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FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2002, 12:00 P.M.

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**UNUSUALLY HIGH INTEREST IN BUSH'S STATE OF THE UNION**

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**Public Priorities Shifted by Recession and War**  
**UNUSUALLY HIGH INTEREST IN BUSH’S STATE OF THE UNION**

In the face of a struggling economy and the continuing war on terrorism, Americans begin 2002 upbeat about President George W. Bush’s job performance, his coming State of the Union address and the prospects for bipartisanship in Washington. Preventing future terrorist attacks and mending the economy are the biggest priorities this year. Almost all other issues are viewed as less urgent in the current poll, which replicates comparable surveys taken at the start of the last five years.

Solid majorities of Americans remain concerned about many of the domestic problems that ranked at the top of their list prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, including education, the nation’s retirement programs and health care. But the focus on peace and prosperity has pushed even these issues – staples of the capital’s policy debates for years – lower on the public’s agenda. Other objectives that Americans rated highly in the past – reducing crime, cutting taxes, helping the poor and protecting the environment – also are now viewed as much less important.

The latest nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Jan. 9-13 among 1,201 adults, finds that the president will have the nation’s full attention on Jan. 29 when he delivers his first official State of the Union address. Fully 54% of Americans say the speech is more important than such speeches in past years. By comparison, just 16% judged former President Clinton’s final State of the Union address (in 2000) in the same terms, while 27% viewed Clinton’s 1999 speech, which was delivered in the midst of his impeachment proceedings, as particularly important.

With Bush’s approval rating at 80%, and 54% approving of the job performance of the Democratic congressional leadership, both branches of government have the goodwill of majorities of the public. Accordingly, a greater percentage than a year ago expects less partisan bickering in Washington. The public is also becoming aware of the capital’s changing political power structure, as a plurality now views Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle as the leader of the Democratic Party. About three-in-ten (29%) consider Daschle as the top Democrat, far more than the number who name Al Gore or Bill Clinton.

<b>Great Expectations</b>			
<i>Importance of the State of the Union address ...</i>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Now</u>
	%	%	%
More Important	27	16	54
Less Important	16	22	4
Same	51	53	36
Don’t know	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100
		<u>2001</u>	<u>Now</u>
		%	%
<i>Parties working together ...</i>			
More bipartisanship this year		41	53
More bickering		50	39
Same as the past		4	5
Don’t know		<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
		100	100
<b>But Some Cause for Concern</b>			
		<u>1992*</u>	<u>Now</u>
		%	%
<i>President’s work on the economy ...</i>			
Doing all he can		21	48
Could be doing more		76	46
Can’t say		<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
		100	100

\* Asked about President George Bush, Sr.

For the president, the second layer of opinion in the poll also is positive. Bush is given good grades for handling the economy by 60% of the public, despite the recession. And Americans are less inclined than a year ago to think that he is listening to conservatives in his party rather than moderates. The only mixed sign is that as many as 46% of those polled do not believe the president is trying hard enough to mend the economy. However, this is much better than the 76% who held that view about his father during the recession of a decade ago.

When it comes to the image of the two parties, the survey finds the public expressing more confidence in the GOP than in the Democrats both in combatting terrorism and dealing with the economy. Moreover, the public continues to place as much confidence in Republicans as Democrats on education, which had been a winner for Democrats until Bush made it a centerpiece of his 2000 campaign. However, the Democratic Party is rated much better than the GOP on concerns relating to health care and retirement programs, whose political potency may yet return as Washington gets back to normal.

News of the war in Afghanistan continues to hold high interest for the public, but that does not extend to the potential conflict between neighboring Pakistan and India, which drew close attention from only about one-quarter of Americans. Similarly the poll found only modest public interest in the burgeoning controversy surrounding Enron Corp. Only about one-in-five (19%) have followed developments on Enron very closely, which is on par with interest in the “rink rage” trial of a hockey father in Massachusetts.

### ***Changing Priorities for '02***

Sept. 11 and the war against terrorism have had a dramatic impact on the public's policy priorities. Many of the concerns that were rated highly in previous January surveys – crime, tax cuts, poverty, the environment, health care and retirement programs – have fallen in importance. Even education, which led the list of priorities from 1997 to 2000 and ranked second last year, has slipped a bit this year.

Not surprisingly, the public's leading concern is defending the nation against future terrorist attacks – 83% rank that as a top priority. About seven-in-ten (71%) view strengthening the economy as a top priority and nearly as many (67%) say the same about improving the job situation.

While the war and sagging economy have been the biggest factors in reordering the list of priorities, developments in the policy arena may have contributed as well – in the past year, the president and Congress have agreed on major education and tax cut legislation. About two-thirds of Americans (66%) rate education as a top priority, down from 78% last year, while middle-class tax cuts have fallen even further (23 points).

In addition, several health-related issues, which were given far lower prominence by the Bush administration than under former President Clinton, had declined in importance even before the Sept. 11 attacks. Last January, 73% said that adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare was a top priority; in an early September poll by the Pew Research Center (which did not cover the complete list shown here), 60% viewed it as a top priority. That number has fallen to 54% in the current survey. Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) has shown a comparable decline – from 66% in January to 54% in early September and 50% currently.

<b>Top Priorities for Bush and Congress</b>			
<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	<u>Jan 2001</u>	<u>Jan 2002</u>	<u>Change</u>
Defending US against terrorism	--	83	--
Strengthening nation's economy	81	71	-10
Improving job situation	60	67	+7
Improving educational system	78	66	-12
Waging war against terrorism	--	64	--
Securing Social Security	74	62	-12
Stimulating the economy	--	61	--
Securing Medicare	71	55	-16
Adding Medicare drug benefits	73	54	-19
Reducing crime	76	53	-23
Strengthening the military	48	52	+4
Regulating HMOs	66	50	-16
Dealing with moral breakdown	51	45	-6
Dealing with problems of poor	63	44	-19
Protecting the environment	63	44	-19
Providing insurance to uninsured	61	43	-18
Reducing middle class taxes	66	43	-23
Dealing with energy	--*	42	--
Developing missile defense	41	39	-2
Reducing budget deficit	--	35	--
Dealing with global trade	37	25	-12
Reforming campaign finance	37	23	-14

\*46% rated this as top priority in early September

### ***Post-9/11 Policy Differences***

Republicans and Democrats both rank defending the nation against terrorism and bolstering the economy as urgent priorities, but they sharply disagree – as they have in past years – over the importance of other domestic objectives.

The biggest differences come on traditional Democratic concerns, helping the poor and securing Social Security. Nearly twice as many Democrats as Republicans (62%-32%) view helping the poor as a top priority for Bush and Congress. About three-quarters of Democrats (76%) rate Social Security as a top priority, while just 47% of Republicans agree. There are also wide gaps on health care, jobs, Medicare and the environment.

