

Gallup Poll**After the
Transcripts**By *George Gallup*

Princeton, N.J.

President Nixon's release of the transcripts of the White House tapes on April 30 has not reduced the large percentage of Americans who believe the President was involved in a coverup of the Watergate bugging or had advance knowledge of the incident.

The latest nationwide Gallup survey, conducted May 10-13, shows nearly three persons in four (73 per cent) holding the opinion that Mr. Nixon was involved to some extent in the scandal which has dominated the news for well over a year.

The previous survey on the subject, conducted in February, showed virtually the same proportion (71 per cent) holding the opinion that Mr. Nixon was involved in the Watergate scandal.

Opinions regarding Mr. Nixon's involvement, in fact, have shown remarkably little change since the question was first asked, nearly one year ago. In that first survey, conducted in early June, as many as 67 per cent of the public felt that the President played some role in the rapidly spreading scandal.

About one person in 12 in the latest survey (8 per cent) thinks Mr. Nixon actually planned the Watergate bugging. Another 26 per cent say he did not plan the bugging but knew about it before it took place. Nearly four in ten, 39 per cent, hold the view that Mr. Nixon found out about the bugging after it occurred and tried to cover it up.

Only 14 per cent express the view that he had no knowledge of the bugging and spoke up as soon as he learned about it.

Since the February survey, the proportion saying Mr. Nixon planned the bug-

ging or knew about it before it took place has shown little change. At the same time, however, a five-point increase is found in the percentage holding the belief that the President found out about the bugging after it occurred but tried to cover it up.

Those absolving Mr. Nixon of any involvement have shown a slight decline since February — from 17 per cent to 14 per cent.

The findings reported today are based on a nationwide survey of 1543 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in more than 300 localities.

As reported last week, developments of recent weeks, including Mr. Nixon's release of the transcripts, have had virtually no effect on his popularity rating with the American people. The latest survey (May 10-13) shows 25 per cent of the sample expressing approval of the way he is handling his job as chief executive with 61 per cent disapproving and 14 per cent undecided. The current approval figure matches his low point.

This is the question asked to measure attitudes on Mr. Nixon's involvement in Watergate.

"Here are four statements concerning President Nixon's connection with the Watergate affair. Will you tell me which one comes closest to your own point of view? (A) Mr. Nixon planned the Watergate bugging from the beginning. (B) Mr. Nixon did not plan the bugging but knew about it before it took place. (C) Mr. Nixon found out about the bugging after it occurred, but tried to cover it up. (D) Mr. Nixon had no knowledge of the bugging and spoke up as soon as he learned about it."

Here is the trend:

VIEWS ON NIXON INVOLVEMENT

	Planned	Knew About	Covered Up	No Knowledge	No Opinion
May 10-13	8%	26%	39%	14%	13%

(Nixon's Release of Tape Transcripts)

Feb. 1-4	9	28	34	17	12
Nov. 2-5	10	32	34	15	9
Sept. 7-10	11	28	33	18	10
Aug. 17-20	9	24	40	23	4
Aug. 3-6	9	29	37	15	11
July 6-9	9	30	34	15	12
June 22-25	8	27	36	17	12
June 1-4	8	28	31	19	14