

On Nixon Removal

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By a margin of 48 to 37 per cent, the American people believe President Nixon's actions are serious enough to warrant his being removed from the presidency.

These findings represent only a small change in the proportion holding this view since a survey taken in mid-April, prior to the President's release of transcripts of White House tapes. The division of opinion in that survey was 46 to 42 per cent in favor of removing Mr. Nixon from office.

Results of a similar question—asked in eight surveys prior to the April survey—showed a steady upward

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trend in the proportion in favor of compelling Mr. Nixon to leave office. Last June, when the public was first polled on the issue, only 19 per cent backed such a course of action.

Here is the trend, based on the following question (which was preceded by an explanation of the impeachment process): "Just from the way you feel now, do you think his (Mr. Nixon's) actions are serious enough to warrant his being removed from the presidency, or not?"

	YES	NO	No Opinion
MAY 1974	48 Pct.	37 Pct.	15 Pct.
APRIL 1974	46	42	12

For purposes of comparison, here are the results for the eight previous surveys, based on the following question: "Do you think President Nixon should be impeached and compelled to leave the presidency, or not?"

	YES	NO	No Opinion
FEB. 1974	38 Pct.	51 Pct.	11 Pct.
JAN. 1974	37	53	10
DEC. 1973	35	54	11
NOV. 1973	37	54	9
OCT. 1973	33	52	15
AUG. 1973	26	61	13
JULY 1973	24	62	14
JUNE 1973	19	65	12

The current survey sought to determine opinions re-

garding impeachment, as well as removal from office. The vote on impeachment is 51 per cent in favor, 31 per cent opposing, with 18 per cent undecided.

Additional analysis indicates that most of those who favor impeachment think, Mr. Nixon's actions are serious enough to have him removed from office. However, one person in eight among this same group does not think his actions merit such a course.

Because some confusion is found regarding the meaning of the term "impeachment," the process of impeachment was spelled out in the survey question:

"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?"

	Enough Evidence to Impeach Nixon		
	Yes	No	No opinion
May, 1974	51%	31%	18%
April, 1974	52%	33%	15%

All persons in the survey were then asked the question on removal, as given earlier.

The findings reported today are based on a nationwide survey of 1543 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during the period May 10-13.

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