<i>Issues ...</i>	<i>% Rating Top Priority</i>		
	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Diff</u> %
Dealing with problems of poor	32	62	30
Securing Social Security	47	76	29
Providing insurance to uninsured	31	56	25
Regulating HMOs	38	61	23
Improving job situation	57	80	23
Protecting the environment	31	52	21
Securing Medicare	48	69	21

Democrats attach greater importance than Republicans do to most policy priorities. Even developing a missile defense system – a traditional GOP issue – is regarded as a high priority by more Democrats than Republicans (46%-38%). Democrats also are more likely than Republicans to view reducing the budget deficit as a top priority (41%-27%).

Republicans place a greater priority than Democrats on security-related issues (except missile defense) and dealing with the nation’s moral climate. More than two-thirds of Republicans (68%) rate strengthening the nation’s defenses as a top priority, compared with half of Democrats. Republicans are more likely to view the war against terrorism abroad as a major priority (73%-61%), and attach greater importance than Democrats to dealing with the nation’s moral breakdown (54%-44%).

As in past years, there is a gender gap on many domestic priorities, with more women than men giving high priority to addressing poverty, health care, the environment, education and Medicare. In the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, the gap also now includes defense – fully 57% of women view strengthening the nation’s defense as a top priority, compared with 46% of men. That is a shift from a year ago, when more men than women gave high priority to bolstering defense.

<i>Issues ...</i>	<b>Pro-Defense Women</b>			
	<i>% Rating Top Priority</i>			
	<i>January 2001</i>		<i>January 2002</i>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Strengthen US military	53	42	46	57
Develop missile defense system	38	44	33	43

In addition, women attach greater importance than men to building a missile defense system, although that was also the case last year. Since Sept. 11, support among women for missile defense has grown dramatically; in October, 51% of women favored immediate deployment of a missile shield, up from 29% in early September (see “America’s New Internationalist Point of View,” Oct. 24, 2001).

***Foreign Policy Lags***

While the war on terrorism is the highest single priority on Americans’ minds, it is seen as distinct from traditional foreign policy issues. When asked whether the war on terrorism or domestic policy is more important, roughly half (52%) cite the war, while a third say domestic policy. However, when the choice is between *foreign* policy and domestic policy, these numbers are reversed, with 52% citing domestic policy as the more important priority, and 34% choosing foreign policy.

Better educated people are more apt to give equal priority to domestic and foreign policy, and are more likely to give domestic policy its due even in light of the war on terrorism. For those with less education, the war on terrorism holds clear precedence over domestic policy, while foreign policy is seen as far less important than domestic.

<i>Which is more important?</i>	<u>Total</u>	<b>War Not Seen As Foreign Policy</b>		
		<u>Coll Grad</u>	<u>Some Coll</u>	<u>H.S. or less</u>
Domestic policy	52	43	43	59
Foreign policy	34	43	41	27
Both/Neither/DK	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100
Domestic policy	33	46	35	27
War on terrorism	52	42	50	57
Both/Neither/DK	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100

### ***GOP Leads On Key Issues***

The Republican Party is seen as having the best ideas for dealing with terrorism and the economy, which rate as the public's leading priorities for 2002. Over the past year, Democrats have increased their lead on health care and retirement programs – but those issues have declined in importance.

The GOP holds a substantial edge in handling terrorism, both abroad and at home. By more than three-to-one (51%-16%), Americans believe Republicans have the best ideas on dealing with terrorism overseas. Even Democrats, by 41%-27%, choose the GOP as the party with the best ideas on combatting foreign terrorism. The Republican lead on dealing with terrorist threats at home is nearly as large (48%-18%), although Democrats are more evenly divided on this (32% say Republicans, 28% Democrats).

Perhaps owing to President Bush's strong rating on the economy, the Republicans also hold a 43%-34% lead on that issue. Over the past decade, public confidence on this issue has gone back-and-forth between the parties. As recently as May 2001, a small plurality expressed more confidence in the Democrats' ability to keep the country prosperous. The current survey shows a deep partisan split on this issue – 74% of Republicans say the GOP has the best ideas on the economy, while 61% of Democrats opt for their party. Independents favor the Republicans on dealing with the economy, 45%-30%.

<i>Who has best ideas on ...</i>	Rep Party %	Dem Party %	Neither/ DK %
Terrorism abroad	51	16	33=100
Terrorism at home	48	18	34=100
Economy	43	34	23=100
Morality	38	27	35=100
Education	37	34	29=100
Tax cuts	35	40	25=100
Global economy	36	29	35=100
Social Security	28	40	32=100
HMO reform	20	45	35=100
Prescription drug benefits	18	46	36=100

Republicans also draw continuing support on education, formerly a Democratic strong suit, as a result of Bush's persistent efforts to highlight that issue. The two parties are at parity on education, as they were last January. Partisans are deeply divided on which party has the best ideas on education, while independents are evenly split.

The issues on which Democrats have the biggest advantage are the ones they have promoted for years – providing prescription drugs under Medicare, where they hold a 46%-18% lead, and regulating HMOs (45%-20%). In addition, 40% of Americans credit the Democrats with having the best ideas on securing Social Security, while 28% choose the Republicans. Perhaps more surprising, the Democrats hold a slight 40%-35% lead on cutting taxes for the middle class, which, along with education, is Bush's signature issue.

The Democrats also have cut into the GOP's lead as the party with the best ideas on improving the nation's morality. A year ago, the public chose Republicans by nearly two-to-one (49%-26%); now, the GOP's edge is 38%-27%. Women, who had preferred Republicans on this by a wide margin (45%-28%), now are more closely divided (33% favor Republicans, 27% Democrats).

**Surge in Economic Optimism**

Americans clearly expect that the economy will bounce back soon. They are dramatically more optimistic about prospects for the U.S. economy than they were when the president was about to take office.

In what may be another sign of the “rally effect” that has boosted satisfaction with national conditions, 44% of Americans say they expect economic conditions in the country to improve in the coming year, while just 17% expect things to get worse. A year ago, almost twice as many Americans expected things to get worse rather than to improve (33% vs. 18%)<sup>1</sup>.

But when considering their personal financial situations, Americans are only somewhat more hopeful than they were at the beginning of the Bush administration. Today, 65% expect an improvement in their families’ finances during the coming year, compared with 57% last January (a low point not seen since the year George Bush Sr. was voted out of office). This modest increase in optimism was evident in June, well before the terrorist attacks.

<b>Public Bullish on U.S. Economy...</b>			
	Jan*		
<i>Economic conditions will be:</i>	<u>2001</u>		<u>Now</u>
	%		%
Better	18		44
Worse	33		17
Same	44		36
DK	<u>5</u>		<u>3</u>
	100		100
<b>While Personal Outlook Is Stable</b>			
	Jan	June	
<i>Personal finances will:</i>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>Now</u>
	%	%	%
Improve	57	63	65
Worsen	27	19	20
Stay the same	12	14	11
DK	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100
* Newsweek poll			

Republicans and independents are much more optimistic than Democrats over prospects for reviving the nation’s economy. A solid majority of Republicans (55%) expect the economy to improve, while just 8% think it will get worse. Independents are also upbeat, with 45% anticipating an improvement and 14% believing it will go down. Democrats are more gloomy: just 34% expect an upturn, while 24% say conditions will worsen. In terms of their *personal* finances, Democrats are also somewhat less optimistic than Republicans or independents.

