

2 Polls Show Nixon

President Nixon's standing with the American people has slumped to an all-time low, with only about a quarter of the public approving his performance in office, according to the results of two major public opinion surveys issued yesterday.

The most recent Gallup Poll shows 25 per cent of the public approving the way Mr. Nixon is handling his duties as President, while 64 per cent disapprove and 11 per cent are undecided.

The latest Harris Survey shows a 26 per cent positive rating, against 71 per cent negative.

In February, Mr. Nixon stood at 27 per cent favorable in the Gallup Poll and 29 per cent in the Harris Survey.

The President's standing in the Gallup Poll is only two percentage points higher than the lowest rating given any President since the opinion samplings were begun in President Roosevelt's second term. President Truman received the approval of only 23 per cent of the public in November, 1951, shortly after the truce talks during the Korean conflict broke down.

The latest figures reflect public reaction after a federal grand jury on March 1 indicted seven of Mr. Nixon's former White House and campaign aides on charges of trying to cover up the Watergate affair.

The sampling of opinion was completed, however, before the President began his most recent series of televised press conferences and public appearances to explain his role in the scandal and his position with respect to the House impeachment inquiry.

The Harris Survey sampling was taken between March 3

and 7, while the Gallup Poll's was done during the periods Feb. 22-25 and March 1-4.

The Gallup Poll also showed that the President's position has worsened at both ends of a public opinion scale designed to reflect intensity of approval and disapproval.

Results show that only 12 per cent of the public now strongly approves the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job, while 48 per cent strongly dis-

approves. In December, 16 per cent strongly approved and 41 per cent strongly disapproved.

However, when asked if the President should resign, 47 of those polled in the Harris survey opposed such a move, while 44 per cent favored resignation.

The number of persons favoring Mr. Nixon's resignation has not changed in the Harris Survey for three months, apparently reflecting public def-

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ference to the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment proceedings and the President's repeated assertions that he would never resign from office.

In the latest Gallup Poll, Republicans continued to give the President majority support, with 55 per cent of Mr. Nixon's fellow party members approving his performance. Only 14 per cent of the Democrats and 24 per cent of the In-

dependents polled registered approval.

Regionally, the President continued to receive his highest rating—31 per cent approval—in the South, according to the Gallup sampling. Mr. Nixon is least popular in the East, where only 20 per cent approved. The Gallup Poll showed approval rates of 26 and 23 per cent in the Midwest and far West, respectively.