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Tepid Opposition from Democrats, Little Fallout on Environment
BUSH'S BASE BACKS HIM TO THE HILT

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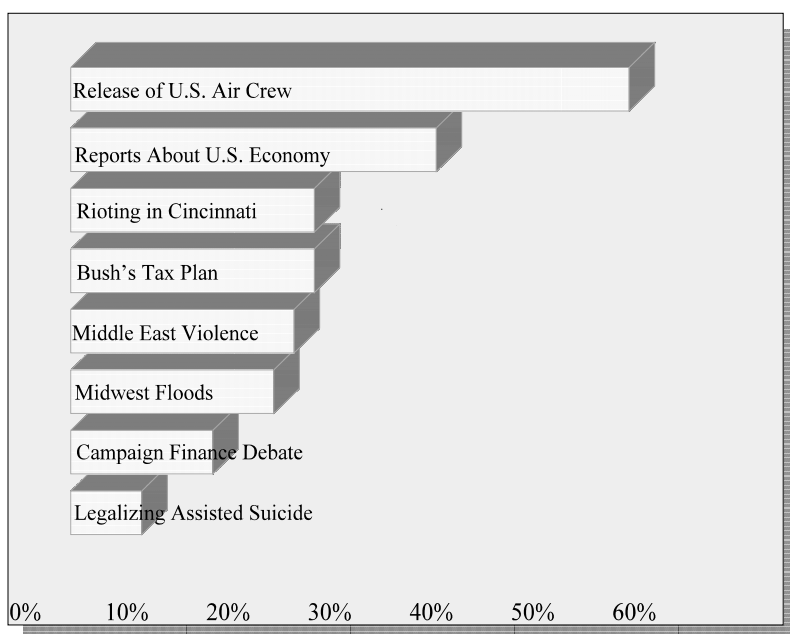
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April 2001

Tepid Opposition from Democrats, Little Fallout on Environment
BUSH'S BASE BACKS HIM TO THE HILT

After three months in office, George W. Bush is doing about as well with the American public as did his predecessors, because Republicans love what they are seeing and Democrats are expressing only modest opposition to his stewardship of the country. Bush's approval ratings among the GOP faithful are slightly higher than ratings for his father at a comparable time and nearly equal to Ronald Reagan's evaluations in April 1981. On the other hand, despite the hard feelings about the way the election was decided, Democrats are expressing considerably less disapproval of the president than Republicans voiced about Bill Clinton eight years ago.

The latest Pew Research Center survey finds 56% expressing approval for the way Bush is handling his job, while 27% say they disapprove. That marks an improvement over Clinton's rating of 55%-37% in April 1993 — not only because fewer people disapprove of the current president, but also because a considerably larger number strongly approve of Bush than held very positive opinions of Clinton three months into his term (34% vs. 18%).

Five 100-Day Report Cards*

	Jimmy Carter	Ronald Reagan	George Bush	Bill Clinton	G.W. Bush
<i>Presidential approval ...</i>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>2001</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	63	67	58	55	56
Disapprove	18	19	16	37	27
Don't know	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

* Gallup trends.

A sharp partisan pattern underlies these findings: The new president gets extraordinarily favorable evaluations from GOP faithful — 71% of all Republicans and 85% of conservative Republicans say they very strongly approve of Bush's job performance. Equally striking, just 46% of Democrats disapprove of the Republican president, compared to 69% of Republicans who disapproved of Clinton in 1993.

Subdued Democratic criticism of Bush may well reflect mixed views about the way the party's leadership has dealt with their new opposition role. More than one-in-three Democrats say their leaders have spoken out too little about Bush's policies. Further, Democrats are divided as to who is the party's leader: 27% pick Al Gore, 21% Bill Clinton, 14% Dick Gephardt, 12% Joe Lieberman and 5% point to Tom Daschle.

Opposition Attitudes: First 100 Days

	Reps on <u>Clinton*</u>	Dems on <u>G.W. Bush</u>
<i>Presidential approval ...</i>	%	%
Approve	25	36
Disapprove	69	46
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100

* Gallup trend.

The president's strong position with the public reflects continuing comfort with Bush personally, positive reaction to his handling of the recent standoff with China and his tax proposal, combined with limited knowledge of unpopular administration decisions about the environment. Just 28% of poll respondents knew that Bush had decided not to restrict emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants and even fewer (20%) knew of his decision to withdraw support for the Kyoto agreement to combat global warming. Half say they have heard nothing at all about the recent controversy surrounding Bush's decisions regarding the amount of arsenic allowed in drinking water. This lack of awareness favors the administration because each of these decisions, when tested, is broadly unpopular. On the positive side of the ledger, a majority knew that Bush proposed increased federal spending for education and no fewer than 90% favor this idea.

The administration's recent environmental decisions have not been entirely pain-free as the percentage saying Bush would not make progress on protecting the environment rose from 45% during the presidential campaign to 54% in the latest Pew survey. But the current lack of public knowledge of specific Bush proposals and policies is clearly muting criticisms in this area. Even those with strong environmental concerns are only dimly aware of Bush's recent decisions.

Flying Under the Radar			
<i>Know about Bush's position on ...</i>	<i>Environmental Concern</i>		
	<u>Low</u> %	<u>Avg.</u> %	<u>High</u> %
Carbon dioxide	28	33	23
Kyoto agreement	19	22	20
Lead regulations	17	17	22

Perhaps as a consequence, Bush gets only somewhat lower ratings than Clinton did in 1997 for striking the proper balance between environmental protection and economic growth. Despite all the bad publicity about his proposals in this area, those who worry most about environmental dangers are not overly pessimistic about Bush in this regard.

Bush's success in gaining the release of the crew of the American spy plane was broadly applauded — 72% approved of his handling of the incident — and it likely helped firm up support for his ability to handle the nation's foreign policy. A solid majority (55%) now expect Bush to do a good job in this area, which was considered a vulnerability during the campaign.

The return of the U.S. crew did not lead to a significant rise in Bush's approval ratings; in fact, disapproval is slightly higher now than it was in February (27%-21%). What may be more important is that in spite of the furor in Washington over some of Bush's environmental decisions, his ideology is also viewed about the same as it was in February — there has been virtually no increase in the number who identify him as conservative, and many moderates see him as one of them.

The latest Pew Research Center survey, conducted April 18-22 among 1,202 adults, shows that while Bush's debut has been well received, GOP congressional leaders have dramatically improved their image. The leadership's job performance ratings have been up-and-down — mostly down — since the Republicans took control of Congress in 1994. But now, with a Republican in the White House and GOP leaders adopting a more supportive tone, the public is responding positively: 45% approve of the job Congress' leaders are doing, while 30% disapprove.

But both Bush and Republicans on Capitol Hill will face a major challenge in trying to win passage of the president's budget and tax cut proposals. Here, public opinion is something of a mixed bag. Six-in-ten say they approve of Bush's tax cut, yet as the president seeks to restrain the growth of government, Americans remain more supportive of increased spending for various programs. Strong support for increased education funding is a clear positive for Bush, but the public favors more spending on many other areas as well, including health care, Medicare, veterans, crime, energy and AIDS research.

Fulfilling Expectations

Opinions about Bush have come into sharper focus in recent weeks as more Americans are now willing to rate his job performance — either positive or negative — and his image has become defined more by his policy positions than his personal traits. Any increase in negative feelings since February has come primarily among Democrats and independents, as Republicans continue to enthusiastically back the president.

The Republican enthusiasm for Bush is particularly striking when compared to Democratic support for Clinton in the early months of his presidency. Fully 71% of Republicans *strongly* approve of the job Bush is doing today. Fewer than four-in-ten Democrats gave Clinton comparable marks in April 1993.

Overall, one-third of Americans (34%) say they strongly approve of the job Bush is doing, while only 18% strongly disapprove. Aside from conservative Republicans, the president's strongest backers at this point are white evangelical Protestants (49% strongly approve), those with household incomes over \$75,000 a year (48%), and men over age 50 (44%). Aside from liberal Democrats, his strongest detractors are labor union households (28% strongly disapprove), and urban residents (26%).

	<i>Clinton</i> <u>1993/Dem*</u>	<i>Bush</i> <u>2001/Rep</u>
<i>Approve</i>	%	%
Strongly	39	71
Not strongly	43	13
Don't know	--	3
<i>Disapprove</i>		
Not strongly	8	2
Strongly	4	3
Don't know	--	0
<i>Don't know</i>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100

* Gallup trend.

For the most part, Bush's performance in office has been about what the public anticipated. More than two-thirds (67%) say that Bush has done about as they expected he would. For the remaining one-third of the public, Bush has clearly surpassed expectations — 22% say he has done better than they expected, only 7% say he has done worse. Among Republicans, 30% say Bush has done better than expected, 22% of independents say the same, as do 15% of Democrats. Only 12% of Democrats say the president has done worse than they expected. Clinton got less positive reviews in April 1993.

While 73% of the public said he was performing about as they expected, fully half of the remaining 27% said he was doing worse than expected.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>Bush has done ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Better than expected	22	30	15	22
Worse than expected	7	2	12	6
About as expected	67	63	69	67
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>So far Bush is ...</i>				
Stronger than expected	21	29	12	26
Weaker than expected	13	5	19	11
About as expected	59	64	65	53
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100

When asked whether Bush is a stronger leader, a weaker leader or about as expected, a solid majority of Americans (59%) say he is about as strong as they expected. Among the remaining 41%, more say he's stronger than say he's weaker (21% vs. 13%). Again, Bush's ratings surpass Clinton's at a comparable point in time. In early 1993, 13% of the public saw Clinton as stronger than expected, 12% said he was weaker, and 68% said he was about what they expected.

