In its latest New Jersey Poll the Eagleton Institute found that 96% of the 1214 adults surveyed statewide had read or heard about the Watergate Affair. The survey was taken May 11-22 by telephone and contacted a random sample of persons 18 years of age and older.

The survey also asked respondents if they thought the Watergate Affair was an issue of national importance. Of those who knew about Watergate 67% said they felt it was an issue of "great importance," 18% said it was an issue of "some importance," 13% said it was of "little importance," and 2% had no opinion.

Some of the reaction to Watergate seems to be related to partisan politics. Among self-identified Democrats in the sample 81% said Watergate is an issue of "great importance" to the nation, while 52% of the Republicans in the sample gave the same response. 18% of the Republicans said Watergate was of "little importance" while 4% of the Democrats gave this response.

Respondent's ideology also seems to be a factor in determining opinions of the importance of Watergate to the nation. More self-identified liberals said Watergate is an issue of "great importance" than conservatives by 74% of the liberals to 60% of the conservatives. Difference in opinion of Watergate as an issue of "little importance" is less dramatic between the two ideological groups with 11% of the liberals and 15% of the conservatives giving this response.
The spillover of the Watergate Affair may be evident in responses to another question on the poll. Respondents were asked how much, if at all, recent charges of corruption in government have reduced their confidence in the federal government. Results show that 30% of the sample said their confidence in the federal government was reduced "a great deal," 39% said their confidence was "somewhat" reduced, while only 26% said their confidence was "not at all" reduced and 5% gave no opinion.

The results of the New Jersey Poll were tabulated by the Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey.

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TO: POLITICAL REPORTERS
FROM: JOHN C. BLYDENBURGH
RE: SEVENTH NEW JERSEY POLL, RELEASE #4, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 6, 1973

The questions on which this analysis is based are as follow.

"Have you read or heard anything about the Watergate Affair?"

"How important an issue do you think Watergate is to the nation, an issue of great importance, some importance, or of little importance?"

"To what degree, if at all, have recent charges of corruption in government reduced your confidence in the federal government: a great deal, somewhat, or not at all?"