

Ford Gets a 'Fair' But Little More

By Mervin D. Field

In the eyes of a majority of the California public, President Ford is doing a "fair job," but he does not inspire a great deal of enthusiasm.

In a survey just completed, The California Poll finds the largest number of Californians, 54 per cent, rate his performance as "fair." Just 23 per cent of the public thought he is doing a "good job," and 20 per cent believe he is doing a "poor job."

This current rating is close to the level found by the California Poll last May, before the Mayaguez incident which many observers felt would boost his public esteem. If it did, the effect was short-lived, because the President's popularity standing today is about as low as it has ever been.

The table below shows the trend of popularity rating figures for Mr. Ford from early 1974 to the present day. The highest point in the President's popularity in California was shortly after he took office in October 1974. Since then, his "good job" rating has declined, and his "poor job" ratings have increased.

	Good job	Fair job	Poor job	No opinion
Ford as President				
August 1975	23%	54	20	3
May 1975	21%	51	23	5
November 1974	29%	45	17	9
October 1974	33%	43	15	9
Expectations of job Mr. Ford would do prior to his assuming office				
Early August 1974	22%	43	10	25
May 1974	27%	41	14	18
February 1974	21%	37	12	30

It appears that Mr. Ford's poor ratings are due more to a negative reaction to his handling of domestic affairs than it is to foreign affairs.

The poll finds that his "poor job" rating for domestic matters is two and one-half times greater than his "good job" rating. In respect to his handling of foreign affairs, as many people feel he is doing a "poor job" as say he is doing a "good job."

	Good job	Fair job	Poor job	No opinion
Mr. Ford's handling of —				
Domestic affairs	14%	45	37	4
Foreign affairs	23%	48	23	6