Future expectations of Bush vary across different policy areas. The public is more optimistic about Bush's ability to be successful in the foreign policy realm than they are about his ability to make progress on environmental protection. While more than half (55%) expect him to perform well in handling the nation's foreign policy, only 39% think Bush is likely to make real progress in protecting the environment, and 54% think he will not.

Conservatives are optimistic about Bush's abilities in both of these areas and liberals are skeptical, but political moderates are split. Most moderates think Bush will do a good job handling foreign policy (54%), but relatively few think he'll make progress on the environment (38%).

When it comes to Bush's ideology, a plurality of the public (46%) continues to see

	<u>Conserv</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Liberal</u>
<i>Bush on foreign policy</i>	%	%	%
Good job	70	54	40
Not a good job	24	33	49
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Bush on environment</i>			
Will make progress	53	38	22
Won't make progress	40	54	78
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100	100

him as a conservative, though more than one-third (37%) view him as middle of the road. Republicans, Democrats and independents are mostly in agreement on this issue — 52% of Republicans say Bush is conservative, as do 48% of Democrats and 45% of independents.

On balance, the public thinks Bush is more conservative than he lets on. By a margin of 58%-33% Americans agree with this assertion. Opinion was nearly identical in September 2000 — when 58% of registered voters agreed that Bush was really more conservative and 28% disagreed.

Policies vs. Personality

As Bush nears the 100-day mark, his policy positions and proposals have clearly begun to register with the public. When asked in an open-ended format what they have liked most about Bush so far, Americans now point to his policy positions more often than his personal characteristics or political traits. In February, Bush’s image was defined more in personal than policy terms.

Policy has also become more central in negative descriptions of Bush. When asked what they have *disliked* most about him, 26% of Americans volunteer specific policy positions, while 10% identify personal characteristics and 7% name political traits. In February, there was a much more even split between policy and personal descriptions (16% vs. 11%).

Bush’s handling of the standoff with China is the single response cited most often by those who were asked what they have liked most about the president. That, along with Bush’s tax proposal dominates the policy-related responses to this question (8% and 6%, respectively). Among other policies cited by respondents were Bush’s support for the military and his education and economic policies.

The personal traits cited most often by those asked what they liked most about Bush were his honesty and integrity (6%), his calm and dignified manner (4%) and

Bush Comes into Focus		
	<u>Feb</u>	<u>April</u>
<i>What the public likes most ...</i>	%	%
Policy positions	14	22
Personal traits	22	19
Political traits	13	8
Other	18	14
Nothing/Don’t know	37	41
<i>What the public likes least ...</i>		
Policy positions	16	26
Personal traits	11	10
Political traits	4	7
Other	19	11
Nothing/Don’t know	54	49

Specific Reasons to Like Bush	
<i>Have liked most ...</i>	<u>%</u>
Handling of China situation	8
Tax proposal	6
Honesty/Integrity	6
Leadership style	5
Calm, dignified manner	4
Specific Reasons to Dislike Bush	
<i>Dislike most ...</i>	<u>%</u>
Ideas on environment	8
Tax proposal	5
Handling of China situation	5
Arrogance	3
Waffling/Changing his mind	3

his character (3%). The top political trait, cited by 5% of the public, was Bush's leadership style. Roughly four-in-ten respondents couldn't come up with an answer when asked what they like most about Bush; that was largely unchanged from February.

Bush's policy positions clearly dominate the public's list of complaints about him, and his ideas on the environment are cited most often in this context. Eight percent of Americans say Bush's environmental policies are what they like least about him. This shows that the recent series of decisions on the environment may be hurting Bush on the margins — the environment didn't even register in the February poll. Bush's tax proposals are cited negatively by 5%, and another 5% point to his handling of the recent conflict with China.

Arrogance or poor public speaking were the personal traits cited most often in the poll by those asked what they've liked least about Bush (3% and 2%, respectively). Another 7% mentioned political traits such as waffling or changing his mind. At this point, roughly half of the public can't find anything to dislike about the president.

Knowledge Gap Favors Bush

One explanation for Bush's high approval ratings may be that his most visible policy decisions also turn out to be among the most widely accepted by the public. That is true of his decision to increase spending on education, his tax cut proposal and his handling of the spy plane incident.

Nearly half of Americans (46%) are aware that the Senate passed a smaller tax cut than the \$1.6 trillion proposed by Bush, and a 57% majority know that Bush has proposed increasing spending on education. Better than half of the public (55%) followed the spy plane saga very closely. Each of these actions receives broad public support.

	Know About it %	App- rove %	Disap- prove %	Don't Know %
Spending on education	57	90	6	4=100
China situation	55+	72	20	8=100
Tax proposal	46*	60	34	6=100
No limits on carbon dioxide	28	21	67	12=100
Initial decision on arsenic	20	32	57	11=100
Withdrawal from Kyoto	20	25	47	28=100
Stricter lead regulations	19	80	12	8=100

* Represents % who know Senate passed a smaller version.
+ Represents % who followed this story very closely.

By contrast, the public's view of several of Bush's recent decisions affecting environmental policies is not favorable. Only 21% approve of his decision not to limit carbon dioxide emissions, 25% approve of his decision to withdraw U.S. support from the Kyoto agreement and 26% approve of the way he's handled the issue of arsenic levels in drinking water even after the more recent announcement that the administration would review this policy. His decision to impose stricter lead-reporting regulations was much more popular with the public — 80% approve of this move.

For the most part, it has been to Bush's advantage that these actions did not connect with a large portion of the public. Fewer than three-in-ten are aware of any of these decisions. Just one-in-five knew of Bush's initial policy decision on arsenic levels in drinking water. In addition, only 19% were up to speed on Bush's decision to impose stricter lead regulations on manufacturers.

In general, the public is less clued in to Washington developments than it is to important news elsewhere. In spite of all the publicity surrounding the debate over the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform legislation, only 21% of the public knew the Senate actually passed the bill. By comparison, nearly seven-in-ten Americans know that the families of Oklahoma City bombing victims will be allowed to watch Timothy McVeigh's execution via closed-circuit television. Nearly half (46%) are aware that Yugoslavian leader Slobodan Milosevic was recently arrested.

Policies Divide Partisans

Not surprisingly, Republicans express higher levels of approval than do Democrats on Bush's initiatives and decisions, with the exception of increased education spending where more than 90% of Republicans, Democrats and independents endorse Bush's approach. The biggest partisan gap can be seen on Bush's tax cut proposal: 83% of Republicans approve, compared to only 41% of Democrats. Similarly, while 91% of GOP loyalists endorse Bush's handling of the China situation, only 59% of Democrats agree.

While Republicans are more supportive than Democrats of Bush's early decisions on the environment, the president fails to win majority support for most of these policy decisions even among GOP loyalists. Only 38% of Republicans approve of his decision not to limit carbon dioxide emissions, and the same percentage approve of his handling of the arsenic issue. The biggest partisan gaps can be seen on Bush's decision to withdraw U.S. support from the Kyoto treaty — 41% of Republicans approve of this move, compared to only 12% of Democrats.

Bush Decisions Draw Weak GOP Support

	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>Approve of ...</i>	%	%	%
Withdrawal from Kyoto	41	12	31
No limits on carbon dioxide	38	15	14
Handling of arsenic issue	38	18	22
Stricter lead regulations	82	77	88

Environmental Balancing Act

Most Americans (54%) express at least some confidence in Bush's ability to balance environmental and economic demands, with 21% expressing "a lot" of confidence in the president in this area. This is comparable to how the public viewed Clinton's environmental leadership. In 1997, 61% had some confidence in Clinton's ability to balance environmental protection with economic needs, with 22% saying they had a good deal of confidence in him.

Partisanship is evident here as well. Fully 86% of conservative Republicans and 73% of their more moderate counterparts are confident that Bush's policies will strike the right balance. This compares to just 46% and 26% of moderate and liberal Democrats, respectively. In 1997, Democrats were nearly twice as likely as Republicans to be confident in Clinton's environmental leadership.

As was the case in 1997, environmental groups have considerable credibility with the public, especially when compared to business and labor groups. While 27% have a lot of confidence in the ability of environmental groups to balance the economy and environment, just 12% have a high

Who Can Strike Environment-Economy Balance?					
<i>How much confidence in ...</i>	<u>A Lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Environmental groups	27	34	23	13	3=100
Democrats in Congress	21	40	22	12	5=100
George W. Bush	21	33	24	18	4=100
Republicans in Congress	14	37	29	15	5=100
Labor Unions	13	28	29	23	7=100
Business Groups	12	31	32	20	5=100

level of trust in business groups, and labor unions fare no better. Just over 20% have a lot of confidence in the ability of Democrats in Congress to balance environmental and economic needs — the same proportion as have faith in Bush. Republicans in Congress fare worse, with only 14% expressing a lot of confidence.

Interestingly, those who voice the most concern about environmental degradation are also largely unaware of Bush's policy decisions in this area. Less than a quarter of those who worry a lot about the environment know that Bush decided not to place limits on carbon dioxide emissions, even fewer know that the Bush administration has withdrawn the U.S. from the Kyoto agreement and more than half have heard nothing at all about the debate over arsenic in drinking water.

