

Gallup Finds Nation Evenly Divided on Nixon Resignation

By George Gallup

The American public is now evenly divided on whether President Nixon should resign, according to the Gallup poll.

At the same time, a majority of the public opposes removing Mr. Nixon from office by impeachment.

The polling which found these views was done Jan. 4 through Jan. 7. That was before a panel of technical experts testified last week that a subpoenaed tape recording of a conversation between the President and his former assistant, H. R. Halde- man, dealing at least in part with Watergate, may have been tampered with deliberately. That tape is the famous one with an 18½-minute gap.

The Gallup organization found the public split 46 per cent to 46 per cent on the resignation question, with only 8 per cent undecided.

On impeaching the President and compelling him to leave office, 53 per cent were opposed, and 37 per cent in favor. Ten per cent said they had no opinion.

The impeachment percentages have been about the same since October.

Gallup said some Americans favor resignation but oppose impeachment "because they believe the latter would be detrimental to the best interests of the nation and further sully our image abroad."

Meanwhile, a Harris survey conducted Jan. 7 through Jan. 10, also before last week's testimony, found that:

- By 67 to 21 per cent, with 12 per cent "not sure," Americans now think "President Nixon knew about the attempt to cover up White House involvement in Watergate while it was going on."

- By 60 to 21 per cent, the public does not believe the missing 18 minutes on the disputed tape "were erased by mistake by the President's secretary Rose Mary Woods."

- By 59 to 22 per cent, Americans feel the 18 missing minutes "were deliberately erased because they would have proven Mr. Nixon's involvement in the cover-up."

- By 48 to 40 per cent, they think Mr. Nixon "should be impeached if Judge Sirica were to decide that the President was negligent in the care he took of the Watergate tapes."

Gallup found that the "groups most in favor of Mr. Nixon's resigning or being compelled to leave office through impeachment are nonwhites, young adults and persons living in the East."

Gallup reported further:

Opinion on the resignation and impeachment issues has a strongly partisan flavor, with the overwhelming majority of Republicans opposed to either course of action, but with Democrats leaning heavily in favor of both. The opinions of independents are about midway between those of Republicans and Democrats and very close to the views of the nation as a whole.

Do you think President Nixon should resign from the presidency, or not?

	Yes, Should	No, Should Not	No Opinion	%
NATIONAL	46%	46%		8%
Whites	43	49		8
Nonwhites	71	20		9
College	48	46		6
High school	48	45		7
Grade school	39	49		12
18-29 years	58	35		7
30-49 years	46	46		8
50 and over	38	54		8
East	54	38		8
Midwest	45	49		6
South	38	52		10
West	47	45		8
Republicans	19	76		5
Democrats	67	25		8
Independents	43	48		9

Following is the question asked to determine attitudes on removing Mr. Nixon from office through impeachment:

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

The following table shows the latest nationwide results and trend, showing little change since early November:

	Yes	No	No Opinion
Jan. 4-7	37%	53%	10%
Nov. 30-Dec. 3	35	54	11
Nov. 2-5	37	54	9
Oct. 19-22	33	52	15
Aug. 3-6	26	61	13
July 6-9	24	62	14
June 22-25	19	69	12

Here are the results of the latest survey by population groups:

	Yes, Should	No, Should Not	No Opinion
NATIONAL	37%	53%	10%
Whites	34	57	9
Nonwhites	60	26	14
College	36	57	7
High school	39	51	10
Grade school	31	55	14
18-29 years	50	42	8
30-49	36	54	10
50 and over	28	60	12
East	43	48	9
Midwest	34	58	8
South	30	57	13
West	40	49	11
Republicans	13	82	5
Democrats	53	35	12
Independents	36	54	10

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