

A New Poll On Nixon's Impeachment

Princeton, N.J.

A majority of Americans (55 per cent) think President Nixon should not be impeached and compelled to leave the presidency, as determined by a special nationwide survey conducted immediately following Mr. Nixon's press conference Friday evening.

An even larger majority, 62 per cent, express the opinion that it would not be in the best interests of the country for Nixon to resign at this time.

Confidence in the Nixon administration, however, remains at a low level. A majority in the survey (55 per cent) say they have either "not very much" or "no" trust and confidence in the administration. This finding represents little change from the one recorded in a mid-October survey in which the same question was asked.

Of the six in ten persons who say they have seen or heard the President's press conference, 53 per cent found his responses concerning Watergate to be unconvincing. This compares with 31 per cent who found them convincing and 16 per cent who have mixed feelings or do not express an opinion.

Another question shows six in ten persons (63 per cent) saying they would like to see Congress confirm Representative Gerald Ford as vice president at this time. This compares with 17 per cent who are opposed to confirmation and 20 per cent who do not express an opinion.

Following are the questions and national findings:

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

Yes, should	28%
No, should not	55%
No opinion	17%

"Some people think it would be in the best interests of the country for President Nixon to resign at this time. What is your opinion?"

Yes, in best interest	28%
No, not best interest	62%
No opinion	10%

"How much trust and confidence do you have in the Nixon administration: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?"

Great deal	19%
Fair amount	23%
Not very much	32%
None at all	23%
No opinion	3%

"Did you happen to see or hear President Nixon's press conference tonight (Friday, October 26) on television?"

Yes	61%
No	39%

Those who said they had seen or heard the press conference were then asked: "Did you find the President's responses concerning Watergate convincing or not convincing?"

Convincing	31%
Not convincing	53%
Mixed opinion	9%
No opinion	7%

"Would you like to see Congress confirm Gerald Ford as vice president at this time, or not?"

Yes	63%
No	17%
No opinion	20%