

What Washington's Like



Herald Tribune—UPI telephoto

The pace around the White House is a little slower these days and the reason for it is the absent President, who is still recuperating on his ranch in Texas from major surgery. He is shown here taking a bundled-up nap aboard his boat while cruising on Lake Lyndon Johnson.

By Douglas Kiker
Of The Herald Tribune Staff
WASHINGTON.

President Johnson has been away from the White House for seven weeks now, recuperating from his abdominal surgery—the most extended absence of any Chief Executive since Dwight D. Eisenhower took time off ten years ago to recover from his heart attack.

If his physicians predictions hold true, it will be another five weeks or so before Mr. Johnson returns to Washington fully recovered. Gen. Eisenhower was away thirteen weeks in all.

The General had been vacationing for six weeks in Denver when he suffered his heart attack at the home of his mother-in-law, the late Mrs. John S. Doud, on Sept. 24, 1955.

He returned to Washington Nov. 11, but went immediately to Gettysburg for five weeks, then to Key West, for another week of rest.

Mr. Johnson had his operation Oct. 8 at Bethesda Naval Hospital, returned to the White House Oct. 21, and left for a rest in Texas two days later.

He stayed 23 days, came

Nixon Widens '68 'Hopeful' Lead

By George Gallup
PRINCETON, N. J.

Since the November elections, there has been considerable speculation by political observers about how the outcome of the voting would affect the popularity of various prominent Republicans.

Much has been written about John Lindsay's Republican victory in New York City and what it will mean for his political future and for the future of the party. Richard Nixon's energetic, but unsuccessful efforts to help elect several Republicans to state offices have also been the target of a good deal of comment.

Results of the latest Gallup survey of Republican candidate popularity—completed after the November elections—shows that Richard Nixon has widened his lead over the field of 1968 GOP "hopefuls", since a survey in October, and that the relative popularity of John Lindsay has changed little.

handed a card listing the names of 12 Republicans who have figured prominently in speculation for 1968. This question was then asked:

"Here are the names of a number of leaders in the Republican party. Which of these men do you think would make the best candidate for the Republican party in 1968?"

The results for the rank-and-file of the Republican party:

— By Republicans —

	Late Nov.	Late Oct.
	Survey	Survey
	%	%
Nixon	34	26
Goldwater	13	12
Lodge	12	11
Romney	11	15
Scranton	5	7
Dirksen	5	6
Rockefeller	4	7
Lindsay	4	2
Taft	3	2
Hatfield	2	1
Percy	1	1
Reagan	1	3
Others	2	3

Gallup Poll

Based on interviews with nearly 4,500 persons across the nation in September and October, the Gallup Poll found 25 per cent who said they were "Republicans," 49 per cent who said they were "Democrats," and 26 per cent who did not choose either major party, describing themselves as "Independents."

As those results clearly show, the Republican party is the minority party. In order for the GOP to win a presidential election, its candidate obviously must make a strong appeal to Independent voters.

Below are the latest choices of Independents, compared with the results of the previous survey in October. Little change is found in the standing of Nixon, Lodge, Gold-

has received a boost since October:

—By Independents—

Rockefeller	7	19
Others, no opinion	78	64

	Late Nov. Survey %	Late Oct. Survey %
Nixon	17	18
Lodge	15	14
Goldwater	12	9
Romney	11	13
Lindsay	9	2
Scranton	9	8
Rockefeller	7	9
Dirksen	5	8
Reagan	2	4
Taft	1	2
Hatfield	1	2
Percy	1	1
Others		
no opinion	10	10
	% 100	% 100