

majority doesn't approve of the handling of the war but rather of the President as a symbol. We can come to understand this if we reflect on public opinion during the Johnson administration. At the ebb of public support of President Johnson, when substantial majorities disagreed with the main features of his Vietnam policy, a third of the American people still were willing to say they approved of his handling of the war. For President Johnson this situation contrasts sharply with the situation in 1966 when the public approved not only of his handling of the war but of the details of the policy lines he was following. President Nixon's support seems to be structured more like that of Johnson at the ebb than Johnson in 1966.

The symbol of the Presidency can only carry a President so long and Mr. Nixon's string is running out. The silent majority is not with the President in his Cambodian experiment.