

NYTimes
Nixon Backing Falls to 32% in Gallup Poll

OCT 4 1973

Less than one-third of the Americans surveyed in the most recent Gallup poll approve of the way President Nixon is handling his job.

This approval rate of 32 per cent follows a late August poll in which the President's popularity had risen to 38 per cent from an earlier low of 31 per cent. Mr. Nixon's highest popularity rating of 68 per cent was recorded in January after the Vietnam peace signing.

The new poll, taken Sept. 21 to 24 in a survey of 1,505 adults, came during discussion of the possibility of the indictment of Vice President Agnew. In addition, on Sept. 21, the Government announced that consumer prices had experienced their biggest increase in 26 years.

A recent Gallup poll showed the concern across the nation with rising prices. In that early September poll nine of every 10 persons said that inflation was one of the two top problems facing the nation.

Another problem affecting the President's popularity, according to Gallup, is the belief that Mr. Nixon was involved in the Watergate affair. Three out of four persons surveyed near mid-August believe the President was involved in the scandal to some extent.

Although Mr. Nixon's popularity is now at a low level,

Gallup shows that previous Presidents, particularly, Dwight D. Eisenhower, have regained lost support. In the spring of 1958 Mr. Eisenhower's popularity dipped to a low point of 40 per cent because of increased unemployment and lower farm prices. With improved conditions by January,

1960, the late President's popularity had risen to 71 per cent. Thirty-two per cent of those interviewed approved, 59 per cent disapproved and 9 per cent had no opinion on the following survey question:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President?"