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The Gallup Poll

Public's Esteem Of FBI Plummet

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—The FBI has plunged precipitously in public esteem. A decade ago, 84 per cent of Americans surveyed in a Gallup Poll gave the FBI a "highly favorable" rating. Today, 37 per cent do.

The "highly favorable" rating given the FBI dropped 13 percentage points between 1965 and 1970, slipped 19 more between 1970 and 1973, and plunged 15 points between 1973 and the latest survey, conducted in November. The total fall was 47 points.

While esteem for the FBI has fallen off sharply over the last decade, the organization continues to command the broad respect of the population as a whole, with overall positive ratings outweighing negative ratings by 5 to 1.

First to become disen-

chanted with the FBI were younger adults, Easterners and persons with a college background, as reflected in the decline in esteem between 1965 and 1970.

The latest survey, however, shows an across-the-board decline in "highly favorable" ratings since the first survey in 1965.

All persons in the latest survey were also asked to rate the Central Intelligence Agency. This organization is given a considerably lower "highly favorable" rating than is the FBI—14 per cent compared to 37 per cent.

The public's image of the CIA also has worsened. A survey in 1973 showed 23 per cent of the public giving the CIA a "highly favorable" rating.

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