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Poll on Hoover And FBI

New York

A majority of Americans think the FBI is doing a good job, but believe director J. Edgar Hoover should retire, according to a survey released day.

The poll, conducted by the Gallup organization for Newsweek magazine, showed 51 per cent of the 522 persons contacted believed Hoover, 76, should retire. Forty-one per cent said he should remain in office while 8 per cent had no opinion.

The FBI is doing a "highly favorable" job, according to 49 per cent of those surveyed, while 31 per cent gave it a "moderately favorable" rating. Eleven per cent were "neutral," five per cent had no opinion and four per cent believed the Bureau's performance was "unfavorable."

Political protesters are not dealt with strongly enough, 46 per cent said, while 21 per cent did not think the activists' rights were being respected. Thirty-three per cent did not have an opinion.

The magazine said 35 per cent believed FBI use of telephone taps and other electronic bugs were "about right," 17 per cent said it was "not enough" and 25 per cent felt it had gone "too far."

United Press