

Edited Transcripts Hurt Nixon, Gallup Poll Says

By George Gallup

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By a ratio of more than 2 to 1, the American people believe the House Judiciary Committee was right in its decision to reject President Nixon's offer of edited transcripts as a substitute for the 42 Watergate tapes subpoenaed by the committee.

This finding is based on the opinions of those persons in a nationwide telephone survey, conducted Thursday evening, who saw or heard the President's speech last Monday night or who read any part of the transcripts.

By a ratio of 3 to 1, the informed group say their opinion of Mr. Nixon has become "less favorable" rather than "more favorable" as a result of the developments of the past few days.

This survey also shows opinion to be evenly divided on the question of whether Mr. Nixon or John Dean has been more truthful in his statements on Watergate. At the heart of the controversy over Watergate is Dean's contention that Mr. Nixon was involved in the coverup and the President's denial of such involvement.

Opinion is closely divided on the question of whether there is enough evidence of possible wrongdoing in the case of Mr. Nixon to bring him to trial before the Senate.

However, the weight of public sentiment now is, by the ratio of 5 to 4, against his being removed from the presidency by the Senate.

Only about half of Americans saw or heard the President's televised speech last Monday night, a considerably smaller percentage of

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persons than typically view a major televised speech by Mr. Nixon.

Following are the questions asked in the survey and the findings:

1—Did you happen to see or hear President Nixon's speech on television Monday night?

Yes	51%
No	49

2—Did you happen to read or hear reports on any of President Nixon's transcripts of the Watergate tapes?

Yes	63%
No	37

3—As a result of the developments of the last few days, has your opinion of President Nixon become more favorable or less favorable?

(Based on aware group)	
More favorable	17%
Less favorable	42
Stayed same	35
No opinion	6

4—The House Judiciary Committee did not accept Mr. Nixon's proposals regarding the tapes. Do you think the committee was right or wrong in taking this action?

(Based on aware group)	
Right	62%
Wrong	24
No opinion	14

5—Whose statements about Watergate are you more in-

clined to believe, John Dean's or President Nixon's?

(Based on aware group)	
Dean's	36%
Nixon's	38
No opinion	26

6A—Impeachment, as you probably know, involves the following:

First, the lower house — that is, the U.S. House of Representatives — must decide whether there is enough evidence to bring a President to trial before the Senate. If the House of Representatives decides that there is enough evidence, the Senate then conducts a trial to determine whether or not the President's actions are serious enough to warrant his being removed from the presidency.

Now, let me ask you first of all, if you think there is enough evidence of possible wrongdoing in the case of President Nixon to bring him to trial before the Senate, or not?

(Based on total sample)	
Yes	44%
No	41
No opinion	15

6B—Just from the way you feel now, do you think his actions are serious enough to warrant his being removed from the presidency, or not?

(Based on total sample)	
Yes	38%
No	49
No opinion	13

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