the right amount, or too little."

Regional Differences

The answers varied sharply in the country's four geographic regions, but differences in age, education and sex were not as great.

In the South, 50 per cent of those polled said they thought there was "too much" coverage. A similar belief was expressed by 44 per cent in the Middle West, 42 per cent in the East and 39 per cent in the West.

Forty-four per cent of the high school and college graduates who were polled said there was "too much" coverage, while 42 per cent of those with a grade school education agreed.

Thirty-eight per cent of those under the age of 30 said they thought the media had given "too much" coverage to the Watergate affair, while 44 per cent of those between 30 and 49 expressed a similar view,

as did 48 per cent of those who are 50 and over.

A 48-year-old business executive expressed a typical opinion when he said, "The media have made it practically impossible for the accused to get any sort of fair trial."

Another opinion came from a woman executive who said: "Who else would dig up all of this garbage and inform the public if it weren't for the newspapers? Certainly not the President."