Younger Americans are more likely than their elders to expect improvement in their personal fortunes – fully 83% of those under age 30 say their financial situation will improve – although they are no more likely than older Americans to say the U.S. economy will improve.

Americans are evenly divided about the cause of the nation’s economic downturn. About as many cite the terrorist attacks (48%) as attribute blame to the normal ups-and-downs of the economy (46%). Interestingly, there is virtually no partisan split regarding the cause of the downturn. Although Republicans are much more likely to think the economy will improve soon, both Republicans and Democrats are nearly evenly split about what they think *caused* the slump. And there is no link between the cause Americans cite for the downturn and their optimism about prospects for a recovery.

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<sup>1</sup> Newsweek poll January 10-12, 2001.



***Bush's Mixed Grades for Effort***

It is clear that the broad popular support for the president extends to his stewardship of the economy. By roughly two-to-one (60% to 28%), more Americans approve of the way Bush is handling the economy. At the same time, many express reservations about Bush's dedication to dealing with economic issues. Nearly as many people say that the president could be doing more to help the economy (46%) as say he is doing all he can (48%).

Not surprisingly, partisanship plays a large role in these evaluations. While most Democrats (56%) think Bush could be doing more to help the economy, just 29% of Republicans agree. But the perspective of independents is much closer to the Democratic than the Republican position. Better than half (53%) of independents think Bush could be doing more.

	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Doing all he can	48	66	38	41
Could do more	46	29	56	53
Don't know	6	5	6	6
	100	100	100	100

Meanwhile, there is considerable interest, even among Democrats, in Bush's upcoming State of the Union address. A majority of Democrats (52%) see this year's speech as more important than previous efforts. That is more than double the number of Democrats who viewed Bill Clinton's final State of the Union speech as particularly important (21%). Among Republicans, not surprisingly, interest has skyrocketed. Nearly two-thirds (65%) say Bush's speech is more important than previous efforts, compared with just 10% who said that about Clinton's address in 2000.

***Democratic Changing of the Guard***

While the terrorist attacks clearly boosted President Bush's job approval, the events of the fall have had, at best, a minor effect on evaluations of the Democrats. Today, about half the public (54%) approves of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing, up from 49% prior to the Sept. 11 attacks.

Moreover, the public's verdict on Clinton's presidency remain largely unchanged from March 2001. Currently, just over half of Americans say Clinton will turn out to have been either one of the best presidents (12%) or better than most (39%), while a quarter say he was not as good as most presidents and 19% say he was definitely worse than most.

The Clinton-Gore era is gradually fading from the public's consciousness, as a new Democratic leader moves into the spotlight. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle's recent visibility is clearly pushing him to the forefront of the Democratic party in the public's eye, particularly among Republicans.

Fully 39% of Republicans consider Daschle to be

	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Tom Daschle	29	39	23	27
Al Gore	15	11	17	17
Bill Clinton	14	6	21	14
Joseph Lieberman	10	9	13	10
Dick Gephardt	9	11	7	10
Nobody (VOL)	3	4	3	3
Other (VOL)	1	1	*	1
Don't Know	19	19	16	18
	100	100	100	100

the leader of the Democratic party, more than twice the number that cite *either* Al Gore or Bill Clinton. There is less consensus among Democrats, but Daschle's stock has risen dramatically there as well. In April of last year, just 5% of Democrats listed Daschle as the party's leader; today 23% do, slightly more than the number who choose Clinton (21%) or Gore (17%). Sen. Joe Lieberman runs a close fourth among Democrats, followed by House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt.

Better educated and older Americans, groups that tend to follow the news closely, are the most likely to see Daschle at the forefront of the Democratic Party. Americans over age 30 are twice as likely as those who are younger (32% to 15%) to see Daschle as the Democratic leader, while 18-29-year-olds are the most likely to list Gore (27%) or Clinton (20%). More than half (53%) of college graduates see Daschle as the key figure in the Democratic Party, compared with 27% of those who attended some college and just 18% of those who never attended college.

***A New Political Climate?***

Reflecting the public's generally positive assessments of both Bush and the Democratic leadership in Congress, more Americans express optimism about a cooperative political environment in Washington in the coming year. Just over half (53%) say they think Republicans and Democrats will work together more to solve problems, up from 41% in January 2001.

Similarly, the share of Americans who think the parties will bicker and oppose one another more than usual has fallen from 50% last year to 39% today. Among the minority who expect more partisan bickering, comparable proportions lay the blame on either the Republican Party (10%), the Democratic Party (11%), or both equally (12%).

Democrats, in particular, have developed an improved image of Washington politics over the past year. A year ago, following Gore's bitter defeat, Democrats were markedly more cynical about partisan cooperation (56% predicted the parties would bicker and oppose each other more than usual) than were Republicans (41%). Today, Republicans and Democrats have similar outlooks – 56% in each party see cooperation, while 37% expect conflict. Though independents also have a better view of Washington than they did at this time last year, they remain more pessimistic about the possibilities for cooperation than either Democrats or Republicans.

<b>High Democratic Expectations</b>			
	<i>The parties will...</i>		
	Work Together <u>More</u> %	Bicker More than <u>Usual</u> %	Same/ Don't <u>Know</u> %
Republicans			
Today	56	37	7=100
Jan '01	51	41	8=100
Democrats			
Today	56	37	7=100
Jan '01	34	56	10=100
Independents			
Today	48	43	9=100
Jan '01	38	54	8=100

Women, who were predominantly pessimistic about cooperation in Washington a year ago, also have changed their view dramatically. Today, six-in-ten women see the parties working together over the next year, with a third predicting partisan bickering. Men are much more divided (47% see cooperation, 44% bickering).

And younger Americans have a more positive outlook than they did last year. Those under age 50 express higher job approval of both Bush and Democratic Congressional leaders than their elders, and are significantly more likely to think the tone in Washington will be positive over the next year. A year ago these younger respondents were, if anything, more pessimistic than those age 50 and older.

While this expectation of cooperation between the parties clearly reflects the new political pressures of the post-Sept. 11 world, it may also be linked to a somewhat different view of the president's position within his own party. A year ago, a plurality of Americans (48%) thought President-elect Bush listened mostly to the conservative wing of his party. Today, just 38% hold this view, with 40% saying he listens more to moderate members of his party. This reevaluation of Bush has occurred among Republicans, Democrats and independents alike, although more Democrats than Republicans see Bush as more attentive to conservative voices.

***Cable News Gets Terrorism Boost***

Cable news has become the leading source for national and international news in the post-9/11 news environment. Overall, television remains the overwhelming choice as the public's main source of news: 82% of Americans say that is where they get most of their news, up 8% from pre-9/11 levels. Newspapers (42%), radio (21%) and the Internet (14%) fall far behind television as primary news sources, and received no boost over the past four months.

