

The Gallup Poll

President's Popularity Holds to Recent Level

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J., Feb. 18 — President Johnson's popularity is holding close to the level maintained over a period of several months: 46 per cent in the latest survey approve of the way he is handling his job.

Interviewing was between January 28 and February 7.

A national sample of adults was asked this question:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Johnson is handling his job as President?"

The latest results:

Approve 46%
 Disapprove 37%
 No opinion 17%

In Gallup Poll surveys conducted during the last five months, since September, the President's approval score has not gone above 48 per cent nor below 44 per cent.

The latest over-all approval rating is the same as September's, 46 per cent, but in the five-month period between these two surveys, a reduction has taken place in the proportions who "strongly approve" and "strongly disapprove." This is revealed in the results of a second survey question:

"How strongly do you approve (or disapprove) — very strongly or not so strongly?"

The results of this second question show that approximately one person in six "strongly approves" of the way

the President is handling his job, while about the same proportion "strongly disapprove."

A comparison of the latest findings with those from a survey two years ago — when the President's popularity stood at 69 per cent—shows that the "approve strongly" vote has been cut in half, while the "disapprove strongly" category has increased.

The following table compares the intensity ratings in the latest survey with the two earlier surveys, in September, 1966, and in March, 1965:

	LATEST (Over-all approval: 46 Pct.)	Sept., '66 (Over-all approval: 46 Pct.)	March, '65 (Over-all approval: 69 Pct.)
Strong approval	16%	23%	32%
Mild approval	30	23	37
No opinion	17	15	10
Mild disapproval	20	13	11
Strong disapproval	17	26	10
	100%	100%	100%

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