As a result, although people who worry about the environment are more skeptical about Bush than those who do not share their concerns, the differences are not as pronounced as might be expected. Nearly half (44%) of respondents who say they worry a great deal about most environmental issues have at least some confidence in Bush's ability to balance environmental and economic concerns, compared to 62% of those who are less worried about these problems.

No Outrage Among Environmentally Concerned			
	<i>Environmental Concern*</i>		
	<u>Low</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>High</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Bush progress likely</i>			
Likely	41	40	36
Not likely	49	55	58
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Confidence in Bush</i>			
A lot	24	22	16
Some	38	32	28
A little	21	23	28
None	11	20	25
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100

* Environmental concern is measured in terms of the number of environmental issues a respondent worries about "a great deal."

Similarly, those most concerned about the environment are not much more pessimistic than others in their assessments of whether environmental progress is likely on Bush's watch. Better than one-third (36%) of the environmentally concerned think Bush is likely to make real progress in protecting the environment, only slightly fewer than those who do not worry about the environment (41%).

Local Matters Most

As in the past, the public's greatest environmental concerns are those closest to home, while global environmental problems remain a much smaller worry. And though most are open to efforts at global cooperation on environmental issues, they are unwilling to have the U.S. bear too much of the burden of efforts to solve international environmental problems like global warming.

Pollution of rivers, lakes and reservoirs and the possible contamination of soil and water by toxic waste remain the most widespread environmental concerns in this country. However, the proportion of Americans who say they worry a great deal about these kinds of pollution, as well as air pollution, has dropped somewhat over the past decade. Whereas 64% of Americans worried a great deal about water pollution in a 1990 Gallup survey, 57% do so today, and the proportion worried about air pollution has dropped by an even larger margin. More than four-in-ten (44%) are very concerned about the loss of the natural habitat for wildlife, while only 30% worry as much about commercial development of open space.

	<i>Worry a "Great Deal"</i>		
	<u>1990⁺</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>2001</u>
	%	%	%
Water pollution	64	61	57
Toxic waste	63	59	57
Air pollution	58	47	47
Wildlife habitat	51	46	44
Ozone damage	43	40	41
Rain forests	40	44	41
Global warming	30	24	30
Overdevelopment	--	29	30

+ Gallup trend.

Global environmental issues rate as a lower priority for most Americans. Global warming, the loss of tropical rainforests and damage to the earth's ozone layer are less of a concern relative to local pollution issues.

The public continues to be moderately supportive of U.S. participation in international efforts to solve global warming. By nearly two-to-one the public disapproves of Bush's decision to withdraw U.S. support from the Kyoto agreement, and 58% think the U.S. should join other countries in setting standards to improve the global environment, instead of setting its standards independently.

But the public is more reluctant when it comes to certain steps aimed at reducing global warming. While a plurality of Americans (45%) are aware that the U.S. produces more carbon

dioxide per capita than other countries, few are willing to have the U.S. take on any greater responsibility for the clean-up. Two-thirds say that every country, rich or poor, should make the same changes now in order to limit future global warming, regardless of how much pollution they generated. Just one-in-four thinks poorer countries should not have to bear as much of the burden because they did not cause as much pollution.

GOP Leaders' Turnaround

Republican leaders in Congress are getting better ratings under a Bush administration than they did during most of Clinton's presidency. Their current 30% disapproval rating is the lowest one GOP leaders have registered since December 1994, at the start of the so-called Republican revolution. Roughly a year ago, opinion was slightly more negative than positive — 38% approved and 43% disapproved.

Since last year, the most dramatic shifts in opinion about GOP congressional leaders have come among senior citizens and political independents. In March 2000, those age 65 and older disapproved of the job Republican leaders in Congress were doing by a margin of 53%-24%. Today, seniors approve of the job they are doing — 49%-31%. Similarly, independents disapproved of GOP leaders last year by 44%-34%, now they approve (45%-24%). Catholics have also done an about-face on this issue, approving of Republican leaders now by a solid 45%-31% margin, compared to 34%-49% last year.

	GOP Leaders' Improving Image					
	<i>--March 2000--</i>			<i>--April 2001--</i>		
	<u>App-rove</u> %	<u>Disap-prove</u> %	<u>Don't know</u> %	<u>App-rove</u> %	<u>Disap-prove</u> %	<u>Don't know</u> %
Total	38	43	19=100	45	30	25=100
<i>Age</i>						
Under 30	50	33	17=100	44	28	28=100
30-49	37	45	18=100	44	28	28=100
50-64	35	46	19=100	46	35	19=100
65+	24	53	23=100	49	31	20=100
<i>Party</i>						
Republican	61	22	17=100	74	9	17=100
Democrat	22	64	14=100	29	50	21=100
Independent	34	44	22=100	45	24	31=100

Despite the GOP leadership's improved ratings, the public remains divided as to whether the party has become more compassionate and caring than it has been in the past. Just under half (47%) agree that the party has become more compassionate, while a similar proportion (46%) reject this notion. Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to agree that their party has mellowed — 73% vs. 30%, respectively. As might be expected, those who agree that Republicans have become more compassionate have a much more favorable view of GOP leaders in Congress than those who disagree.

Leadership Vacuum

At the same time, there are signs of a leadership vacuum within the Democratic Party. There is no public consensus as to who is the party's leader, and fully 27% didn't identify anyone as filling that role.

Democrats and Republicans differ in their views of who now leads the party. Gore and Clinton top the Democrats' list, while Republicans regard Gephardt and, to a lesser extent, Daschle as the party's leaders. Independents are fairly evenly split among their choices, although relatively few choose Daschle.

When asked about how leaders of the Democratic Party are responding to Bush's policies and proposals, a plurality of Americans (45%) say they are speaking out about the right amount. Nearly one quarter (23%) say they are speaking out too little, and 15% say they're speaking out too much. But there are important partisan differences on this issue, as Democrats are the most dissatisfied with their leadership's response to Bush. More than one-third (36%) say their leaders are not speaking out enough, while 45% say they are speaking out about the right amount.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Gore	20	27	12	20
Gephardt	16	14	23	17
Clinton	15	21	10	14
Lieberman	12	12	11	13
Daschle	8	5	14	7
Other	2	2	1	1
Nobody/ Don't know	<u>27</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>28</u>
	100	100	100	100

Public Less Tight-Fisted

While the public offers broad support for Bush's tax-cut plan, it is showing little appetite for fiscal austerity. Better than three-quarters of Americans (76%) favor increasing the education budget — one of the president's key budget priorities — and nearly as many want to boost spending on health care (71%) and Medicare (70%).

Of the 15 budget items tested in the survey, the public supports increased spending for 10 and favors maintaining current levels of funding for the other five. In no case does a plurality want to *decrease* spending on a program. The budget surplus has apparently caused Americans to be less tight-fisted in considering spending for specific federal programs. Support for higher funding for some key programs — notably Medicare and military defense — is up sharply from four years ago.

In May 1997, Americans were divided over Medicare — 44% favored increased spending, while the same number wanted to maintain current funding levels and 8% wanted to reduce spending. Today, while seven-in-ten favor an increase, 26% support the status quo and just 2% favor a reduction.

The shift in opinion on defense spending has been even more dramatic. Four years ago, more Americans said military spending should be decreased rather than increased (30% to 21%). Today, a plurality (47%) favors increased spending, while 40% support keeping funding at current levels and just 11% back a cut. Overall, the number favoring a bigger budget for the Pentagon has more than doubled — from 21% to 47%.

Support has grown more modestly for increased funding for health care (from 57% to 71%) and education (from 67% to 76%). Attitudes on funding for other programs, such as general scientific research and AIDS research, have not changed significantly, while support for increased anti-crime funding has actually dropped (from 62% to 55%), perhaps in response to lower crime rates.

More Support for Pentagon

Not surprisingly, Republicans and Democrats have significant disagreements over how to allocate federal dollars. Nonetheless, solid majorities of both parties, as well as independents, support higher budgets in several key areas: education, Medicare, health care and veterans' benefits.

Beyond that, major differences emerge. The top budget priorities for Republicans are education and defense — 68% of Republicans favor increasing funding for both programs. Just 40% of Democrats and the same proportion of independents back more money for the Pentagon. Narrow pluralities of both groups (47% of Democrats, 44% of independents) want to keep military spending at current levels.

Still, support for higher defense spending has increased across the political spectrum since 1997. Backing among Republicans for higher Pentagon funding has more than doubled (from 33% to 68%), while

<i>Priorities ...</i>	<i>Percent Who Favor Increased Spending</i>	
	<u>May 1997</u>	<u>Current</u>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Education	67	76
Health care	57	71
Medicare	44	70
Crime	62	55
AIDS research	54	55
Military defense	21	47
Environmental protection	46	48
Scientific research	45	41

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>Increase spending for ...</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Education	76	68	81	77
Health care	71	59	82	69
Veterans benefits	58	57	64	61
Medicare	70	59	78	72
Crime	55	46	63	56
AIDS research	55	36	65	61
Energy	52	57	52	46
Military defense	47	68	40	40
Environmental protection	48	29	56	54
Agriculture	46	36	52	48
Housing/Aid to cities	42	31	51	41
Scientific research	41	37	38	43
Transportation	30	23	34	32
Aid to U.S. Allies/Needy				
third world countries	17	15	20	15
State Department/American				
Embassies	11	10	12	11

Democratic support has tripled (from 13% to 40%). And one-in-five independents favored more money for defense in 1997, compared to 40% today.