The higher proportion citing television in general reflects a surge in the number relying on cable news sources. More than half of Americans (53%) say they get most of their news from the major cable news channels, significantly fewer cite network (23%) or local TV news (29%).

The rise of cable news as a source of national and international news is directly attributable to the public's heavy reliance on cable for information on terrorism. The current figures on media use are comparable to results from mid-September and mid-November, when respondents were asked specifically where they got most of their news about terrorist attacks and the war on terrorism. The proportion citing cable news as a main source for national and international news has risen 19% since before the Sept. 11 attacks, when cable news held a narrower lead over local and network news as a primary source of information.

<i>Main source of nat. and intl. news</i>	Early Sept		<i>Change</i>
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	
Television	74	82	+8
Cable news	34	53	+19
Local news	26	29	+3
Network news	20	23	+3
Newspaper	45	42	-3
Radio	18	21	+3
Internet	13	14	+1
Magazines	6	3	-3

The public's preference for cable news channels is also seen in increasingly positive assessments of their performance. When asked which media have done the best job covering the news, nearly four-in-ten (38%) cite cable TV news, more than twice the number saying that about network news (16%), and about three times the number rating local TV news (13%) or newspapers (10%) as best. This represents a seven-point increase from January 1999 in the percentage citing

cable news as superior, while all other news sources either stayed the same or received less support. Cable news gets its strongest ratings from younger men, those living in the South, and people in small towns and rural areas.

***Few Aware of Buddy’s Death, Argentina Crisis***

Reflecting continued public disengagement from international affairs even after Sept. 11, as many Americans knew the name of the former president’s dog killed in a traffic accident (Buddy) as could identify the Latin American nation mired in political and economic turmoil (Argentina). In both cases, about a quarter of the public (28%) came up with the correct response.

<b>Buddy Goes, Argentina’s Woes Equally Known</b>			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Knew Latin American country in crisis (Argentina)	28	36	20
Knew former president’s dog accidentally killed (Buddy)	28	28	28

Men were more likely than women to correctly identify Argentina, while men and women were equally aware of the name of President Clinton’s dog. College graduates, online users and those who follow the news closely were much more likely than others to come up with the right answers.

***War Tops News Interest Index***

Roughly half the public (51%) is following news of the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan, which represents a modest increase in interest in that story since December (when 44% followed it very closely). Interest in the U.S. military effort has now matched its highest level, reached in mid-October.

Three-in-ten followed reports about the condition of the U.S. economy very closely this month. This number has been declining steadily since mid-November, when about four-in-ten paid close attention.

Tensions between India and Pakistan garnered the close attention of less than a quarter of the public (23%). In June 1998, many more Americans (36%) said they had closely followed reports that the two nations had tested nuclear weapons.

Only slightly fewer people (20%) paid close attention to the trial of a Massachusetts man accused of beating another father to death during a youth hockey practice. One-in-five also closely tracked reports on the failed suicide bombing of an American Airlines jet coming from Paris. Reports on the collapse of Enron drew a comparable level of interest.

At the bottom of the January news interest index was economic and political instability in Argentina, with just 5% of the public following this story very closely. Even those who paid close attention to other major news stories showed little interest in the ongoing crisis in Argentina.

**PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"**

	<u>Military Effort in Afghanistan</u> %	<u>Reports About U.S. Economy</u> %	<u>Tensions Between India/Pakistan</u> %	<u>"Hockey Dad" Trial+</u> %	<u>Failed Suicide Bombing</u> %	<u>Econ./Political Instability in Argentina</u> %	<u>(N)</u>
<b>Total</b>	51	30	23	20	20	5	(1201)
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	59	38	27	20	22	7	(576)
Female	45	24	19	20	18	3	(625)
<b>Race</b>							
White	53	30	23	19	20	5	(1017)
Non-white	44	34	21	24	19	5	(168)
Black	46	35	21	32	22	5	(93)
Hispanic*	49	27	25	19	19	7	(87)
<b>Age</b>							
Under 30	42	23	16	16	14	4	(209)
30-49	50	31	20	19	18	3	(503)
50+	58	34	29	23	25	7	(476)
<b>Education</b>							
College Grad.	57	40	26	18	21	7	(456)
Some College	47	24	21	24	20	4	(288)
High School Grad.	50	28	20	21	19	3	(348)
<H.S. Grad.	54	29	25	15	21	7	(105)
<b>Region</b>							
East	52	30	29	24	21	5	(235)
Midwest	51	31	20	17	20	2	(286)
South	52	29	19	23	21	6	(425)
West	50	32	25	14	17	5	(255)
<b>Party ID</b>							
Republican	58	33	26	20	22	5	(378)
Democrat	49	28	23	21	20	4	(360)
Independent	49	33	20	18	17	6	(381)
<b>Internet User</b>							
Yes	52	32	22	19	19	5	(807)
No	50	28	24	22	20	5	(394)

+ Question asked January 10-13; N does not apply.

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

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?

## PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

(Demographic Breakdown for Top Five Responses)

	<u>Defending the Country from Terrorist Attacks</u> %	<u>Strengthening the Nation's Economy</u> %	<u>Improving the Job Situation</u> %	<u>Improving the Educational System</u> %	<u>Destroy Terrorist Groups</u> %
<b>Total</b>	83	71	67	66	64
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	80	68	64	61	66
Female	87	74	70	69	62
<b>Race</b>					
White	84	69	64	63	67
Non-white	78	82	81	80	57
Black	76	79	86	82	61
Hispanic <sup>^</sup>	88	66	68	75	51
<b>Race and Sex</b>					
White Men	81	64	61	59	69
White Women	87	73	67	66	65
<b>Age</b>					
Under 30	79	69	67	73	57
30-49	83	70	63	67	66
50-64	86	73	67	56	63
65+	85	72	76	64	71
<b>Sex and Age</b>					
Men under 50	79	65	62	65	64
Women under 50	85	75	66	73	62
Men 50+	80	74	65	54	72
Women 50+	90	72	77	64	62
<b>Education</b>					
College Grad.	81	67	53	64	62
Some College	81	70	63	64	61
High School Grad.	85	71	72	64	65
<H.S. Grad.	87	78	82	75	70
<b>Family Income</b>					
\$75,000+	82	64	55	59	64
\$50,000-\$74,999	88	70	62	59	62
\$30,000-\$49,999	84	74	66	66	64
\$20,000-\$29,999	81	65	64	67	65
<\$20,000	83	79	78	72	62

<sup>^</sup> The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should (INSERT ITEM) be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?

