







On the eve of his 47th anniversary as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, time may finally have caught up with J. Edgar Hoover.

Until now, the very idea of tarnishing this living legend was unthinkable. But a series of embarrassments over the past six months has opened Hoover, 76, and the Bureau, 62, to an unprecedented burst of criticism. How vulnerable is Hoover?

In its cover story this week, Newsweek finds that both the Director and the Bureau still enjoy enormous public support. Yet surprisingly, the special Newsweek-Gallup poll finds that a clear majority of Americans also believe that the time has come for him to step down.

When he takes that step, an era will go with him. The question now that only he can settle is when the next era will begin.

Newsweek hints when that might take place, and profiles the candidates most likely to succeed their fabled chief.

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In Newsweek this week, you can also read (page 47) why South Africa's apartheid policy may have become a boomerang that is uniting blacks for independence. Incidentally, has the black race been genetically shortchanged in intelligence? See (page 69) the controversy over a move by several distinguished scientists to discover whether certain racial genes determine intelligence.

Read (page 77) why "benign neglect" may indeed prove a workable policy for coping with America's balance of payments problems. Or (page 74) why celibacy among Catholic priests today is only one of many crises that confront the Church, the entire folklore of which suddenly seems to contradict the modern cleric's deepest Christian instincts.

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Here, too, is the full account of how the world's most glamorous—and usually effective—secret police force operates, more with standard office red tape than with the physical heroism so strongly associated with it in the movies: an operation in which tons of paper work occupy agents more than target practice, and in which the Bureau's own thick book of regulations sometimes provides more of a check on its activities than does the law of the land.

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