

Public's Rating of Nixon Up 5 Points

By Louis Harris

In a survey taken before the congressional and Internal Revenue Service findings of President Nixon's tax underpayments, his overall standing had risen 5 points to 31 per cent positive. During the past month, Mr. Nixon has engaged in a heavy schedule of television and radio exposure in many parts of the country, holding press conferences, open sessions, and making speeches. Prior to this, he had reached his all-time low of 26 per cent positive.

One indication that the President is still in real trouble emerged when, by 49 to 34 per cent, a plurality of the people agreed with the statement that "when all of the investigations and crises have finished, President Nixon will be found to have violated the law, as was true with Vice President Agnew." Back in February, the public felt the same way, but by a much closer 43 to 38 per cent.

When asked about the President's ability to inspire confidence, by 78 to 15 per cent the public gives him negative marks, the lowest point yet recorded in a Harris Survey since Mr. Nixon assumed office in 1969. The cross-section of 1,495 house

holds across the nation was asked between March 24 and March 29:

How would you rate President Nixon on inspiring confidence personally in the White House — excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?

	Good-Excellent	Only Fair-Poor	Not Sure
March, 1974 ..	15%	78%	7%
Feb.	15	77	8
Jan.	17	78	5
Nov., 1973 ..	18	76	6
March	38	50	12
Feb.	48	41	11

Despite the lack of any gain in engendering personal confidence, nonetheless the President's overall job rating has risen 5 points since early March:

How would you rate the job President Nixon is doing

as President—excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?

	Good-Excellent	Only Fair-Poor	Not Sure
Late March, 1974	31%	66%	3%
Early March ..	26	71	3
Feb.	29	68	3
Jan.	30	68	2
Nov., 1973	37	61	2
Oct.	32	64	4
July	42	54	4
June	48	49	3
March	59	39	2
Feb.	60	39	1

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