

Nixon Popularity Hits Lowest Point: 26 Per Cent

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J. — President Nixon's job rating is at its low point. In the latest nationwide survey, conducted following the recent testimony by experts concerning erasures on the White House tapes, 26 per cent of the public approve of the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job as President, while 64 per cent disapprove and 10 per cent are undecided.

The latest findings, taken before the State of the Union address, show virtually no change since the previous survey, which was conducted in early January prior to the recent testimony regarding the tape erasures. In that survey, 27 per cent expressed approval.

Although Mr. Nixon had registered a short-lived four-point gain in an early December survey, following the start of "Operation Candor," his rating has declined steadily since then, from 31 per cent approval to today's figure of 26 per cent.

The President's current popularity rating is only three points above the lowest rating given any President in the 36 years these measurements have been taken.

President Truman received approval from only 23 per cent of the public in November, 1951, following the breakdown of truce talks during the Korean War.

Following is the question asked by the Gallup Poll about each incumbent President since Franklin Roosevelt's administration.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way (name of incumbent President) is handling his job as President?

Jan. 18-21	Approve	26%	Disapprove	64%	No Opinion	10%
Jan. 4-7	Approve	27%	Disapprove	63%	No Opinion	10%

The findings are based on a national survey of 1,592 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during the period Jan. 18-21.

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Poll Finds Resignation, Impeachment Favored

Two out of every three Americans want President Nixon's crisis resolved either by resignation or impeachment, according to a public-opinion survey by the Roper Organization.

The sampling of 1,770 citizens found that 24 per cent prefer resignation and 38 per cent believe the President should be "investigated

and tried by Congress so that the question of his guilt or innocence can be definitely established."

A minority of 31 per cent said they thought the President has been over-criticized and should neither resign nor be impeached. The Roper Organization concluded that "support for the President continues to erode."

The surveying was done in the first two weeks of December, before the President's State of the Union message and before the experts' testimony about deliberate erasures of White House tapes. The information was released by the American Civil Liberties Union, one of Roper's subscribers and an organization that is campaigning for impeachment.