Leading Democratic priorities are health care, education and Medicare — in each case, more Democrats than Republicans favor higher spending. But the biggest partisan gaps, aside from defense, are over funding for AIDS research and environmental programs. Nearly two-thirds of Democrats (65%) and 61% of independents favor boosting the budget for AIDS research, compared to 36% of Republicans. More than half of Democrats and independents (56% and 54%, respectively) back higher funding for the environment, while just 29% of Republicans agree.

Powell's Pitch Unpopular

The survey shows that Secretary of State Colin Powell has minimal public support for his effort to raise the budget for U.S. embassies and other State Department programs. As has traditionally been the case, support for funding overseas programs — either for the State Department or foreign aid — lags well behind domestic programs.

More than twice as many Americans support decreasing State's budget as favor increasing it (26% to 11%). A majority (55%) wants to maintain funding at current levels. Similarly, there is significantly more support for cutting foreign aid rather than increasing it (31% to 17%), while a plurality favors keeping the aid budget at its current level.

Execute McVeigh, Not on TV

Three-quarters of Americans believe that convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh should be put to death. That is higher than the 66% who supported the death penalty in principle in a Center survey conducted last month (see "Faith-Based Funding Backed," April 10).

The enormity of McVeigh's crime, as well as his unrepentant attitude, may have caused some people to rethink their opposition to the death penalty. In the earlier survey, African-Americans opposed the death penalty, 50%-39%. But fully two-thirds believe that penalty is appropriate for McVeigh — a swing of 28 points.

Similarly, only a narrow majority of Democrats (54%) offered generic support for the death penalty, but seven-in-ten back that penalty for McVeigh. Among Americans with annual household incomes above \$75,000 there was a 14-point shift — 65% supported the death penalty, while 79% favor McVeigh's execution.

Blacks Favor McVeigh Execution			
	<u>Death Penalty</u>	<u>McVeigh Execution</u>	<u>Dif.</u>
<i>Whites</i>	%	%	
Favor	70	77	+7
Oppose	24	17	-7
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	0
	100	100	
<i>African-Americans</i>			
Favor	39	67	+28
Oppose	50	25	-25
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	-3
	100	100	

But only about a quarter of the public (24%) favors televising McVeigh's execution, while 73% say it should not be broadcast. More than twice as many white men as white women (32% vs. 15%) believe that McVeigh's execution should be broadcast. Younger Americans are also more likely to support broadcasting the execution; three-in-ten of those under age 50 say McVeigh's death should be broadcast, compared to 14% of those over 50.

While the public has shown little awareness of some recent events, most people are closely tracking developments in McVeigh's case. Even about two-thirds of those under age 30 (66%), who generally don't follow the news as closely as older Americans, are aware that the victims' families will be able to watch McVeigh's execution.

No Panic Over Food Safety

Americans are both attentive to news about dangers to the food supply, and cautious about food safety issues. However, the recent spate of news stories about foot-and-mouth disease and other food-related problems does not seem to have increased American concerns about food safety. More than half of Americans (51%) say their concern about the safety of the food they eat has neither increased nor decreased over the past year.

Most Americans have been following news about the problems Europe has faced with respect to livestock diseases and the possibility of the contamination of the meat supply. In a Center survey conducted in mid-March, 55% of Americans said they followed news about the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease among livestock in Europe, with 22% following the story very closely. Today, fully 94% say they have heard about the problems with the meat supply in Europe, and three-quarters (76%) say they worry that this could happen in this country as well.

Concerns about food safety run high, but no more so than before these recent events. Three-in-four (74%) say it is necessary to take precautions in the home against food poisoning, while just 22% believe government regulations on food provide adequate protection. More than four-in-ten (42%) say they are very concerned about the safety of the food they eat, with another 27% somewhat concerned. But on both of these questions, surveys conducted in the 1990s found virtually identical levels of concern.

Potential Problems, But No Immediate Threat		
		<u>2001</u>
<i>Livestock diseases</i>		%
Worry could happen here		76
Don't worry		18
Have not heard about		6
Don't know		*
		<u>100</u>
<i>How concerned</i>	<u>1997⁺</u>	<u>2001</u>
<i>about food you eat?</i>	%	%
Very	48	42
Somewhat	25	27
Only a little	18	20
Not at all	8	11
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100
+ Newsweek poll.		

Similarly, while 36% think the food supply in this country is less safe than it was 10 years ago, and 38% say they are more worried than they were a year ago that the food they eat may be contaminated, these concerns are no greater than they were four years ago.

Women, especially older women, are more concerned about the safety of the food supply than men. Overall, 45% of women say they are very concerned about the safety of the food they eat, compared to just 37% of men. Over half of women of retirement age express this high level of concern.

Blacks also express particularly high levels of concern about food safety. More than seven-in-ten (71%) black respondents say they are very concerned about the safety of the food they eat, and more than half feel that the food supply is less safe than it was ten years ago (53%) and are personally more worried about food contamination than they were a year ago (52%). By comparison, just 38% of white respondents are concerned about the safety of the food they eat, 35% feel the food supply has become more dangerous, and 37% are more worried about food contamination than they were a year ago.

Concern about the food supply is also highest among the less educated — roughly half of respondents with no more than a high school degree are very concerned about the safety of the food they eat compared to just 30% of college graduates. Democrats also express higher levels of concern about food safety than Republicans, and are more likely to say that the food supply is becoming less safe than it was 10 years ago.

Release of Air Crew Tops News Interest Index

More than half of the public (55%) paid very close attention to the release of the U.S. air crew held by China, making it the month’s top story. Interest was fairly high among most major demographic groups, but there were partisan differences. Conservative Republicans paid much more attention to this story than did liberal Democrats (70% vs. 48%).

Interest in news about the U.S. economy ranked second, with more than one-third (36%) of Americans paying very close attention. Historically, interest in economic news has risen along with concerns over the nation’s financial health. Interest spiked in the early 1990s, then decreased during the economic recovery. Attention is up again this month, by six points over February.

Rising Interest in Economic News	
	<u>Following Very Closely</u>
	%
April, 2001	36
February, 2001	30
January, 2001	32
June, 1995	26
February, 1995	23
June, 1994	25
January, 1994	34
February, 1993	49
February, 1992	47
October, 1991	36

About a quarter of the public (24%) paid very close attention to the congressional debate in Congress over Bush's budget and tax cut plan. Republicans and Democrats paid the same level of attention to this story (27%), with independents slightly behind at 20%. The rioting in Cincinnati that followed the shooting of an unarmed black man by police was also followed very closely by about one quarter of the public (24%). Blacks paid significantly more attention to this story than did whites or Hispanics (45% vs. 21% and 20%, respectively).

About one-in-five Americans (22%) closely tracked continued violence in the Middle East. Floods in the Midwest were followed very closely by one-in-five Americans. At this stage, attention to the floods is far less than it was for the much more destructive flooding that hit the region eight years ago; 65% paid very close attention to Midwest flooding in August 1993.

The congressional debate over campaign finance reform garnered the very close attention of only about one-in-seven Americans (14%), while one-third of the public tuned out entirely. Since the controversy over Democratic fund-raising practices in 1996, news about money and politics has drawn relatively little interest, with barely one-in-five Americans ever paying very close attention to this story. Interest is fairly low among most demographic groups with one exception. By a three-to-one margin, Americans age 50 and over followed this story more compared to those under age 50 (24% vs. 8%).

The legalization of medically-assisted suicide in the Netherlands was followed very closely by only 7% of Americans, while better than half the public (56%) paid no attention to this story.

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<u>Release Of U.S. Air Crew</u>	<u>Reports About U.S. Economy</u>	<u>Rioting In Cincinnati</u>	<u>Bush's Tax Plan</u>	<u>Middle East Violence</u>	<u>Midwest Floods</u>	<u>Campaign Finance Debate</u>	<u>Legalizing Assisted Suicide</u>	<u>(N)</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	55	36	24	24	22	20	14	7	(1202)
Sex									
Male	52	41	24	25	26	19	16	7	(550)
Female	56	31	24	22	19	20	12	7	(652)
Race									
White	55	36	21	22	20	20	14	6	(1004)
Non-white	52	34	35	29	30	18	16	9	(188)
Black	53	36	45	32	33	21	19	10	(116)
Age									
Under 30	50	25	20	22	19	15	6	9	(220)
30-49	47	35	22	19	18	16	10	6	(476)
50+	64	43	27	30	29	27	24	6	(488)
Education									
College Grad.	62	50	24	32	25	16	18	7	(373)
Some College	55	35	25	23	20	17	12	6	(308)
High School Grad.	56	35	22	21	24	24	13	7	(408)
<H.S. Grad.	38	16	24	18	18	23	12	7	(109)
Region									
East	54	34	22	25	23	17	14	7	(222)
Midwest	55	36	28	20	21	29	12	6	(298)
South	54	36	24	26	22	19	17	7	(414)
West	54	36	20	23	22	14	12	7	(262)
Party ID									
Republican	63	42	21	26	21	14	16	8	(335)
Democrat	54	34	26	27	25	24	16	7	(422)
Independent	55	36	24	20	22	21	14	6	(347)
Internet User									
Yes	56	38	22	24	21	17	12	6	(774)
No	52	31	26	23	24	25	17	8	(428)

