

Transcripts Seen Hurting President

A survey by the Roper Organization shows that 55 per cent of the American people lowered their opinion of President Nixon after he made public edited transcripts of taped presidential conversations.

The survey, taken in mid-May and released yesterday, also shows that 44 per cent thought the transcripts did not make it clear whether the President was innocent of wrongdoing in the Water-gate cover-up.

President Nixon made the transcripts public April 30. The Roper Organization

made its study May 11-18, interviewing "a national cross-section of 2,000 adults, 18 years of age and up."

Asked how interested they were in "this whole matter of the tapes and transcripts," the sample responded 51 per cent "very interested," 34 per cent "moderately interested," 14 per cent "not much interested," and 1 per cent "don't know."

Eleven per cent of the sample said the transcripts "support President Nixon's contention he's innocent," 36 per cent said they "support

critics' contention he's guilty," 44 per cent said "not clear" and 10 per cent

Five per cent said the "whole tape and transcript matter" gave them a higher regard for President Nixon, 55 per cent said it lowered their regard for him, 37 per cent said it made "no difference" and 3 per cent said they didn't know.