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Coast Poll Finds Most Doubt Nixon On TV Coverage

By LINDA GREENHOUSE

Two-thirds of a cross-section of California residents polled this week disagreed with President Nixon's assertion during his news conference Oct. 26 that recent television coverage of his Administration had included "outrageous, vicious and distorted reporting."

Only 14 per cent of the 526 Californians questioned agreed "completely" with the President. Seventeen per cent "agreed somewhat" while 45 per cent disagreed completely and 22 per cent disagreed "somewhat."

The telephone survey was conducted by the Mervin D. Field organization during the three days following Mr. Nixon's news conference. The Field poll, which has a record for accuracy in predicting the outcome of California elections, also found that while 27 per cent of the people believed that news coverage of Watergate was "generally unfair and biased" at the start of the Senate hearings in May only 17 per cent still hold that opinion.

Meanwhile, as the week ended, requests for President Nixon's resignation or impeachment were coming in from some unexpected sources.

Joseph Alsop, the syndicated columnist who has been a longtime supporter of the Nixon Administration's policies on defense and Vietnam, began his column in The Washington Post yesterday with the sentence: "The time has come for President Nixon to offer his resignation"—conditional upon Gerald Ford's prompt confirmation as Vice President.

Mr. Alsop wrote that he had reached his conclusion "with

extreme reluctance" because, he said, "the great engine of the U.S. Government, the Presidency, has temporarily broken down." Mr. Alsop added that "it can be said on excellent authority that before the President's recent agonizing press conference, he played for a long time with precisely the same conclusions," but he did not indicate why Mr. Nixon had changed his mind.

Almost 70 per cent of the 393 Yale alumni and their wives polled by the Yale Student Committee on Impeachment said that the House Judiciary Committee should pursue its inquiry into the possibility of impeachment. More than 90 per cent of the post-1960 graduates wanted the inquiry pursued. Among those who graduated before 1960, the percentage was 59.3.