

Nixon Job Rating Slips Back to 27 Per Cent Low

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—President Nixon's job rating has slipped back to its low point of 27 per cent approval after a brief 4-point gain during "Operation Candor."

Mr. Nixon's job rating declined from 32 per cent in late September to 27 per cent in late October, largely as a result of the firing of special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox. "Operation Candor, launched in November, succeeded in halting the trend, but subsequent surveys show that the effects of Mr. Nixon's "going public" have been short-lived.

Following is the question asked about each incumbent President since FDR's administration:

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

[The question was asked before technical experts testified that a tape gap was caused by at least five separate erasures and re-recordings].

Here are the national findings and trend since September:

| | Approve | Dis-approve | No Opin. |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|----------|
| Jan. 4-7 | 27% | 63% | 10% |
| Dec. 7-10 | 29 | 66 | 11 |
| Nov 30-Dec. 3 | 31 | 59 | 10 |
| Start of 'Operation Candor' | | | |
| Nov. 2-5 | 27 | 63 | 10 |
| Oct. 19-22 | 27 | 60 | 13 |
| Oct. 6-8 | 30 | 57 | 13 |
| Sept. 21-24 | 32 | 59 | 9 |

Analysis of the latest survey findings by population groups reveals that disapproval outweighs approval in every group except among

Republicans. Among GOP voters, a slight majority, 53 per cent, approve while 35 per cent disapprove and 12 per cent have no opinion. In comparison, only 11 per cent of Democrats and 26 per cent of independents approve of the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job.

The South continues to be the President's strongest region, but by a decreasing margin. Among Southerners, 33 per cent express approval, compared to 41 per cent who did so in the first survey following the start of "Operation Candor." Mr. Nixon conducted a brief speaking tour in that region as part of "Operation Candor."

Mr. Nixon's current job rating—which equal his low point to date—is eight points lower than President Lyndon Johnson's low point of 35 per cent approval, recorded during a period of growing pessimism over the Vietnam war. The table below shows the highs and lows in approval for Mr. Nixon and his predecessors:

| | (Per Cent Approving) | |
|------------|----------------------|-----|
| | High | Low |
| Nixon | 68% | 27% |
| Johnson | 80 | 35 |
| Kennedy | 83 | 57 |
| Eisenhower | 79 | 49 |
| Truman | 87 | 23 |

The findings reported are based on a national survey of 1,504 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during the period Jan. 4-7, 1974.