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VAR 8/10/75

THE WHITE HOUSE

Jerry:

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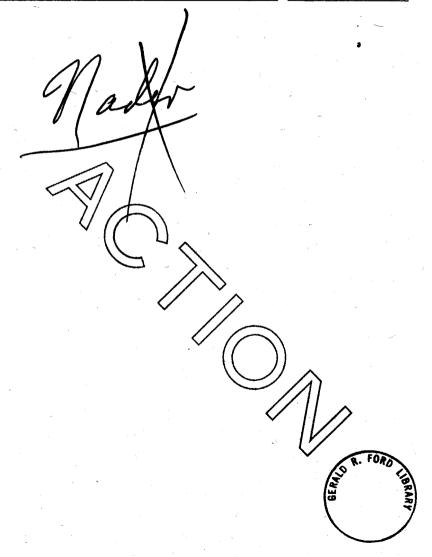


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GALLUP POLL

Government Gets Inflation Blame

By GEORGE GALLUP

PRINCETON, N. J.—President Nixon's recent speech on the economy—in which he exhorted the U.S. public to form an anti-inflation lobby and to control their spending—came at a time when a record number of Americans believe that the federal government is chiefly responsible for inflation.

Nearly half (48 per cent) of all persons interviewed in a mid-July survey blame the government, compared to only 19 per cent, who name labor and 17 per cent who say business is chiefly responsible for inflation.

When persons in a recent survey were asked what steps the government can take to curb inflation, little agreement is found among the two-thirds who offer an opinion while the remaining one-third do not express an opinion. The only answers given with some frequency are wage-price controls and a reduction in federal spending.

Change Since July 1972

While little change in views has occurred since the previous survey in July, 1973, on the question of responsibility for inflation, the porportion naming government has increased rather markedly when compared to a survey taken in July, 1972. That survey showed 39 per cent saying government is mostly to blame for inflation, as against 20 per cent who said business and 29 per cent who said labor.

High Cost Of Living Is Top

The findings reported today are recorded at a time when the high cost of living is far and away the top worry of the American people, with a near record 48 per cent of all persons interviewed in a recent survey naming this as the nation's chief problem. Evidence that the high cost of living has reached into every home is seen by the fact that this problem is named by the largest percentage of people in each region of the nation, as well as in each economic, occupation, and age group.

Views On Blame Depend On Politics
Although most persons say government rather than labor
or business is chiefly to blame for inflation, their views depend
in considerable measure on such factors as political affiliation,

occupation, educational attainment, and income.

More than half of Democrats (54 per cent) say government is most responsible for inflation, while 17 per cent blame business and 13 per cent blame labor.

In contrast, 35 per cent of Republicans point the finger of blame at government, but almost as many, 34 per cent, say labor is chiefly responsible for inflation, and 13 per cent say business.

Here is the question asked to determine which of these three —government, business or labor—they feel is mostly to blame for inflation:

"In your opinion, which is most responsible for inflation —government, business, or labor?"

Following is the trend in the national findings: WHICH IS MOST TO BLAME FOR INFLATION—GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS OR LABOR?

	OOA EHRIAMANA .			DODINERS	CAN TESTOCIE!		
	Government		Business	Labor	No Opinion		
July,	1974		48%	16%	19%	17%	
July,	1973		46	19	25	10	
July,	1972		39	20	29	14	
July,	1968		46	12	26	16	
Oct	195 9		14	15	41	30	

Note: Total for 1972 column adds to more than 100 per cent since some persons gave a multiple response.

The survey findings are based on a total sample of 2,355 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities in the nation in late June and early July.

