

49 Per Cent Rate Ford Negatively

By Louis Harris

The continuing negative impact of President Ford's pardon of former President Nixon is best summed up by the 49-to-45 per cent negative overall job rating that the public now gives the President, compared with a 67-to-20 per cent positive standing only one month ago.

The cross President Ford will have to bear indefinitely is the Nixon pardon, for which he receives a 67-to-29 per cent negative rating.

Between Sept. 23 and 27, a national cross-section of 1,544 adults was asked:

Although he has been in office only a short time, how would you rate the job President Gerald Ford is doing — excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?

	Late Sept.	Early Sept.
Positive	45%	67%
Negative	49%	20%
Not Sure	6%	13%

Before the Nixon pardon, Mr. Ford was given every benefit of the doubt. Now, he must rely on his specific performance in domestic and world affairs to regain public backing and to determine if and how the wounds inflicted by the Nixon pardon will heal.

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