

The Harris Survey

43% Want Nixon To Be Impeached

By Louis Harris

By a narrow 43 to 41 per cent plurality the American people are now prepared to agree that "President Nixon should be impeached by Congress and removed from office," while 16 per cent are still unsure.

This is the first time that the Harris Survey has recorded a popular margin in favor of Congress removing Mr. Nixon from the presidency.

A clear majority, 55 to 33 per cent, agrees with the statement that "if President Nixon fails to turn over the information the House Judiciary Committee wants," then that committee "should vote to bring impeachment charges against the President."

A substantial number, 67 to 19 per cent, do not expect the President to turn over all the evidence the Judiciary Committee wants.

From these results, drawn from a national cross-section of 1,495 households interviewed between March 24 and 29, it is fair to conclude that the American people now want the full procedures of the Constitution regarding impeachment to be invoked against President Nixon.

Despite his efforts to take his case to the people, Mr. Nixon's troubles over Watergate-related events appear to be growing rather than diminishing. His over-all job rating has recently risen 5 points from its all-time low,

but public opinion remains deeply skeptical about the President's claims of innocence on the Watergate cover up.

The cross-section was asked: *All in all, do you think President Nixon should or should not be impeached by Congress and removed from office?*

	Yes	No	Not Sure
NATIONWIDE	43%	41%	16%
By Region			
East	51	35	14
Midwest	42	45	13
South	32	48	20
West	47	36	17
By Educational Level			
8th Grade or Less	41	38	21
High School	41	44	15
College	46	40	14
By Occupation			
Professional	44	39	17
Executive	35	53	14
Skilled Labor	48	37	15
White Collar	42	43	15
By Party			
Republicans	15	72	13
Democrats	56	28	16
Independent	45	41	14
By Religion			
Catholic	46	37	17
White Protestant	33	53	17
Jewish	57	26	17

Viewed in political terms, it is apparent now that Mr. Nixon's 1968 base of support is still his strongest, while there has been considerable erosion among the new groups he penetrated in 1972: Catholics, trade union members, and skilled labor. He also appears to be losing ground among the better educated, more affluent, professional types, who make up the new and independent swing balance of power in the country.