**Continued ...**

	<u>Defending the Country from Terrorist Attacks</u> %	<u>Strengthening the Nation's Economy</u> %	<u>Improving the Job Situation</u> %	<u>Improving the Educational System</u> %	<u>Destroy Terrorist Groups</u> %
<b>Total</b>	83	71	67	66	64
<b>Region</b>					
East	84	75	69	69	63
Midwest	79	68	73	62	59
South	89	70	66	70	66
West	78	72	60	59	68
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>					
Total White Protestant	82	70	67	60	69
White Protestant Evangelical	84	69	68	58	71
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	80	71	66	63	68
White Catholic	90	68	65	69	77
Secular	80	75	54	71	44
<b>Community Size</b>					
Large City	87	70	71	70	59
Suburb	86	65	66	63	66
Small City/Town	82	74	65	65	64
Rural Area	81	73	66	64	68
<b>Party ID</b>					
Republican	90	70	57	59	73
Democrat	82	71	80	68	61
Independent	79	74	61	67	58
<b>Party and Ideology</b>					
Conservative Republican	91	71	52	55	79
Moderate/Liberal Republican	88	68	63	62	66
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	84	73	80	69	67
Liberal Democrat	80	67	77	66	42
<b>Bush Approval</b>					
Approve	88	70	65	64	71
Disapprove	61	75	75	74	38
<b>Democratic Congressional Approval</b>					
Approve	82	70	71	69	62
Disapprove	85	72	62	59	75
<b>2000 Presidential Vote</b>					
Bush	90	69	55	59	74
Gore	80	74	76	67	61
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	85	72	63	63	65
Unmarried	82	69	71	68	63
<b>Parental Status</b>					
Parent	81	73	63	71	67
Non-Parent	85	69	69	62	63
<b>Labor Union</b>					
Union Household	85	67	64	63	61
Non-Union Household	83	72	67	66	65

## IMPORTANCE OF STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

	----- January 2000 -----				----- January 2002 -----				Change in More
	More %	Less %	Same %	DK %	More %	Less %	Same %	DK %	
<b>Total</b>	16	22	53	9=100	54	4	36	6=100	+38
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	16	26	52	6	55	5	37	3	+39
Female	15	20	53	12	54	4	34	8	+39
<b>Race</b>									
White	14	24	53	9	56	3	36	5	+42
Non-white	28	12	54	6	48	8	33	11	+20
Black	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	49	4	34	13	-
Hispanic <sup>^</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	57	6	31	6	-
<b>Race and Sex</b>									
White Men	13	28	53	6	57	4	36	3	+44
White Women	14	20	54	12	55	3	35	7	+41
<b>Age</b>									
Under 30	18	17	51	14	60	5	27	8	+42
30-49	15	25	53	7	57	4	36	3	+42
50-64	19	20	54	7	52	4	40	4	+33
65+	12	27	52	9	44	5	39	12	+32
<b>Sex and Age</b>									
Men under 50	17	24	54	5	60	5	32	3	+43
Women under 50	14	21	51	14	56	4	33	7	+42
Men 50+	15	29	50	6	45	6	45	4	+30
Women 50+	18	17	56	9	51	3	36	10	+33
<b>Education</b>									
College Grad.	12	27	57	4	55	3	39	3	+43
Some College	11	22	59	8	59	5	34	2	+48
H. S. Grad. or less	20	21	48	11	52	5	34	9	+32
<b>Family Income</b>									
\$75,000+	6	37	54	3	58	6	34	2	+52
\$50,000-\$74,999	12	18	65	5	63	2	33	2	+51
\$30,000-\$49,999	17	26	49	8	58	4	34	4	+41
<\$30,000	23	18	51	8	51	5	36	8	+28

<sup>^</sup> The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Now thinking about President Bush's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you consider this year's State of the Union to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

**Continued ...**



	----- January 2000 -----				----- January 2002 -----				Change in More
	More %	Less %	Same %	DK %	More %	Less %	Same %	DK %	
<b>Total</b>	16	22	53	9=100	54	4	36	6=100	+38
<b>Region</b>									
East	16	21	57	6	55	5	36	4	+39
Midwest	15	27	48	10	55	5	34	6	+40
South	15	18	58	9	57	4	32	7	+42
West	17	26	47	10	49	4	42	5	+32
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>									
Total White Protestant	12	27	52	9	56	3	36	5	+44
White Protestant Evangelical	18	20	50	12	59	2	34	5	+41
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	8	30	55	7	54	4	37	5	+46
White Catholic	21	24	50	5	61	2	34	3	+40
Secular	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	42	8	44	6	-
<b>Community Size</b>									
Large City	15	17	57	11	56	2	34	8	+41
Suburb	8	29	56	7	63	4	28	5	+55
Small City/Town	19	20	52	9	52	5	37	6	+33
Rural Area	20	24	47	9	52	4	41	3	+32
<b>Party ID</b>									
Republican	10	28	52	10	65	1	31	3	+55
Democrat	21	19	55	5	52	5	38	5	+31
Independent	16	22	54	8	49	6	38	7	+33
<b>Party and Ideology</b>									
Conservative Republican	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	67	*	30	3	-
Moderate/Liberal Republican	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	64	3	32	1	-
Conservative/Moderate Democrat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	53	4	38	5	-
Liberal Democrat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	54	8	34	4	-
<b>Bush Approval</b>									
Approve	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60	3	34	3	-
Disapprove	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	34	15	40	11	-
<b>Democratic Congressional Approval</b>									
Approve	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	55	5	36	4	-
Disapprove	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	58	3	33	6	-
<b>2000 Presidential Vote</b>									
Bush	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	65	2	31	2	-
Gore	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	6	39	5	-
<b>Marital Status</b>									
Married	14	28	51	7	54	4	38	4	+40
Unmarried	19	15	55	11	55	4	33	8	+36
<b>Parental Status</b>									
Parent	15	26	51	8	57	4	34	5	+42
Non-Parent	16	21	54	9	53	5	36	6	+37
<b>Labor Union</b>									
Union Household	18	16	58	8	59	7	30	4	+41
Non-Union Household	15	24	52	9	54	4	36	6	+39

## PROSPECTS FOR BIPARTISANSHIP

	----- January 2000 -----				----- January 2002 -----				Change in Work Together
	Parties Work Together	Parties Bicker/ Oppose	Same	DK	Parties Work Together	Parties Bicker/ Oppose	Same	DK	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>Total</b>	41	50	4	5=100	53	39	5	3=100	+12
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	42	49	5	4	47	44	7	2	+5
Female	40	50	4	6	60	33	3	4	+20
<b>Race</b>									
White	42	49	5	4	54	38	5	3	+12
Non-white	37	54	2	7	50	41	4	5	+13
Black	35	57	1	7	51	40	3	6	+16
Hispanic <sup>^</sup>	45	41	8	6	67	27	4	2	+22
<b>Race and Sex</b>									
White Men	42	50	5	3	48	43	7	2	+6
White Women	41	49	5	5	60	33	3	4	+19
<b>Age</b>									
Under 30	43	50	4	3	61	33	2	4	+18
30-49	36	54	6	4	57	37	4	2	+21
50-64	41	49	4	6	48	43	7	2	+7
65+	48	42	4	6	42	44	8	6	-6
<b>Sex and Age</b>									
Men under 50	39	53	5	3	54	40	4	2	+15
Women under 50	37	54	4	5	64	31	2	3	+27
Men 50+	43	46	5	6	33	53	12	2	-10
Women 50+	44	46	4	6	55	36	4	5	+11
<b>Education</b>									
College Grad.	39	51	6	4	50	41	7	2	+11
Some College	36	53	5	6	56	38	3	3	+20
High School Grad.	43	49	3	5	56	39	3	2	+13
<H.S. Grad.	43	48	5	4	49	34	9	8	+6
<b>Family Income</b>									
\$75,000+	43	47	7	3	42	51	6	1	-1
\$50,000-\$74,999	40	47	7	6	55	37	6	2	+15
\$30,000-\$49,999	37	56	3	4	58	37	3	2	+21
\$20,000-\$29,999	37	59	1	3	61	34	4	1	+24
<\$20,000	40	52	2	6	55	31	8	6	+15

