

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** *The Gallup Report on President Nixon's popularity—originally scheduled for today—will be for release Sunday, July 11, in order to include new survey results showing the impact of the Pentagon papers.*

## The Gallup Poll

For Release: Monday, July 5, 1971

*Say Newspapers Had Right to Publish*

# Public in Accord with Court Ruling on Pentagon Papers

Coming Sunday!

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N. J., July 4 — Prior to the Supreme Court's recent ruling on the publication of the Pentagon papers, the public had reached the same judgment. In a survey completed last Monday, 58 per cent of those familiar with the case said the newspapers did the right thing in publishing the articles, while 30 per cent said they did the wrong thing.

Few issues of recent times have provoked such deeply-felt opinions, as evidenced by comments in the survey.

### 'The People Have The Right to Know'

"The people have the right to know" — this is the theme of most comments given by those who think the newspapers did the right thing in publishing the Pentagon papers. A 40-year old black mechanic from New York City exclaimed:

"People should know what the hell is going on in this country. Why do things always have to be so hush-hush. The Pentagon's not worried about national security — they're afraid of being embarrassed."

A 51-year old machinist from Norfolk, Va. remarked: "We are a democracy and I like to believe that the government is leveling with us." And this from a retired 66-year old tool-and-die maker from Evansville, Ind.: "If the newspapers don't publish the true facts, how are we going to know? I think the public is being kept in the dark too much."

### 'Not Up to Newspapers To Publish Secrets'

Those in the survey who feel the newspapers were wrong to publish the articles most frequently argue that secret information should not be divulged. Here is what a 58-year old corn farmer from Iowa said: "This is top secret material. The government hasn't changed that classification and it certainly isn't up to the newspapers to change it on their own."

A 59-year old banker from Virginia was irate: "Those papers were stolen. It's a case of treason pure and simple and I think Ellsberg ought to be thrown in jail."

### Impact of Pentagon Papers On Nixon's Popularity

New survey results are now being tabulated which will show the impact of the recent publication of the Pentagon papers on President Nixon's standing with the American people.

Be sure to read this timely report, Sunday, in the  
(NAME OF PAPER)



RICHARD NIXON

### Others See U.S. Image Damaged

Others in the survey think the unauthorized publication of the Pentagon papers will hurt our image abroad. A 64-year old gas station manager from Colorado had this to say:

"Other nations must be laughing at us. We splash top-secret international documents across the front page as if they were comic strips."

The nature of the case — and the legalities involved — have limited the proportion who have followed the debate. In fact, 45 per cent at the time the survey was conducted admitted that they had not heard or read about the Pentagon papers.

The division of opinion among persons following the debate closely parallels the vote in the Supreme Court. By a vote of 6 to 3, the Supreme Court ruled on June 30 that The New York Times and The Washington Post were free to publish articles based on a secret Pentagon study of Vietnam policy because the Government had not proved that its reasons for wanting the articles stopped outweighed the

Constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press.

The findings reported today are based on personal interviews with 1326 adults 18 and older. These are near final returns from a survey, completed within the last few days, in which a total of more than 1500 persons were reached in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation.

All persons in the survey were first asked this question:

*Have you heard or read about the articles first published in the New York Times about how we got involved in the Vietnam war?*

The results:  
Have read, heard about . 55%  
Have not ..... 45  
100%

Those replying in the affirmative were then asked:

*In your opinion, did the newspapers do the right thing or the wrong thing in publishing these articles?*

Right thing ..... 58%  
Wrong thing ..... 30  
No opinion ..... 12  
100%