President Nixon's standing among New Jerseyans continues to fall, with nearly a majority favoring either his resignation or impeachment. According to the latest results of the New Jersey Poll, released today by the Eagleton Institute of Rutgers University, only 19% rate Nixon's overall performance as President "excellent" or "good" while 77% term his performance "only fair" or "poor".

This survey was conducted between March 27 and April 3, before the IRS and Congressional reports showing President Nixon owed over $400,000 in back taxes were made public. The results represent a slight decline in the President's rating since early February. At that time 21% of New Jerseyans surveyed called the President's performance "excellent" or "good" while 77% responded "only fair" or "poor".

Dr. Stephen A. Salmore, Director of the New Jersey Poll, pointed out that while the percentages favoring either the resignation of the President or his impeachment have not changed much since February, there is a growing sentiment in favor of impeachment rather than resignation. In the latest poll the President's resignation was opposed by a 49% to 44% margin. Two months ago the New Jersey public was evenly split on this question 47% in favor of resignation and 47% opposed.

Salmore pointed out, however, that when asked if the President "should be impeached and forced to leave office" if he does not resign, New Jerseyans now are evenly divided 46% in favor and 46% opposed. In February, Nixon's impeachment and removal from office was opposed by 49% to 42%. "The impeachment and conviction of

-more-
a President is becoming a less frightening course of action, particularly among New
Jersey's independents" according to Salmore. He notes that people who regard themselves
as independents, a crucial "swing" group, oppose resignation 53% to 39% while favoring
impeachment 47% to 45%. Two months ago, independents opposed both resignation, by
52% to 38% and impeachment, by 51% to 39%.

Since Democrats continue to favor both resignation and impeachment while Re-
publicans oppose either course, this shift among independents towards favoring impeach-
ment could have serious implications for President Nixon's continuance in office.

Nixon's continuing decline in his job rating and the large sentiment for either
resignation or impeachment can be traced directly to his handling of the whole Watergate
affair. In fact, in the latest survey the New Jersey public gave better marks to the
President's handling of the energy crisis, the economy, and foreign affairs. Only in
his handling of the Watergate affair did approval of the President decline slightly from
February to April.

"Would you say you approve of disapprove of the way President
Nixon has been handling....

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The Tenth New Jersey Poll was conducted by telephone from the Eagleton Institute
of Politics in New Brunswick, N.J. A scientifically selected random sample of 1222 New
Jersey residents 18 years of age or older were interviewed.

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TO: NEW JERSEY POLITICAL REPORTERS

FROM: STEPHEN SALMORE, DIRECTOR OF THE NEW JERSEY POLL

SUBJECT: THE TENTH NEW JERSEY POLL, RELEASE #1, MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 15, 1974

The questions on which the release is based are as follows:

"How would you rate the job Nixon is doing as president--excellent, good, only fair, or poor."

"Would you say you approve or disapprove of the way President Nixon has been handling the problems of the economy?"

"Would you say you approve of disapprove of the way President Nixon has been handling the nation's foreign affairs?"

Would you say you approve or disapprove of the way President Nixon has been handling his part of the Watergate Affair?"

"Would you say you approve of disapprove of the way President Nixon has been handling the current energy crisis?"

"Do you feel President Nixon should resign from office?"

"If the President does not resign, do you feel that he should be impeached and forced to leave office?"

N.B. This questions explicitly asks the respondent whether the respondent favors impeachment and conviction and does not rely on the respondent knowing that impeachment alone does not result in removal from office.

For your information, here is a comparison of the results of the Harris Survey and the New Jersey Poll on Nixon's performance as President. The question used in both surveys is identical.
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New Jersey Poll: Harris Survey