<sup>^</sup> The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: This coming year, do you think Republicans and Democrats in Washington will work together more to solve problems OR do you think they will bicker and oppose one another more than usual?

Continued ...

	----- January 2000 -----				----- January 2002 -----				Change in Work Together
	Parties Work Together	Parties Bicker/ Oppose	Same	DK	Parties Work Together	Parties Bicker/ Oppose	Same	DK	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>Total</b>	41	50	4	5=100	53	39	5	3=100	+12
<b>Region</b>									
East	39	52	5	4	51	42	5	2	+12
Midwest	38	54	3	5	59	33	5	3	+21
South	44	48	4	4	55	37	4	4	+11
West	40	47	6	7	46	44	7	3	+6
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>									
Total White Protestant	43	48	4	5	54	37	6	3	+11
White Protestant Evangelical	42	48	5	5	57	33	6	4	+15
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	45	48	3	4	52	40	7	1	+7
White Catholic	48	45	5	2	60	35	2	3	+12
Secular	30	59	5	6	41	48	9	2	+11
<b>Community Size</b>									
Large City	36	52	6	6	58	36	3	3	+22
Suburb	39	51	6	4	56	37	5	2	+17
Small City/Town	42	51	3	4	49	41	5	5	+7
Rural Area	44	48	3	5	55	37	7	1	+11
<b>Party ID</b>									
Republican	51	41	5	3	56	37	4	3	+5
Democrat	34	56	4	6	56	37	4	3	+22
Independent	38	54	4	4	48	43	7	2	+10
<b>Party and Ideology</b>									
Conservative Republican	55	36	7	2	52	39	5	4	-3
Moderate/Liberal Republican	46	49	2	3	63	34	2	1	+17
Conservative/Moderate Democrat	36	56	3	5	59	36	3	2	+23
Liberal Democrat	29	59	6	6	48	39	7	6	+19
<b>Bush Approval</b>									
Approve	-	-	-	-	57	36	5	2	-
Disapprove	-	-	-	-	33	56	5	6	-
<b>Democratic Congressional Approval</b>									
Approve	-	-	-	-	64	31	3	2	-
Disapprove	-	-	-	-	32	60	6	2	-
<b>2000 Presidential Vote</b>									
Bush	54	38	5	3	53	39	5	3	-1
Gore	30	61	4	5	50	42	5	3	+20
<b>Marital Status</b>									
Married	42	48	5	5	51	41	5	3	+9
Unmarried	39	52	5	4	56	36	5	3	+17
<b>Parental Status</b>									
Parent	37	55	4	4	55	40	3	2	+18
Non-Parent	42	48	5	5	52	38	6	4	+10
<b>Labor Union</b>									
Union Household	36	52	6	6	54	39	5	2	+18
Non-Union Household	41	50	5	4	53	39	5	3	+12

## 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 1201 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period January 9-13, 2002. 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=600) or Form 2 (N=601), 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 that 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 & THE PRESS**  
**JANUARY 2002 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**January 9-13, 2002**  
**N=1,201**

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>Don't Know</u>
January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic 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 Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
January, 2002	54	24	22=100
Early September, 2001	49	30	21=100
June, 2001	50	28	22=100

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF "DEPENDS" PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

		----- Clinton -----								-- Bush, Sr. --	
		Early		Early						-- Bush, Sr. --	
		Sept	Feb	Sept	Sept	Jan	June	Oct	July	Aug	May
		<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1990</u>
60	Approve	47	50	71	60	50	46	45	38	40	42
28	Disapprove	44	22	23	34	42	46	46	56	52	47
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NO Q.4

Q.5 Next, I would like to ask you about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them. First, **[ROTATE ITEMS a AND b]**

a. Do you happen to know the name of the country in Latin America that recently has been in a political and economic crisis?

28 Argentina (*correct answer*)  
 12 Another country  
60 Don't know/Refused  
 100

b. A dog owned by a former president was recently killed by an automobile. Do you happen to know the dog's name?

28 Buddy (*correct answer*)  
 3 Another name  
69 Don't know/Refused  
 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]**

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a. The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan	51	35	9	4	1=100
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1=100
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1=100
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1=100
January, 1991 <sup>2</sup>	67	28	4	1	0=100
b. Reports on the failed suicide bombing of an American Airlines jet coming from Paris	20	34	22	23	1=100
c. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	30	44	16	9	1=100
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2=100
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1=100
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1=100
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0=100
April, 2001	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

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2

In January 1991 the question was worded: "How closely have you been following news about the War in the Gulf?"

**Q.6 CONTINUED ...**

**(Item c continued)**

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
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
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
d. Tensions between India and Pakistan	23	36	24	17	*=100
e. Economic and political instability in Argentina	5	18	32	44	1=100
<b>ITEM ASKED JAN 10-13 [N=841]:</b>					
f. The trial of a Massachusetts man accused of beating another father to death during a youth hockey practice	20	35	24	20	1=100
<b>ITEM ASKED JAN 14-15 [N=406]:</b>					
g. The ongoing investigation into the bankruptcy of the Enron corporation <sup>3</sup>	19	24	20	35	2=100
December, 2001	11	23	28	36	2=100

<sup>3</sup>

Current results from a separate survey conducted January 14-15, 2002. In December 2001 the question was worded "The bankruptcy of the Enron Corporation and its impact on the retirement investments of Enron employees."

