

Watergate Probe Remains Popular

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J. — Despite the view held in some circles that the heavy daily media coverage of Watergate has produced a backlash of support for the Nixon administration, a survey completed prior to President Nixon's speech last Wednesday offers no evidence to support such a view.

Following are the questions asked in the survey, with national findings and trends:

"Here are four statements concerning President Nixon's connection with the Watergate affair. Will you please tell me which one comes closest to your own point of view?"

NIXON INVOLVEMENT	VIEWS ON EXTENT OF			
	June 1-4	June 22-25	July 6-9	Aug. 3-6
Nixon planned the Watergate bugging from the beginning	8%	8%	9%	8%
Nixon did not plan the bugging but knew about it before it took place	28	27	30	29
Nixon found out about the bugging after it occurred but tried to cover it up	31	36	34	37
Nixon had no knowledge of the bugging and spoke up as soon as he learned about it	19	17	15	15
No opinion/Not heard or read about Watergate	14	12	12	11

"Which of these two statements comes closer to your point of view about Watergate? (1) It's a very serious matter because it reveals corruption in the Nixon administration. (2) It's just politics—the kind of thing that both parties engage in."

	Serious Matter	Just Politics	No Opinion
Aug. 3-6	53%	39%	8%
July 6-9	48	45	7
June 22-25	48	45	7
June 1-4	47	46	7
April 6-9	31	53	16

"Do you think President Nixon should be impeached and compelled to leave the presidency, or not?"

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Aug. 3-6	26%	61%	13%
July 6-9	24	62	14
June 22-25	19	69	12

"Have you watched any of the hearings—either live or a rebroadcast? Just your best

estimate, about how many hours did you spend watching the hearings during the last 7 days?"

Yes, watched live 71%
Yes, watched a rebroadcast .. 30
No, did not watch 12
(Total adds up to more than 100 per cent since some persons indicated that they had watched both live TV and a rebroadcast.)
The following table shows heavy viewership by groups:

HEAVY VIEWING (10 Hrs. or More)	
NATIONAL	21
Men	19
Women	24
College background	26
High school	20
Grade school	19
Under 30 years	18
30 to 49 years	20
50 & over	24
East	24
Midwest	19
South	23
West	21

To determine how each of the committee members rates with the American people at this point, all those in the survey who indicated that they had heard or read about the person tested were then asked to rate him on a 10-point attitude scale called the Stapel Scalometer.

Following are the ratings for each member, ranked in terms of percentage giving a favorable vote.

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opinion
Daniel Inouye	84%	13%	3%
Sam Ervin	81	17	2
Howard Baker	78	20	2
H. Talmadge	76	21	3
Jos. Montoya	75	21	4
Edw. Gurney	69	26	5
Low. Weicker	69	28	3

The principal witnesses tested in the survey fare less well in public opinion at this time than do the Watergate committee members. None of the four men tested—John Dean, John Ehrlichman, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, John Mitchell—receives a favorable vote from a majority. Republicans are less likely to give these witnesses a highly unfavorable rating than are Democrats and independents.

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opinion
Dean	38%	60%	2%
Haldeman	36	62	2
Mitchell	31	67	2
Ehrlichman	31	67	2

The latest survey is based on interviews with 1,435 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 localities during the period Aug. 3-6.