

WXPost

The Gallup Poll

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Nixon Support Stayed Low

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—In a survey completed last weekend—just prior to President Nixon's dramatic admission on Monday that he had ordered a halt to the investigation of the Watergate break-in—the shape of public opinion was as follows:

- Mr. Nixon's popularity at the time of the survey stood at 26 per cent approval, near his all-time low and close to the lowest point recorded for any President in the past four decades. Watergate and Watergate-related matters, as well as a growing concern over inflation, had apparently erased any support Mr. Nixon had received for his international efforts, including his trips to the Middle East and the Soviet Union.

Due largely to Watergate, Mr. Nixon's popularity plummeted an unprecedented 44 points between January, 1973—following the Vietnam peace settlement—to his all-time low of 24 per cent, recorded in mid-July.

- Nearly three-quarters of the public, 73 per cent, felt Mr. Nixon either planned the bugging, or at least knew about it and participated in the cover-up. The proportion of the public who believe Mr. Nixon was involved in the planning or cover-up of Watergate has remained remarkably stable.

- As reported Wednesday, a substantial majority of the public, 64 per cent, favored Mr. Nixon's impeachment, while a smaller majority, 55 per cent, favored his removal from office. The proportion favoring both actions had increased sharply since the previous survey in mid-July when 51 per cent favored impeachment and 46 per cent were for removing Mr. Nixon from office.

- At the time of last weekend's survey, a majority, 59 per cent, predicted Mr. Nixon would be impeached by the House of Representatives, with almost half the public, 45 per cent, predicting he would be removed from office by the Senate.

- By a vote of 44 to 35 per cent, the public said they would prefer Vice President

Gerald Ford to Mr. Nixon as chief executive for the remaining two years of Mr. Nixon's second term.

The findings reported today are based on a total sample of 1,306 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during the period Aug. 2 to 4.

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