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## Survey Findings Get Embarrassing

**M**AYBE we ought to put a stop to these surveys. They are showing how much we don't know, and it's becoming embarrassing.

A short time ago, a Gallup Poll indicated that 74 per cent of Americans are aware of the metric system, but that only 13 per cent could give the correct number of inches in a meter and only 1 per cent knew how many liters are in a gallon.

Just before that, a survey suggested that only half the public knows that Americans must import oil to satisfy our energy demands and only 9 per cent knows how much.

In July, a nationwide test revealed that students are not doing well in geography and world affairs, either. Four of 10 students believed Israel to be an Arab nation and half the seniors could not locate Egypt on a map.

Last year, a nonprofit educational research laboratory tested 1,500 college-bound students in five

states. Oklahomans had an average score of 25 points out of a possible 100 in a test designed to measure vocabulary levels.

Similarly, surveys and studies have shown what appear to be significant declines in scores on spelling, punctuation, grammar and science knowledge.

Authorities have expressed opinions that declines in reading scores have been due, in part, to limitations placed on reading vocabularies in texts to accommodate slowest learners.

The "new math," which was prompted as a vastly improved method of teaching arithmetic, has largely fizzled under criticism from parents, educators and politicians.

The long-accepted IQ tests, rating "intelligence quotients," are being ripped apart by critics.

School taxes have doubled, tripled, or more, on the theory that the more money we spend on schools and the more we pay the

teachers, the better the schools will be. Surveys do not seem to support this idea.

What may be implied is that, with more information available and more extensive means of communicating this knowledge, we the people are becoming more highly educated, more thoroughly entertained and less informed than preceding generations.

As a nation, could we pass a college entrance test on any subject? Could we pass any test at all on any subject?

Such a test might include examination to see if we even know right from wrong. Judging from the number of people involved in bribery, cheating, embezzlement, robbery, burglary and other crimes, we might not pass this test, either.

If these surveys were eliminated, we wouldn't find out how little we know and we'd feel a lot better about our schools.