Q.7 How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the Internet? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE]

		Early								
		Sept	Feb	Oct	Jan	Jan	Sept	Jan	Sept	Jan
		2001	2001	1999	1999	1996	1995	1994	1993	1993
82	Television	74	76	80	82	88	82	83	83	83
42	Newspapers	45	40	48	42	61	63	51	60	52
21	Radio	18	16	19	18	25	20	15	17	17
3	Magazines	6	4	5	4	8	10	10	9	5
14	Internet <sup>4</sup>	13	10	11	6	--	--	--	--	--
2	Other (VOL)	1	2	2	2	2	1	5	3	1
*	Don't know/Refused	*	1	*	*	*	1	1	*	1

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' TELEVISION AS EITHER 1ST OR 2ND RESPONSE IN Q.7 ASK Q.8. IF NOT, SKIP TO Q.9**

**ASK FORM A ONLY [N=313]:**

Q.8FA Do you get most of your news about national and international issues from network TV news, from local TV news, or from cable news networks such as CNN, MSNBC, and the Fox News Channel? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE]

		Early								
		Sept	Feb	Oct	Jan	Jan	Sept	Jan	Sept	Jan
		2001	2001	1999	1999	1996	1995 <sup>5</sup>	1994	1993	1993
23	Network TV news	20	20	22	--	--	--	--	--	39
29	Local TV news	26	25	31	--	--	--	--	--	30
53	Cable news <sup>6</sup>	34	35	35	--	--	--	--	--	38
5	Other	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	2
*	Don't know	*	1	*	--	--	--	--	--	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.9 In your opinion, who has been doing the best job of covering the news lately (READ RESPONSES)

		Jan 1999	Jan 1996
10	Newspapers,	13	14
13	Local TV news,	16	20
16	Network TV news,	21	50
38	Cable TV news,	31	--
1	News Magazines,	2	4
6	Radio, or	6	8
5	Online sources	3	--
11	None of above/Don't know (VOL)	8	4
100		100	100

<sup>4</sup> Beginning in February 2001, "Internet" was substituted for "computer online sources."

<sup>5</sup> In September 1995, question wording did not include "international."

<sup>6</sup> Beginning in October 1999, "cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC" was substituted for "CNN."



On a different subject...

Q.10 Compared with the past presidents, do you feel that Bill Clinton will turn out to have been one of the very best, better than most, not as good as most, or definitely worse than most of them?

		----- NBC/WSJ -----			
		March	Jan	Dec	Jan
		<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
12	One of the very best	13	16	13	12
39	Better than most	39	40	44	38
25	Not as good as most	23	24	24	26
19	Definitely worse than most	23	18	16	19
<u>5</u>	Not sure	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q.11 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

		<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>									
		June	Jan	Jan	May	Feb	March	Oct	Aug	May	Jan
		<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>
12	Improve a lot	11	11	17	12	11	10	9	6	8	9
53	Improve some	52	46	55	56	53	57	51	50	49	46
11	Stay the same (VOL)	14	12	14	17	17	16	15	14	13	16
15	Get a little worse	15	18	7	10	13	11	14	20	22	19
5	Get a lot worse	4	9	3	2	3	3	3	5	4	5
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q.12 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

		<i>Newsweek</i>		<i>Newsweek Early</i>							
		Jan	June	Oct	Sept	May	Feb	Sept	May	Jan	Jan
		<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1984</u>
44	Better	18	15	16	18	18	25	24	24	22	35
17	Worse	33	24	22	17	31	22	16	20	26	13
36	Same	44	55	57	61	45	49	51	46	45	49
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q. 13 In your opinion, is President Bush doing as much as he can to improve economic conditions or do you think he could be doing more?

		--- Bush, Sr. ---	
		<u>March 1992</u>	<u>Jan 1992</u>
48	Doing all he can	21	21
46	Could be doing more	76	76
<u>6</u>	Can't say	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q.14 If you had to say, which do you think is mostly responsible for the nation's economic downturn... [READ, ROTATE]

48	The Sept. 11 terrorism attacks
	OR
46	Normal ups and downs of the economy
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

**NO Q.15**

Q.16 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE; OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES]** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... **[INSERT ITEM]**?)

		<u>Top</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Should Not</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
		<u>Priority</u>	<u>But lower</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Be Done</u>	
<b>ASK ITEMS a THRU I OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=600]:</b>						
a.F1	Improving the job situation	67	27	4	1	1=100
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2=100
	January, 2000 <sup>7</sup>	41	35	16	4	4=100
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3=100
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100
b.F1	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	50	37	7	4	2=100
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2=100
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3=100
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4=100
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	53	39	6	*	2=100
	January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*=100
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1=100
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2=100
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100

<sup>7</sup>

Trends from January 2000 and all previous years are not entirely comparable due to a change in the placement of this question within the survey.

**Q.16 CONTINUED ...**

		<u>Top</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Should Not</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
		<u>Priority</u>	<u>But lower</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Be Done</u>	
d.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	35	44	13	3	5=100
	January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3=100
	December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3=100
e.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	43	37	11	6	3=100
	January, 2001	66	26	4	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	34	7	3	2=100
	July, 1999	57	30	8	4	1=100
	January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4=100
	January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2=100
	January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2=100
	December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3=100
f.F1	Reforming the campaign finance system	23	35	28	6	8=100
	Early September, 2001	29	35	23	8	5=100
	January, 2001	37	32	18	6	7=100
	January, 2000	32	34	20	6	8=100
	July, 1999	28	37	23	7	5=100
	January, 1999	29	36	21	6	8=100
	January, 1998	32	34	24	5	5=100
	January, 1997	31	37	23	5	4=100
g.F1	Developing a national missile defense system to protect against missile attacks	39	35	15	7	4=100
	Early September, 2001	35	39	14	11	1=100
	January, 2001	41	32	14	9	4=100
<b>NO ITEM h</b>						
i.F1	Adding prescription drug benefits to Medicare coverage	54	34	8	3	1=100
	Early September, 2001	60	31	6	2	1=100
	January, 2001	73	19	4	2	2=100
	January, 2000	54	31	9	3	3=100
j.F1	Protecting the environment	44	42	12	1	1=100
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1=100
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1=100
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100
k.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	83	15	1	*	1=100
l.F1	Taking steps to stimulate the economy	61	30	4	1	4=100

**Q.16 CONTINUED ...**

		<u>Top</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Should Not</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
		<u>Priority</u>	<u>But lower</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Be Done</u>	
<b>ASK ITEMS m THRU x OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=601]:</b>						
m.F2	Improving the educational system	66	27	4	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1=100
	January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1=100
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1=100
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	62	32	3	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2=100
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1=100
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1=100
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100
o.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	55	38	5	1	1=100
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2=100
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2=100
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100
<b>NO ITEM p</b>						
q.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	44	46	7	2	1=100
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2=100
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1=100
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100
r.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	45	32	12	7	4=100
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5=100
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3=100
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4=100
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100

**Q.16 CONTINUED ...**

		<u>Top Priority</u>	<u>Important But lower Priority</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Should Not Be Done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
s.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military January, 2001	52 48	37 37	7 8	2 5	2=100 2=100
t.F2	Dealing with global trade issues January, 2001 January, 2000	25 37 30	55 46 48	13 8 14	2 3 1	5=100 6=100 7=100
u.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy Early September, 2001 <sup>8</sup> January, 2001 January, 2000	71 80 81 70	26 18 15 25	2 1 2 3	* * 1 1	1=100 1=100 1=100 1=100
v.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured January, 2001 January, 2000	43 61 55	45 31 32	7 4 8	3 2 2	2=100 2=100 3=100
w.F2	Waging the military campaign to destroy terrorist groups around the world	64	27	5	1	3=100
x.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem Early September, 2001 <sup>9</sup>	42 46	46 41	7 6	2 2	3=100 5=100

**ASK ALL:**

On a different question...

