

YOUTH FOUND COOL TO CAREER IN F.B.I.

Poll Shows 'Only 21.5%'
Would Like to Be Agents

By ROBERT M. SMITH
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—A conservative group that commissioned a study of attitudes among young people toward the Federal Bureau of Investigation has found that "only 21.5 per cent" would like to be an agent of the F.B.I.

The opinion survey, which polled about 2,500 young people from 14 to 25 years of age throughout the country, was conducted by Gilbert Youth Research, Inc., on behalf of Friends of the F.B.I. The group is an organization set up to study the agency and serve as a counterweight to what it considers "wild charges" that have been made against the bureau by liberal critics.

The idealized G-men of television — Robert Stack ("The Untouchables") and Efrem Zimbalist Jr. ("The F.B.I.")—notwithstanding, Friends of the F.B.I. found that "when asked, only 21.5 per cent said they would like to be an F.B.I. agent; 69.1 said they would not."

The group said that this result "underscored the need for a major information program among young Americans from 14 through 25."

According to the survey, 26 per cent of the young men interviewed said they would like to be agents, as did 17 per cent of the girls. While 22 per cent of the whites polled found the job attractive, only 17 per cent of the nonwhites did.

The survey found that 30 per cent of the young people said they did not know the primary function of the F.B.I.

The poll also found that 72 per cent of the young people thought "the F.B.I. should keep radical revolutionary groups under surveillance." The older the people interviewed, the higher the percentage of agreement, but even 64 per cent of the 17-year-olds said the bureau should conduct such surveillance. So did 67 per cent of the college students interviewed.

Opposed by 41%

Recently there has been a good deal of criticism of the F.B.I. and J. Edgar Hoover, its 77-year-old director—some of it from Congressmen, some of it from academics and a good deal of it from liberal organizations. In addition, there have been a number of disclosures about the way in which the F.B.I. operates that have prompted public discussion of the bureau.

Forty-one per cent of those surveyed said they did not think criticism of the agency was justified; 27 per cent said they thought it was justified, and 31 per cent said they did not know.

Sixty per cent said they did not think the F.B.I. had too much power; 16 per cent said they thought it had, and 24 per cent said they did not know. Of those who said it had too much power, 41 per cent said the bureau invaded the privacy of citizens.

Gilbert Youth Research said it took the poll last October and November, and the sample consisted of high-school, college and out-of-school youths. The interviewing was done in 90 locations, it said, with high school and college seniors conducting the interviews at their schools and professional interviewers doing the questioning away from schools. The firm said faculty members supervised the student interviewers.