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL

February 2001 vs. April 2001

	----- February 2001 -----			----- April 2001 -----			Change in Disapprove	(N)
	Approve	Disapprove	DK	Approve	Disapprove	DK		
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Total	53	21	26=100	56	27	17=100	+6	(1202)
Sex								
Male	59	19	22	60	24	16	+5	(550)
Female	48	23	29	51	30	19	+7	(652)
Race								
White	59	18	23	57	26	17	+8	(1004)
Non-white	30	33	37	47	33	20	0	(188)
Black	22	40	38	42	33	25	-7	(116)
Hispanic*	46	25	29	62	31	7	+6	(80)
Race and Sex								
White Men	65	16	19	59	25	16	+9	(450)
White Women	54	20	26	55	28	17	+8	(554)
Age								
Under 30	52	26	22	51	30	19	+4	(220)
30-49	57	17	26	55	27	18	+10	(476)
50-64	52	22	26	56	28	16	+6	(263)
65+	49	23	28	59	24	17	+1	(225)
Sex and Age								
Men under 50	62	17	21	57	26	17	+9	(344)
Women under 50	47	23	30	51	31	18	+8	(352)
Men 50+	56	20	24	63	24	13	+4	(200)
Women 50+	47	23	30	52	29	19	+6	(288)
Education								
College Grad.	55	24	21	61	28	11	+4	(373)
Some College	54	18	28	57	27	16	+9	(308)
High School Grad.	55	17	28	53	28	19	+11	(408)
<H.S. Grad.	46	28	26	49	26	25	-2	(109)
Family Income								
\$75,000+	63	22	15	62	30	8	+8	(224)
\$50,000-\$74,999	55	19	26	61	24	15	+5	(185)
\$30,000-\$49,999	57	15	28	59	25	16	+10	(276)
\$20,000-\$29,999	51	24	25	50	29	21	+5	(157)
<\$20,000	47	24	29	45	33	22	+9	(199)

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

Continued ...

	----- February 2001 -----			----- April 2001 -----			Change in Disapprove	(N)
	Approve	Disapprove	DK	Approve	Disapprove	DK		
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Total	53	21	26=100	56	27	17=100	+6	(1202)
Region								
East	53	24	23	57	29	14	+5	(222)
Midwest	53	20	27	52	26	22	+6	(298)
South	59	19	22	59	24	17	+5	(414)
West	44	23	33	52	32	16	+9	(262)
Religious Affiliation								
Total White Protestant	65	14	21	63	20	17	+6	(546)
White Protestant Evangelical	72	11	17	70	15	15	+4	(256)
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	57	18	25	57	25	18	+7	(290)
White Catholic	60	14	26	56	28	16	+14	(240)
Secular	34	33	33	39	41	20	+8	(122)
Community Size								
Large City	42	26	32	44	41	15	+15	(233)
Suburb	54	25	21	61	26	13	+1	(302)
Small City/Town	55	19	26	56	24	20	+5	(423)
Rural Area	62	15	23	58	21	21	+6	(237)
Party ID								
Republican	85	3	12	87	5	8	+2	(335)
Democrat	29	41	30	36	46	18	+5	(422)
Independent	52	20	28	56	26	18	+6	(347)
Party and Ideology								
Conservative Republican	89	2	9	94	1	5	-1	(189)
Moderate/Liberal Republican	80	5	15	79	10	11	+5	(140)
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	34	37	29	40	41	19	+4	(271)
Liberal Democrat	16	53	31	29	58	13	+5	(139)
2000 Presidential Vote								
Bush	90	1	9	92	2	6	+1	(407)
Gore	22	45	33	33	49	18	+4	(396)
Marital Status								
Married	61	17	22	62	25	13	+8	(655)
Unmarried	46	25	29	48	30	22	+5	(545)
Parental Status								
Parent	58	15	27	58	26	16	+11	(419)
Non-Parent	51	24	25	54	28	18	+4	(783)
Labor Union								
Union Household	47	28	25	51	36	13	+8	(183)
Non-Union Household	54	20	26	56	26	18	+6	(1006)

WORRY A GREAT DEAL ABOUT ...

	<u>Pollution of Rivers, Lakes & Reservoirs</u> %	<u>Contamination of Soil & Water by Toxic Waste</u> %	<u>Air Pollution</u> %	<u>Damage to Ozone Layer</u> %	<u>Loss of Rain Forests</u> %	<u>Global Warming</u> %
Total	57	57	47	41	41	30
Sex						
Male	56	52	44	38	41	28
Female	58	62	50	44	41	33
Race						
White	55	54	43	38	39	29
Non-White	69	71	66	58	51	34
Black	72	73	66	57	49	30
Hispanic*	62	65	61	55	45	42
Race and Sex						
White Men	53	48	40	33	39	26
White Women	56	60	46	42	40	32
Age						
Under 30	54	56	49	46	42	36
30-49	59	58	48	42	42	31
50-64	58	59	43	36	42	28
65+	59	59	51	40	40	26
Sex and Age						
Men under 50	55	51	44	41	42	30
Women under 50	59	62	52	46	42	36
Men 50+	59	55	44	34	38	24
Women 50+	58	62	48	41	43	29
Education						
College Grad	52	51	42	37	38	30
Some College	54	54	42	43	40	29
High School Grad	62	60	50	40	40	32
<H.S. Grad	60	65	54	48	49	30
Family Income						
\$75,000+	50	48	36	34	34	27
\$50,000-\$74,999	50	48	40	33	40	23
\$30,000-\$49,999	57	60	44	44	43	35
\$20,000-29,999	66	63	57	46	46	31
<\$20,000	64	67	57	49	46	34

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: I'm going to read you a list of environmental problems. As I read each one, please tell me if you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all... (The "greenhouse effect" or global warming/Damage to the earth's ozone layer/Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste/Air pollution/Pollution of rivers, lakes and reservoirs/The loss of tropical rain forests)

Continued...

	<u>Pollution of Rivers, Lakes & Reservoirs</u>	<u>Contamination of Soil & Water by Toxic Waste</u>	<u>Air Pollution</u>	<u>Damage to Ozone Layer</u>	<u>Loss of Rain Forests</u>	<u>Global Warming</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Total</i>	57	57	47	41	41	30
<i>Region</i>						
East	61	62	51	48	42	40
Midwest	51	54	39	33	35	27
South	61	60	52	43	41	26
West	54	53	46	41	47	33
<i>Religious Affiliation</i>						
Total White Protestant	55	54	42	37	40	28
White Protestant Evangelical	57	54	42	36	41	26
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	53	55	42	38	40	29
White Catholic	62	56	44	38	39	29
Secular	49	49	47	43	43	33
<i>Community Size</i>						
Large City	52	53	49	43	42	35
Suburb	55	55	48	43	42	29
Small City/Town	63	62	49	42	42	32
Rural Area	54	55	41	34	37	23
<i>Party ID</i>						
Republican	45	41	31	25	32	17
Democrat	62	65	56	50	44	33
Independent	62	62	52	45	46	37
<i>Party and Ideology</i>						
Conservative Republican	37	35	24	19	24	12
Moderate/Liberal Republican	53	47	38	30	39	22
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	61	67	56	48	41	32
Liberal Democrat	65	60	58	53	49	36
<i>Bush Approval</i>						
Approve	51	52	38	34	35	23
Disapprove	68	67	62	57	54	46
<i>2000 Presidential Vote</i>						
Bush	48	42	32	27	34	18
Gore	62	64	56	49	44	37
<i>Labor Union</i>						
Union Household	60	66	50	43	44	33
Non-Union Household	56	56	47	41	41	30

GOP CONGRESS JOB APPROVAL

March 2000 vs. April 2001

	----- March 2000 -----			----- April 2001 -----			Change in Disapprove
	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	38	43	19=100	45	30	25=100	-13
Sex							
Male	40	44	16	46	31	23	-13
Female	36	42	22	45	28	27	-14
Race							
White	39	41	20	47	28	25	-13
Non-white	32	53	15	38	39	23	-14
Black	28	61	11	34	43	23	-18
Hispanic*	54	30	16	50	30	20	0
Race and Sex							
White Men	42	41	17	47	31	22	-10
White Women	37	41	22	47	25	28	-16
Age							
Under 30	50	33	17	44	28	28	-5
30-49	37	45	18	44	28	28	-17
50-64	35	46	19	46	35	19	-11
65+	24	53	23	49	31	20	-22
Sex and Age							
Men under 50	43	41	16	42	30	28	-11
Women under 50	41	40	19	46	27	27	-13
Men 50+	34	52	14	52	34	14	-18
Women 50+	28	47	25	43	32	25	-15
Education							
College Grad.	36	49	15	47	34	19	-15
Some College	41	42	17	49	25	26	-17
High School Grad.	36	46	18	44	29	27	-17
<H.S. Grad.	37	32	31	41	31	28	-1
Family Income							
\$75,000+	45	45	10	46	32	22	-13
\$50,000-\$74,999	39	47	14	51	30	19	-17
\$30,000-\$49,999	42	41	17	49	29	22	-12
\$20,000-\$29,999	35	41	24	42	32	26	-9
<\$20,000	34	46	20	44	30	26	-16

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing?

Continued ...

