

A few days later, less than a week before the start of the Republican convention, two national polls produced contradictory results, which again placed campaign polling squarely in the news spotlight. The August 1 CBS Evening News led off with the story, which included comments from Rockefeller campaign aide Leonard Hall, Nixon aide Herbert Klein, Illinois Senator Everett Dirksen and Michigan Governor George Romney (a presidential candidate himself at the convention, and the father of a future Republican nominee). Walter Cronkite and CBS correspondent Roger Mudd reported from the Republicans' convention site in Miami Beach:

CRONKITE: Good evening. Whatever effect the public opinion polls ought to have on picking a presidential candidate, they are the major subject of conversation, and consternation, here in Miami Beach as the Republican National Convention nears. A new Harris Poll is out, and it's a sharp contrast to a Gallup Poll released earlier this week. Gallup had given Nixon a slight edge over Vice concluded that Humphrey would win by a larger margin. But, said Harris, while Nixon would not beat Humphrey, Rockefeller would, although Gallup had rated that runoff even. There was quick reaction, and some confusion, on all sides.

LEONARD HALL: These results show that Rockefeller is the overwhelming choice of the American people. We knew when we started this campaign a few months ago that Mr. Rockefeller had to come from behind. He has. He is now out in front. He's done it every time, and won. He is doing it again.

HERBERT KLEIN: I would hope that we finally are at the end of the numbers game regarding the polls. The results are in, and I submit that the polls show conclusively that Governor Rockefeller has failed in history's most expensive two-month campaign. Richard Nixon is the winner, and will be the winner again in November.

GEORGE ROMNEY: Well, I think we ought to consider a lot of things besides polls in making our decision here. After all the polls, the past year or two, have been up and down and all over the lot, and nobody knows that better than I do.

ROGER MUDD: What, what effect, Senator, do you think the, the Harris Poll that seems to favor, now, Rockefeller over Nixon, what effect does that have today on the delegates?

EVERETT DIRKSEN: Frankly, Roger, I don't know.