51 Pct. in Poll Say Nixon Lied In TV Interview

NEW YORK, May 6 (AP) — More than half the Americans who watched firmer President Nixon talk about week felt he lied several times in response to questions from David Frost, a Harris poll commissioned by the American Broadcasting Corp. shows.

ABC said today that 51 per cent of the viewers felt Nixon did not tell the truth, 27 per cent felt he told the truth and that others questioned had no opinion on the subject.

Despite the belief that he "lied several times," the 1,506 persons responding to the poll taken after the telecast Wednesday and on Thursday split 50-50 when asked whether the former President "was mostly telling the truth."

By 71 to 24 per cent, viewers said, "Nixon could not return to public life."

ABC said the poll showed "the American people would like to see both the Nixon involvement in Watergate and Nixon himself fade away."

Another poll, taken by the Roger Seasonwein organization, said 62 per cent of those who watched the interview didn't believe what Nixon said.

The Seasonwein telephone sampling of 500 adults said 75 per cent of the viewers maintained thty do not respect Nixon.

The Harris poll said 74 per cent of those reponding believed "Nixon knew he was obstructing justice" while 15 per cent did not.

A 58-to-21 per cent majority said, "Nixon lied when he said he didn't know about the cash payments to the Watergate defendants until March 21, nine months after the Watergate break-in."

But a 67-to-25 per cent majority said it felt Nixon defended himself as well as he could under the circumstances.

"Fundamentally, the viewers of the show believed that Nixon did not lie throughout the program, but rather was shading the facts to defend himself and that he was caught by Frost in some outright lies," Harris said.