	----- March 2000 -----			----- April 2001 -----			Change in Disapprove
	Approve	Disapprove	DK	Approve	Disapprove	DK	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	38	43	19=100	45	30	25=100	-13
Region							
East	36	49	15	44	33	23	-16
Midwest	39	42	19	44	29	27	-13
South	37	45	18	50	28	22	-17
West	40	38	22	40	32	28	-6
Religious Affiliation							
Total White Protestant	41	37	22	50	25	25	-12
White Protestant Evangelical	43	37	20	56	21	23	-16
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	38	38	24	45	29	26	-9
White Catholic	34	49	17	45	31	24	-18
Secular	31	51	18	30	35	35	-16
Community Size							
Large City	37	47	16	41	31	28	-16
Suburb	36	47	17	47	32	21	-15
Small City/Town	38	40	22	48	27	25	-13
Rural Area	40	41	19	43	31	26	-10
Party ID							
Republican	61	22	17	74	9	17	-13
Democrat	22	64	14	29	50	21	-14
Independent	34	44	22	45	24	31	-20
Party and Ideology							
Conservative Republican	--	--	--	82	6	12	--
Moderate/Liberal Republican	--	--	--	67	11	22	--
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	--	--	--	29	47	24	--
Liberal Democrat	--	--	--	30	54	16	--
1996/2000 Presidential Vote							
Dole/Bush	61	28	11	75	8	17	-20
Clinton/Gore	21	63	16	27	52	21	-11
Marital Status							
Married	39	43	18	50	27	23	-16
Unmarried	37	44	19	41	32	27	-12
Parental Status							
Parent	40	40	20	49	25	26	-15
Non-Parent	37	45	18	43	33	24	-12
Labor Union							
Union Household	33	50	17	45	36	19	-14
Non-Union Household	39	42	19	45	29	26	-13

OPINION OF DEATH PENALTY

	----- March 2001+ -----			----- April 2001 -----			Difference in Favor
	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %	
Total	66	27	7=100	75	18	7=100	+9
Sex							
Male	71	24	5	80	15	5	+9
Female	60	31	9	71	19	10	+11
Race							
White	70	24	6	77	17	6	+7
Non-white	46	44	10	68	22	10	+22
Black	39	50	11	67	25	8	+28
Hispanic*	63	31	6	67	19	14	+4
Race and Sex							
White Men	76	19	5	81	15	4	+5
White Women	66	27	7	73	18	9	+7
Age							
Under 30	63	33	4	70	22	8	+7
30-49	65	29	6	76	17	7	+11
50-64	71	21	8	77	16	7	+6
65+	63	24	13	78	15	7	+15
Sex and Age							
Men under 50	69	28	3	78	18	4	+9
Women under 50	60	33	7	70	20	10	+10
Men 50+	74	17	9	83	12	5	+9
Women 50+	62	27	11	73	18	9	+11
Education							
College Grad.	59	35	6	71	23	6	+12
Some College	69	26	5	77	16	7	+8
High School Grad.	68	24	8	80	14	6	+12
<H.S. Grad.	64	26	10	69	18	13	+5
Family Income							
\$75,000+	65	28	7	79	19	2	+14
\$50,000-\$74,999	71	25	4	79	18	3	+8
\$30,000-\$49,999	68	27	5	79	16	5	+11
\$20,000-\$29,999	65	30	5	78	14	8	+13
<\$20,000	57	35	8	66	24	10	+9

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

+ March 2001 question was worded: "Now I am going to read you a list of some programs and proposals that are being discussed in this country today. For each one, tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose it... the death penalty for persons convicted of murder."

Question: As you may know, Timothy McVeigh, the man responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing, is scheduled to be executed next month. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for Timothy McVeigh?

Continued...

	----- March 2001+ -----			----- April 2001 -----			Difference in Favor
	Favor	Oppose	DK	Favor	Oppose	DK	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	66	27	7=100	75	18	7=100	+9
Region							
East	59	30	11	72	20	8	+13
Midwest	64	30	6	74	19	7	+10
South	68	25	7	79	14	7	+11
West	68	27	5	73	19	8	+5
Religious Affiliation							
Total White Protestant	72	21	7	80	14	6	+8
White Protestant Evangelical	74	19	7	80	12	8	+6
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	70	24	6	81	15	4	+11
White Catholic	67	27	6	77	18	5	+10
Secular	66	30	4	73	20	7	+7
Community Size							
Large City	63	32	5	70	20	10	+7
Suburb	62	32	6	72	22	6	+10
Small City/Town	65	28	7	76	18	6	+11
Rural Area	72	18	10	83	10	7	+11
Party ID							
Republican	79	15	6	82	13	5	+3
Democrat	54	38	8	70	22	8	+16
Independent	66	30	4	76	16	8	+10
Party and Ideology							
Conservative Republican	81	14	5	86	12	2	+5
Moderate/Liberal Republican	76	17	7	80	14	6	+4
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	59	33	8	76	16	8	+17
Liberal Democrat	47	46	7	57	35	8	+10
Bush Approval							
Approve	--	--	--	81	13	6	--
Disapprove	--	--	--	70	23	7	--
2000 Presidential Vote							
Bush	77	16	7	82	13	5	+5
Gore	55	38	7	71	22	7	+16
Marital Status							
Married	69	23	8	80	15	5	+11
Unmarried	62	32	6	71	20	9	+9
Parental Status							
Parent	64	30	6	77	17	6	+13
Non-Parent	67	26	7	74	18	8	+7
Labor Union							
Union Household	66	29	5	74	20	6	+8
Non-Union Household	66	27	7	76	17	7	+10

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,202 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period April 18-22, 2001. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=598) or Form 2 (N=604), the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone numbers in the U.S. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing one or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. The use of replicates also insures that the regional distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Again, this works to increase the representativeness of the sample.

At least 10 attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home." If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who is at home." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 2000). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
APRIL 2001 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
— FINAL TOPLINE —
April 18-22, 2001
N=1,202

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Clinton: April, 1993+	55	37	8=100
Bush: April, 1989+	58	16	26=100
Reagan: April, 1981+	67	19	14=100
Carter: April, 1977+	63	18	19=100

+ Gallup trend

Q.2 Do you (approve/disapprove) very strongly, or not so strongly?

		---- Gallup ----	
		Clinton	Reagan
		<u>April 1993¹</u>	<u>March 1981</u>
56	Approve	55	60
	34 Very strongly	18	35
	20 Not so strongly	37	25
	2 Don't know	--	--
27	Disapprove	37	24
	9 Not so strongly	16	9
	18 Very strongly	21	15
	* Don't know	--	--
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>16</u>
100		100	100

¹ In 1993 the question was worded "Do you approve/disapprove strongly or moderately?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=598]:

Q.3F1 Based on what you've seen or heard so far, what, if anything, would you say you have LIKED most about George W. Bush? [IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

		<u>Feb 2001</u>
22	Policy Positions and Proposals (NET)	14
8	Handling of China/spy plane incident	--
6	Tax proposals	7
1	Support of the military	3
1	Foreign policy	--
1	Education policy	2
1	Economic policy	*
1	Stand on abortion/Cutting funds for abortion clinics	2
1	Social Security	--
1	Elderly issues/Medicare	*
3	Other policy position/proposal	3
19	Personal Traits (NET)	22
6	Honesty/Integrity/Trustworthy	8
4	Way he presents himself/Relaxed/Calm/Dignified	3
3	His character/Good man/Wants to do the right thing/Moral	4
2	Straight talker/Can understand him	1
1	A Christian/Man of faith	3
1	Nice family/Wife/Dad	2
4	Other personal traits	3
8	Political Traits (NET)	13
	Leadership style/Takes charge/No nonsense/Sticks to	
5	his guns/Consistent	3
	Trying to keep campaign promises/Following	
1	his campaign agenda/Doing what he said he would	3
1	Republican/Conservative	2
1	Not always seeking the spotlight	--
*	Bipartisan/Reaches out/Conciliatory	2
*	Getting things done/Taken quick action	2
*	Other political trait	2
2	Everything	2
2	Appointments	2
2	Don't like him	2
1	Too early to tell/Hasn't been president long enough to judge	2
1	Just not Clinton	*
1	He's OK/Good President/Good job	2
1	I really like him	--
4	Other	8
16	Nothing	20
25	Don't know/Refused	17

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=604]:

Q.4F2 Based on what you've seen or heard so far, what, if anything, would you say you have DISliked most about George W. Bush? [IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

		<u>Feb 2001</u>
26	Policy Positions and Proposals (NET)	16
	8 Ideas on the environment	*
	5 Tax proposals	5
	5 Handling of China/spy plane incident	--
	2 Helps rich instead of poor	1
	1 Foreign policy	--
	1 Pro big business	--
	1 Economic policy	*
	1 Education policy	2
	1 Position on gun control	--
	1 Elderly/Senior citizen issues	1
	1 Social Security	1
	* Stand on abortion/Will take away a woman's right to choose	4
	3 Other policy position/proposal	3
10	Personal Traits (NET)	11
	3 Attitude/Arrogant/Self-righteous/Cocky	2
	2 Not articulate/Poor public speaker	2
	1 Stupid/Lack of knowledge	1
	1 His father/Never liked his dad	*
	* Deceitful/Don't trust him/Not trustful	1
	* His looks/Appearance/Dress	1
	* Past sins/(Cocaine use/DUI)	1
	2 Other personal traits	3
7	Political Traits (NET)	4
	3 Waffling/Changes his mind	--
	1 Republican/Not a Democrat	1
	1 Not a good leader	*
	* Inexperienced	1
	1 Other political traits	2
2	The way he got the job/Stole the election	4
2	Just don't like him	1
2	Too early to tell/Hasn't been president long enough to judge	3
1	Everything	2
1	Not doing a good job/Not accomplishing anything	--
*	Like him/The job he's doing	1
*	Appointments	2
3	Other	6
24	Nothing	39
25	Don't know/Refused	15

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? [IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
April, 2001	45	30	25=100
January, 2001	43	36	21=100
July, 2000	36	46	18=100
May, 2000	40	42	18=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100
February, 2000	40	43	17=100
January, 2000	39	41	20=100
December, 1999	38	42	20=100
October, 1999	34	50	16=100
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100
September, 1999	35	48	17=100
August, 1999	40	44	16=100
July, 1999	36	45	19=100
June, 1999	37	46	17=100
May, 1999	38	44	18=100
March, 1999	38	47	15=100
February, 1999	37	51	12=100
Mid-January, 1999	36	51	13=100
January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Late December, 1998	39	56	5=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
September 21-22, 1998	44	44	12=100
September 19-20, 1998	46	41	13=100
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Late August, 1998	48	36	16=100
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
June, 1998	42	38	20=100
May, 1998	40	41	19=100
April, 1998	41	40	19=100
March, 1998	43	39	18=100
January, 1998	43	41	16=100
November, 1997	41	43	16=100
August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 1997	40	44	16=100
February, 1997	44	42	14=100
January, 1997	38	47	15=100
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100
October, 1995	36	51	13=100

Q.5 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March, 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

DP.1 How do you think the leaders of the Democratic Party are responding to George W. Bush's policies and proposals... do you think they are speaking out too much, speaking out too little, or speaking out about the right amount?

