

The Gallup Poll

President Registers No Gains

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J. —

President Nixon failed to register gains in popularity following his recent five-nation tour of the Middle East. Only 26 per cent in the latest survey say they approve of the way he is handling his job as chief executive, only one point above his low point to date.

Despite the fact that Mr. Nixon's personal diplomacy has on earlier occasions boosted his standing with the American public, a similar effect is not found in the current survey. The reason lies in the fact that concern over domestic affairs today far outweighs concern over foreign affairs in the public's assessment of Mr. Nixon's performance.

The most recent surveys show domestic problems overshadowing international problems in the public's thinking by the widest margin recorded in recent decades. High prices and Watergate top the list of problems named.

When persons in the survey are asked to rate Mr. Nixon on his handling of international affairs, 54 per cent express approval. In contrast, only 18 per cent approve of his handling of domestic affairs.

While his overall rating has remained virtually unchanged since the previous survey, he has registered a sharp 8-point gain among those interviewed who have a college background. In contrast, his rating has fallen off slightly among persons whose formal education is limited to high school or grade school.

Among college persons, a group which surveys reveal to have a greater interest in foreign affairs, as many as 7 in 10 (72 per cent) say they

approve of the way Mr. Nixon is handling international relations. In contrast only 54 per cent of persons with a high school background and 34 per cent of those with a grade school education say they approve.

Following is the question asked to determine attitudes on the President's overall performance in office:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President?

Here are the latest results, based on a survey conducted following the President's five-nation tour of the Middle East but before his recent trip to Russia:

Approve	26%
Disapprove	61%
No opinion	13%

To determine attitudes toward the President's handling of foreign policy, this question was asked:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling our foreign policy—that is, our relations with other nations?

Here are the results:

Approve	54%
Disapprove	32%
No opinion	14%

To determine attitudes toward the President's handling of the domestic scene, this question was asked:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling our domestic problems here at home?

Here are the results:

Approve	18%
Disapprove	71%
No opinion	11%

President Nixon's overall job rating for the 12 measurements thus far this year appears to have been little affected by events and has fluctuated within a narrow margin of three percentage points—from a high of 28 per cent to a low of 25 per cent, his lowest point since taking office.

The finding reported today are based on a nationwide survey of 1,509 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 localities during the period June 21-24.