

# How Nixon Stood in Poll -- Before Cox

By George Gallup

Princeton, N.Y.

President Nixon's popularity rating remains at a low level, with 30 per cent in the latest survey expressing approval of the way he is handling his job as President.

A majority, 57 per cent, disapprove, while 13 per cent are undecided.

The latest figure represents an eight-point decline

in approval of Mr. Nixon since a mid-August survey.

Interviewing in the latest survey was conducted over the weekend the Mideast hostilities erupted — before the resignation of Spiro Agnew, the nomination of Gerald Ford as his successor and before the dramatic developments this weekend in the Watergate tapes controversy.

## DROP

The President's current rating represents a drop of 38 percentage points from his high point of 68 per cent recorded in January, following the Vietnam peace settlement — the most precipitous drop yet recorded for any President in a nine-month period. Of Mr. Nixon's four immediate predecessors, only President Harry Truman received a lower rating than Nixon's — 23 per cent in late 1951, during the Korean war.

The decline in Mr. Nixon's approval percentage is most pronounced among those groups that form what is described as "middle America" and have been a key source of Mr. Nixon's support in the past — manual workers, whites and persons with an average education.

Mr. Nixon's decline in popularity has been greater among voters who described themselves as independents than it has among either Republicans or Democrats.

## QUESTION

Here is the question asked in the survey and the latest findings:

"Do you approve or disap-

prove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President?"

Approve 30 per cent

Disapprove 57 per cent

No Opinion 13 per cent

While only 16 per cent of Democrats approve of the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job, the figure is much higher among Republicans, with a majority of 57 per cent expressing approval. Independents are closer to the views of Democrats than of Republicans, with 29 per cent saying they approve of Mr. Nixon's performance in office.

Mr. Nixon is most popular in the South, where his approval score is 35 per cent. Among white southerners, he has a 39 per cent approval rating.

Copyright, 1973, Field Enterprises, Inc.