		<i>----- Party Id -----</i>		
		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
15	Speaking out too much	27	7	17
23	Speaking out too little	8	36	20
45	Speaking out about the right amount	51	45	45
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>
100		100	100	100

DP.2 Who do YOU now think of as the leader of the Democratic Party... **(READ AND ROTATE)?**

		<i>----- Party Id -----</i>		
		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
15	Bill Clinton	10	21	14
20	Al Gore	12	27	20
12	Joseph Lieberman	11	12	13
16	Dick Gephardt [OR]	23	14	17
8	Tom Daschle	14	5	7
2	Other (VOL)	1	2	1
8	Nobody is (VOL)	11	6	7
<u>19</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>21</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.6 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not Too Closely</u>	<u>Not At All Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	36	34	16	13	1=100
	February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1=100
	January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
	June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
	March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
	February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
	December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
	October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
	June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
	May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
	January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
	Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
	December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
	October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100

Q.6 CONTINUED ...

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not Too Closely	Not At All Closely	DK/Ref
Item a Continued						
	September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
	Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
	August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
	May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
	February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
	January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
	September, 1992	43	37	13	6	*=100
	May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
	March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
	February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
	January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
	October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
b.	The release of the U.S. air crew held in China	55	31	9	5	*=100
c.	The debate in Congress over campaign finance reform	14	27	25	33	1=100
d.	The debate in Congress over George W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan	24	38	20	18	*=100
	February, 2001 ²	31	35	19	14	1=100
e.	Continued violence in the Middle East	22	34	24	19	1=100
	Mid-October, 2000 ³	30	38	18	13	1=100
	Early October, 2000 ⁴	21	30	27	21	1=100
	January, 1997 ⁵	12	23	29	35	1=100
	May, 1988 ⁶	18	37	34	9	2=100
f.	The floods in the Midwest	20	34	24	22	*=100
	August, 1993	65	27	6	2	*=100
g.	Rioting in Cincinnati after an unarmed black man was shot by police	24	32	23	20	1=100
h.	The legalizing of medically-assisted suicide in the Netherlands	7	12	24	56	1=100

² In February 2001 the question was worded "George W. Bush's tax-cut plan."

³ In Mid-October 2000 the question was worded "Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis."

⁴ In Early October 2000 the question was worded "Renewed violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis."

⁵ In January 1997 the story was listed as "Renewed tensions between Israelis and Palestinians over Hebron."

⁶ In May 1988 the story was listed as "The conflict in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories."

On a different subject...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=598]:

Q.7F1 Overall, has George W. Bush done better than you expected as president, worse than you expected, or about as you expected?

		<i>Newsweek</i>	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>
		GW Bush	Clinton
		<u>Feb 2001⁷</u>	<u>April 1993</u>
22	Better than expected	24	12
7	Worse than expected	7	14
67	About as expected	61	73
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=604]:

Q.8F2 So far, does George W. Bush seem to be a stronger leader than you expected, a weaker leader, or is he about as strong as you expected?

		<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>
		Clinton
		<u>Jan 1993</u>
21	Stronger leader than expected	13
13	Weaker leader than expected	12
59	About as strong as expected	68
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Tell me which of the following best reflects your impression of George W. Bush so far. **[READ RESPONSES]**

		<u>Feb 2001</u>
8	Liberal,	7
37	Middle of the road or	39
46	Conservative	44
3	Neither particularly (VOL)	2
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100		100

7

February 2001 question was worded slightly different "From what you've seen or heard in the news about President Bush's first three months in office, is he doing a better job or worse job than you expected — or is his performance about what you expected?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=598]:

B.1F1 Over the course of George W. Bush's presidency, do you think he is likely or NOT likely to make real progress in protecting the environment?

		<i>CBS/N.Y. Times</i>
		<u>Sept 2000⁸</u>
39	Likely	42
54	Not likely	45
<u>7</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>13</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=604]:

B.2F2 Over the course of George W. Bush's presidency, do you think he will do a good job handling the nation's foreign policy, or not?

55	Good job
34	Not good job
<u>11</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

Now I'd like your reaction to the following statement...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=598]:

Q.10F1 The Republican Party has become more compassionate and caring than it has been in the past. Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with this statement?

		Based on Registered Voters
		<u>Sept 2000</u>
7	Completely agree	13
40	Mostly agree	34
27	Mostly disagree	27
19	Completely disagree	17
<u>7</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>9</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=604]:

Q.11F2 George W. Bush is really more conservative than he lets on. Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with this statement?

		Based on Registered Voters
		<u>Sept 2000</u>
16	Completely agree	18
42	Mostly agree	40
24	Mostly disagree	20
9	Completely disagree	8
<u>9</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>14</u>
100		100

Now on another subject...

Q.12 If you were making up the budget for the federal government this year, would you increase spending for **(INSERT ITEM, ROTATE)**, decrease spending for **(NAME OF ITEM)** or keep spending the same for this? What about for **(NEXT ITEM)**?

		<u>Increase Spending</u>	<u>Decrease Spending</u>	<u>Keep Spending The Same</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
FORM 1 ONLY [N=598]:					
a.	Environmental protection	48	9	40	3=100
	May, 1997	46	14	38	2=100
	December, 1994	40	17	40	3=100
	May, 1990	71	3	24	2=100
	May, 1987	59	4	34	3=100
b.	Health care	71	4	23	2=100
	May, 1997	57	7	34	2=100
	December, 1994	52	11	33	4=100
	August, 1990	74	6	18	2=100
	May, 1990	80	3	16	1=100
	May, 1987	72	3	23	2=100
c.	Education	76	5	18	1=100
	May, 1997 ⁹	67	7	23	3=100
	December, 1994	64	6	28	2=100
	May, 1990	76	3	20	1=100
	May, 1987	69	4	25	2=100
d.	Scientific research	41	10	46	3=100
	May, 1997	45	14	38	3=100
	December, 1994	37	15	44	4=100
	May, 1990	51	9	37	3=100
	May, 1987	45	9	42	4=100
e.	Energy	52	9	35	4=100
f.	Housing and aid to cities	42	12	42	4=100
g.	The State Department and American Embassies	11	26	55	8=100
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=604]:					
h.	Research on AIDS	55	6	36	3=100
	May, 1997	54	12	31	3=100
	December, 1994	55	9	33	3=100
	May, 1990	59	8	30	3=100
	May, 1987	69	7	21	3=100

9

From May 1987 through May 1997 the item was "the public school systems."

Q.12 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Increase Spending</u>	<u>Decrease Spending</u>	<u>Keep Spending The Same</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
i.	Combatting crime	55	5	37	3=100
	May, 1997	62	7	29	2=100
	December, 1994	71	4	23	2=100
j.	Military defense	47	11	40	2=100
	May, 1997	21	30	46	3=100
	December, 1994	31	23	44	2=100
	August, 1990	23	43	31	3=100
	May, 1990	18	40	39	3=100
	May, 1987	24	29	44	3=100
k.	Veterans benefits and services	58	3	34	5=100
l.	Transportation	30	12	52	6=100
m.	Agriculture	46	8	42	4=100
n.	Military and economic assistance to U.S. allies and needy third world countries	17	31	48	4=100
o.	Medicare	70	2	26	2=100
	May, 1997	44	8	44	4=100

ASK ALL:

Now some questions about the environment...

