

California Poll

A Majority Wants Nixon Out of Office

By Mervin D. Field

Amid widespread expressions of shock and indignation, an overwhelming majority of Californians now would like to see Richard Nixon out of the office by one means or another. More of the public wants him removed by impeachment and conviction than wants the President to resign from office.

The public appears to have little sympathy for the President's personal situation. Along with the feeling that "the President must go but follow the Constitution to get him out", large pluralities of the public feel that Mr. Nixon should not be granted immunity from criminal prosecution, and that he should not be allowed to practice law when he leaves his office.

The California Poll made a telephone survey on Tuesday evening among a sample of 632 adults residing in Southern and Northern California.

The survey found the opinions:

- By a 73 per cent to 20 per cent ratio the public favors a House vote for impeachment.

- By 66 per cent to 24 per cent ratio the public feels the Senate should vote for removal of the President.

Despite overwhelming sentiment for the removal of Mr. Nixon from the presidency, the public is evenly divided on whether he should resign (48 per cent to 44 per cent).

The public does not favor the idea of granting President Nixon immunity from criminal prosecution in matters relating to the Watergate affair. By a 54 per cent to 31 per cent, the public rejects this proposal, which has been advanced in some Washington circles.

By a similar margin (50 per cent to 31 per cent) the public does not think that President Nixon should be allowed to practice law should he leave office.

In appraising the kind of job Vice President Gerald Ford would do as President, if he assumed office, about one in five (22 per cent) thinks he would do a "good job," 43 per cent think he would do a "fair job". One in ten (10 per cent) thinks he would do a "poor job".

A significant factor in this survey compared to previous surveys is a notable drop in support for the President among California Republicans.

Republicans, who represent about 37 per cent of the state's voting population, feel that the House should impeach the President by a 53 per cent to 39 per cent ratio. On the matter of whether the Senate should remove him, Republicans are more evenly divided, 46 per cent against conviction, 41 per cent in favor. On the matter of resignation, 59 per cent do not think the President should do this, whereas 32 per cent say he should.

Here are the questions asked in the survey and the distribution of replies in terms of percentage:

SHOULD HOUSE VOTE FOR IMPEACHMENT?

	TOTAL	DEMOS	REPS
Should	73	85	53
Should not	20	8	39
No opinion	7	7	8

SHOULD SENATE VOTE TO REMOVE OR NOT?

Should	66	82	41
Should not	24	10	46
No opinion	10	8	13

SHOULD NIXON RESIGN?

Should	48	58	32
Should not	44	34	59
No opinion	8	8	9

SHOULD NIXON BE GRANTED IMMUNITY FROM CRIMINAL PROSECUTION?

Should	31	24	42
Should not	54	61	43
No opinion	15	15	15

SHOULD NIXON BE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE LAW AFTER LEAVING OFFICE?

Should	31	23	43
Should not	50	62	32
No opinion	19	15	25

KIND OF JOB FORD WOULD DO AS PRESIDENT?

Good job	22	19	27
Fair job	43	45	39
Poor job	10	11	9
Don't know/no opinion	25	25	25