

**The Gallup Poll**

# Nixon First with Dissident Democrats; Has Wide Lead with Independents and GOP

By George Gallup

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— Richard Nixon makes a clean sweep of the country in terms of nomination support from rank-and-file Republicans.

These findings are based on an early November survey and two previous surveys in which persons were asked to select their top 1968 GOP nomination choice from a list of seven men.

Taking the latest views of rank-and-file Republicans first, Nixon holds a 3-to-1 lead over his nearest rival, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. Gov. George Romney of Michigan and Gov. Ronald Reagan of California are both within a point or two of Rockefeller. Romney has failed thus far to recover the support he lost following his "brainwash" statement September 5.

The following question was asked:

*"Here is a list of men who have been mentioned as possible Presidential candidates for the Republican party in 1968. Which ONE of these men would you like to see nominated as the Republican candidate for President in 1968?"*

**Choices of GOP Rank-and-File**

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Richard Nixon .....      | 42% |
| Nelson Rockefeller ..... | 15  |
| George Romney .....      | 14  |
| Ronald Reagan .....      | 13  |
| Charles Percy .....      | 5   |
| John Lindsay .....       | 3   |
| Mark Hatfield .....      | 3   |
| No preference .....      | 5   |

Nixon also leads nationally with Independents, a group

now numerically stronger than Republicans for the first time in history. He wins the support of 28 per cent of this group compared to 21 per cent for runner-up Rockefeller.

Nixon's lead with Independents is due in large measure to his strong showing in the South. He is also ahead of Rockefeller in the Midwest, but the New York governor is the top choice of Independents in the East and Far West.

**Choices of Independents National**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Nixon .....         | 28% |
| Rockefeller .....   | 21  |
| Reagan .....        | 16  |
| Romney .....        | 14  |
| Percy .....         | 7   |
| Lindsay .....       | 4   |
| Hatfield .....      | 3   |
| No preference ..... | 7   |

A third important group to consider in assessing the relative political strength of GOP candidates are dissident Democrats—voters who currently express disapproval of President Johnson's performance in office.

Nixon and Rockefeller win about equal support with this group. Rockefeller tops Nixon in the East, Midwest and Far West, but Nixon has a wide lead among the conservative

Southern Democrats and is runner-up in this region.

**Dissident Democrats National**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Nixon .....         | 22% |
| Rockefeller .....   | 20  |
| Reagan .....        | 17  |
| Romney .....        | 17  |
| Percy .....         | 9   |
| Lindsay .....       | 5   |
| Hatfield .....      | 2   |
| No preference ..... | 8   |

Regardless of how a Republican candidate stands with the rank-and-file of his party, he still must win the support of the convention delegates, the party "pros."

Earlier this year a county chairman study showed that of 2137 votes cast, Nixon received 53 per cent. Governor Romney was second with 16 per cent, followed by Reagan with 10 per cent, Percy and Rockefeller with 5 and 3 per cent, respectively.

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