Q.13 First, how much confidence do you have in **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]** to strike the right balance between protecting the environment and keeping the economy growing. . . a lot, some, a little, or none? **[REPEAT FOR EACH ITEM]**

		<u>A Lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	George W. Bush	21	33	24	18	4=100
	Clinton: November, 1997	22	39	25	12	2=100
b.	The Republicans in Congress	14	37	29	15	5=100
	November, 1997	14	41	27	14	4=100
c.	The Democrats in Congress	21	40	22	12	5=100
	November, 1997	15	42	26	13	4=100
d.	Labor unions	13	28	29	23	7=100
	November, 1997	13	25	33	25	4=100
e.	Business groups	12	31	32	20	5=100
	November, 1997	10	33	38	15	4=100
f.	Environmental groups	27	34	23	13	3=100
	November, 1997	30	36	22	9	3=100

Q.14 I'm going to read you a list of environmental problems. As I read each one, please tell me if you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all? First, how much do you personally worry about... [INSERT ITEM. ROTATE] . . a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all? How about [INSERT NEXT ITEM]

		Great <u>Deal</u>	Fair <u>Amount</u>	Only <u>A Little</u>	Not <u>At All</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The "greenhouse effect" or global warming	30	29	24	14	3=100
	November, 1997	24	30	26	15	5=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1997	24	26	29	17	4=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : April, 1990	30	27	20	16	6=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : May, 1989	35	28	18	12	7=100
b.	Damage to the earth's ozone layer	41	27	20	11	1=100
	November, 1997	40	28	21	9	2=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1997	33	27	25	13	2=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : April, 1990	43	28	15	10	4=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : May, 1989	51	26	13	8	2=100
c.	Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste	57	26	13	3	1=100
	November, 1997	59	24	13	4	*=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : April, 1990	63	22	10	5	*=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : May, 1989	69	21	7	3	*=100
d.	Air pollution	47	30	17	5	1=100
	November, 1997	47	34	14	4	1=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1997	42	34	18	5	1=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : April, 1990	58	29	9	4	*=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : May, 1989	63	25	8	4	*=100
e.	Pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs	57	27	12	3	1=100
	November, 1997	61	27	9	3	*=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : April, 1990	64	23	9	4	*=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : May, 1989	72	19	5	3	1=100
f.	The loss of tropical rain forests	41	25	21	11	2=100
	November, 1997	44	26	19	10	1=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : April, 1990	40	24	19	14	3=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : May, 1989	42	25	18	12	3=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=598]:

g.F1	The loss of natural habitat for wildlife	44	30	18	7	1=100
	November, 1997	46	32	16	5	1=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : April, 1990	51	30	12	7	*=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : May, 1989	58	27	9	5	1=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=604]:

h.F2	Commercial development of open space	30	26	28	14	2=100
	November, 1997	29	30	24	15	2=100

Now I would like to ask you a few questions about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them. First,

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=598]:

Q.15F1 To the best of your knowledge, did the Senate approve George W. Bush's 1.6 trillion dollar tax cut proposal, did they vote for a LARGER tax cut or did they vote for a SMALLER tax cut?

7 Approved Bush's 1.6 trillion dollar proposal
9 Voted for a larger tax cut
46 Voted for a smaller tax cut *{correct answer}*
38 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.16F1 Do you happen to know whether the Senate passed the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill, or did they vote it down?

21 Senate passed the bill *{correct answer}*
15 Senate voted it down
64 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.17F1 Do you happen to know whether George W. Bush has decided to place limits on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, or has he decided NOT to do this?

		<u>March 2001</u> ¹⁰
9	He has decided to place limits on emissions	8
28	He has decided not to do this <i>{correct answer}</i>	33
<u>63</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>59</u>
100		100

ASKED APRIL 18 ONLY [N=198]:

Q.18F1 Do you happen to know whether George W. Bush has decided to TIGHTEN regulations on the amount of arsenic that can be allowed in drinking water, or has he decided to make these regulations LESS stringent?

12 Has decided to tighten regulations
20 Has decided to make regulations less stringent *{correct answer}*
5 Has left regulations unchanged (VOL.)
63 Don't know/Refused
100

ASKED APRIL 19-22 ONLY [N=400]:

Q.18F1 How much, if anything, have you heard about George W. Bush's decisions regarding the amount of arsenic that should be allowed in drinking water? Would you say you've heard... (READ)?

12 A lot
35 A little, or
50 Nothing at all
3 Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)
100

¹⁰ March 2001 question was worded slightly different "Has President Bush decided to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants or has he decided not to do this?"

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=604]:

Q.19F2 Do you know whether George W. Bush has decided that the U.S. will continue to SUPPORT the global warming agreement, enacted in Kyoto, Japan in 1997, or has he decided to WITHDRAW U.S. support from that agreement?

6 Decided to continue to support the agreement
20 Decided to withdraw U.S. support *{correct answer}*
74 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.20F2 Do you happen to know whether Slobodan Milosevic, the former president of Yugoslavia, has been arrested, or not?

46 Has been arrested *{correct answer}*
7 Has not been arrested
47 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.21F2 In his budget proposal, do you happen to know whether George W. Bush proposed INCREASING spending on education, DECREASING spending on education, or keeping spending on education about the same?

57 Proposed increasing spending *{correct answer}*
3 Proposed decreasing spending
15 Proposed keeping spending the same
25 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.21a

F2 Do you happen to know whether George W. Bush has decided to impose STRICTER regulations on manufacturers who release LEAD into the environment, or has he decided to make these regulations LESS stringent?

19 Decided to impose stricter regulations *{correct answer}*
21 Decided to make regulations less stringent
3 Left regulations unchanged (VOL)
57 Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:

Q.22 As you may know, Timothy McVeigh, the man responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing, is scheduled to be executed next month. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for Timothy McVeigh?

75 Favor
18 Oppose
7 Don't know/Refused
100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=598]:

Q.22a

F1 Do you think Timothy McVeigh's execution should be broadcast on television for the American public to watch, or not?

24 Should be broadcast for public to watch

73 Should not be broadcast

3 Don't know/Refused

100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=604]:

Q.23F2 Do you happen to know whether the families of the bombing victims will be allowed to watch the execution on a closed-circuit TV, or won't they be able to do this?

69 Families will be able to watch *{correct answer}*

6 Families won't be able to watch

25 Don't know/Refused

100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=598]:

Q.24F1 As you may know, George W. Bush has proposed a 1.6 trillion dollar tax cut. Do you approve or disapprove of this proposal?

60 Approve

34 Disapprove

6 Don't know/Refused

100

Q.25F1 As you may know, George W. Bush has decided NOT to place limits on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

21 Approve

67 Disapprove

12 Don't know/Refused

100

ASKED APRIL 18 ONLY [N=198]:

Q.26F1 As you may know, George W. Bush has decided to make the regulations on the amount of arsenic that can be allowed in drinking water LESS stringent. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

32 Approve

57 Disapprove

11 Don't know/Refused

100

ASKED APRIL 19-22 ONLY [N=400]:

Q.26F1 Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush has handled the issue of the amount of arsenic that should be allowed in drinking water?

26 Approve
31 Disapprove
43 Don't know/Refused
100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=604]:

Q.27F2 As you may know, George W. Bush has decided that the U.S. should WITHDRAW its support from the global warming agreement, adopted in Kyoto, Japan in 1997. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

25 Approve
47 Disapprove
28 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.28F2 As you may know, George W. Bush has proposed INCREASING spending for education in his new budget. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

90 Approve
6 Disapprove
4 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.28a

F2 As you may know, George W. Bush has decided to impose STRICTER regulations on manufacturers who release lead into the environment. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

80 Approve
12 Disapprove
8 Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:

Q.29 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush handled the recent situation with China, where a U.S. naval air crew was detained for several days and then released?

72 Approve
20 Disapprove
8 Don't know/Refused
100

On another subject...

Q.30 Do you think the United States should join other countries in setting standards to improve the global environment, or should the United States set its own environmental standards independently?

		<u>Nov 1997</u>
58	Join other countries	55
38	Set standards independently	41
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

Q.31 As you may know, carbon dioxide is one of the primary gases thought to cause global warming. Do you happen to know if the U.S. produces more carbon dioxide than other countries with as many people, less carbon dioxide than other countries with as many people, or about the same amount?

		<u>Nov 1997</u>
45	More	45
8	Less	9
16	The same	23
<u>31</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>23</u>
100		100

Q.32 Some people say that since poorer countries did not cause much pollution, they should not have to bear as much of the burden in dealing with global warming. Others say that every country, rich or poor, should make the same changes now in order to limit future global warming, no matter how much of the pollution they created originally. Which of these views comes closer to your own?

		<u>Nov 1997</u>
24	Poorer countries should not have to bear as much of the burden	19
67	All countries should make the same changes	70
3	Both/Neither (VOL)	3
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100		100

Now a few questions about the nation's food supply...

Q.33 Do you think the food supply in this country is SAFER than it was 10 years ago, LESS safe, or about as safe?

		<i>Newsweek</i> <u>Aug 1997</u>
24	Safer	19
36	Less safe	44
36	About as safe	30
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100

Q.34 In general how concerned are you about the safety of the food you eat? Would you say... **(READ RESPONSES)?**

		<i>Newsweek</i>
		<u>Aug 1997</u>
42	Very concerned	48
27	Somewhat concerned	25
20	Only a little concerned, or	18
11	Not at all concerned	8
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>1</u>
100		100

Q.35 Compared to a year ago, how worried are you that the food you eat may be contaminated? Would you say you are... **(READ RESPONSES)?**

		<i>----- Newsweek -----</i>	
		<u>Aug 1997</u>	<u>March 1989</u>
38	More worried	38	38
10	Less worried, or	7	6
51	About as worried as a year ago	54	53
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

Q.36 Do you think it is necessary to take precautions in the home against food poisoning, or do you think government regulations on food are such that we are protected quite adequately from food poisoning?

		<i>Gallup/US News & World Report/CNN</i>	<i>Roper</i>
		<u>Aug 1995</u>	<u>Feb 1982</u>
74	Necessary to take precautions	74	65
22	Government regulations are adequate	23	32
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

Q.37 Have you heard about the problems with the meat supply in Europe, where animals are infected with diseases such as foot-and-mouth?

IF YES, ASK:

Q.38 Do you worry that this could happen to the meat supply in the United States, or not?

94	Yes, have heard
76	Yes, worry
18	No, don't worry
*	Don't know/Refused
6	No, have not heard
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	