

Most Feel President Should Give Up Data

By Louis Harris

By 54 to 32 per cent, a majority agrees with the statement that "if President Nixon fails to turn over the information the House Judiciary Committee wants, that committee should vote to bring up impeachment charges against the President." This sentiment takes on added significance because an even larger segment of the public, 64 to 17 per cent, does not expect Mr. Nixon "to turn over all the evidence to the House Judiciary Committee."

When people were asked why they feel the way they do about the House Judiciary Committee recommending a vote on impeachment if Mr. Nixon fails to produce evidence believed to be in his possession, here are the reasons they gave for reaching their conclusions:

	Total Public
Favor	54%
President Nixon is lying, not telling the truth	22
He's guilty, trying to hide something	15
He should not be above the law and thinks he is	12
He has lost the confidence of the people	5
Oppose	32%
If he withholds information it will be for national security reasons	7
Impeachment would hurt U.S. in eyes of world	7
Not convinced he's guilty	5
Best man for the job	4
He's no more crooked than other politicians	4
He should serve out his term	3
It is wrong to impeach a President	2
Not sure	14

Periodically, the Harris Survey has asked nationwide cross sections of the public—last asked of 1,665 households from February 18 to 22—this question:

Do you feel President Nixon has been frank and honest on the Watergate affair, or do you feel he has withheld important information on it?

	Frank, Honest	Withheld Facts	Not Sure
February, 1974	18%	71%	11%
January	18	73	9
November, 1973	19	69	12
October	18	69	13
September	17	71	12
August	21	71	8
July	20	65	15
June	21	58	21
May	22	61	17
April	9	63	28

The cross-section was asked:

In his State of the Union speech, President Nixon said he would cooperate with the House Judiciary Committee which is deciding whether he should be tried on impeachment charges. However, the President also said he would decide what he would turn over to the Committee in the way of evidence. Do you think President Nixon will turn over all the evidence to the House Judiciary Committee or do you think he will withhold important information from them?

	Total Public
Will turn over all evidence	17%
Will withhold important information	64
Not sure	19

If the public's doubts are confirmed that the President will not be forthcoming, then most people believe the committee should vote out a bill of impeachment: People were asked:

If President Nixon fails to turn over the information the House Judiciary Committee wants, do you think that committee should vote to bring up impeachment charges against the President, or not?

	Total Public
Should	54%
Should not	32
Not sure	14