Q.17 Now thinking about President Bush's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you consider this year's State of the Union to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

		<b>--- Clinton ---</b>	
		<u>Jan 2000</u>	<u>Jan 1999</u>
54	More important	16	27
4	Less important	22	16
36	Same	53	51
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100

<sup>8</sup> In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded "Keeping the economy strong."

<sup>9</sup> In Early September 2001 the item was worded "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=600]:**

Q.18F1 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

		----- Clinton -----			
		Early Sept	Jan	Dec	Oct
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
52	Domestic policy	56	86	85	76
34	Foreign policy	30	7	7	13
*	Neither (VOL)	0	*	2	*
11	Both (VOL)	11	5	4	7
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=601]:**

Q.19F2 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or the war on terrorism?

33	Domestic policy
52	War on terrorism
*	Neither (VOL)
13	Both (VOL)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.20 This coming year, do you think Republicans and Democrats in Washington will work together more to solve problems OR do you think they will bicker and oppose one another more than usual?

**IF "2" IN Q.20, ASK:**

Q.20a Who do you think is more to blame for this... Republicans or Democrats?

		<u>Jan 2001</u>
53	Work together	41
39	Bicker and oppose one another more than usual	50
10	Republicans	n/a
11	Democrats	n/a
12	Both (VOL)	n/a
2	Neither (VOL)	n/a
4	Don't know/Refused	n/a
5	Same as in the past (VOL)	4
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>
100		100

Q.21 When it comes to national policy, who do you think George W. Bush is listening to more... [READ, ROTATE]

		<u>Jan 2001</u>
38	Conservative members of his party	48
	OR	
40	Moderate members of his party	37
<u>22</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>15</u>
100		100

Q.22 As I read a list of issues, please tell me which party you think has the best ideas. (First), on the issue of **[READ AND ROTATE]** who has the best ideas... the Republican Party or the Democratic Party? **[REPEAT FOR NEXT ITEM:]** And who has the best ideas on...

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL) Neither	DK/Ref
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=600]:</b>				
a.	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound			
	28	40	6	26=100
	36	44	7	13=100
	27	46	7	20=100
b.	Cutting taxes for the middle class			
	35	40	5	20=100
	41	42	6	11=100
	32	45	6	17=100
c.	Improving the educational system			
	37	34	6	23=100
	40	41	7	12=100
	26	46	7	21=100
d.	Dealing with the economy			
	43	34	5	18=100
	33	44	13	10=100
	41	45	0	14=100
	37	43	11	9=100
	39	44	8	9=100
	40	38	12	10=100
	40	40	15	5=100
	39	45	10	6=100
	45	33	12	10=100
	36	45	10	9=100
	37	35	0	28=100
e.	Dealing with the terrorist threat at home			
	48	18	6	28=100
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=601]:</b>				
f.	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans			
	20	45	6	29=100
	30	47	7	16=100
	25	46	7	22=100
g.	Providing prescription drug benefits to senior citizens on Medicare			
	18	46	5	31=100
	30	49	5	16=100

<sup>10</sup> Trend was worded: "Tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... keeping the country prosperous?"

<sup>11</sup> Gallup trend for 2000 and 1997 was worded: "Do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems... the economy?"

**Q.22 CONTINUED ...**

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL) <u>Neither</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
h.	Dealing with the global economy	36	29	5	30=100
	January, 2001	39	37	5	19=100
	January, 1999	33	38	6	23=100
i.	Improving morality in this country	38	27	8	27=100
	January, 2001	49	26	11	14=100
	January, 1999	37	29	17	17=100
j.	Dealing with the military efforts to destroy terrorist groups overseas	51	16	6	27=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.23 Who do YOU now think of as the leader of the Democratic Party... **(READ AND ROTATE)?**

		--- Current ---			----- April 2001 -----			
		---- Party Id ----			---- Party Id ----			
		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
14	Bill Clinton	6	21	14	15	10	21	14
15	Al Gore	11	17	17	20	12	27	20
10	Joseph Lieberman	9	13	10	12	11	12	13
9	Dick Gephardt [OR]	11	7	10	16	23	14	17
29	Tom Daschle	39	23	27	8	14	5	7
1	Other (VOL)	1	*	1	2	1	2	1
3	Nobody is (VOL)	4	3	3	8	11	6	7
<u>19</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>



Now, just a few questions for statistical purposes only.

Q.46 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, at home or anywhere else on at least an occasional basis?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
January, 2002	73	27	0=100
Mid-November, 2001	73	27	0=100
Mid-September, 2001	72	28	*=100
June, 2001	72	28	*=100
May, 2001	75	25	*=100
April, 2001	72	28	*=100
February, 2001	72	28	0=100
January, 2001	71	29	*=100
July, 2000	68	31	1=100
June, 2000	68	31	1=100
April, 2000	68	32	*=100
March, 2000 <sup>12</sup>	72	28	0=100
February, 2000	67	33	*=100
January, 2000	68	32	*=100
December, 1999	67	33	*=100
October, 1999	67	33	*=100
Late September, 1999	68	32	*=100
September, 1999	70	30	*=100
August, 1999	67	33	*=100
July, 1999	68	32	*=100
June, 1999	64	35	1=100
May, 1999	66	33	1=100
April, 1999	71	29	*=100
March, 1999	68	32	*=100
February, 1999	68	32	*=100
January, 1999	69	31	*=100
Early December, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early September, 1998	64	36	*=100
Late August, 1998	66	34	0=100
Early August, 1998	66	34	*=100
April, 1998	61	39	*=100
January, 1998	65	35	*=100
November, 1997	66	34	*=100
June, 1997	60	40	0=100
Early September, 1996	56	44	*=100
July, 1996	56	44	*=100
April, 1996	58	42	*=100
March, 1996	61	39	*=100
February, 1996	60	40	0=100
January, 1996	59	41	0=100

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In March 2000, "or anywhere else" was added to the question wording.

**IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.46, ASK:**

Q.47 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

**BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:**

	<u>Goes Online</u>	<u>Doesn't Go Online</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2002	62	38	0=100
Mid-November, 2001	62	38	0=100
Mid-September, 2001	62	38	*=100
June, 2001	62	38	0=100
May, 2001	64	36	0=100
April, 2001	62	38	0=100
February, 2001	60	40	*=100
January, 2001	61	39	0=100
July, 2000	55	45	*=100
June, 2000	56	44	*=100
April, 2000	54	46	*=100
March, 2000	61	39	0=100
February, 2000	52	48	0=100
January, 2000	52	48	*=100
December, 1999	53	47	0=100
October, 1999	50	50	0=100
Late September, 1999	52	48	*=100
September, 1999	53	47	0=100
August, 1999	52	48	0=100
July, 1999	49	51	0=100
June, 1999	50	50	*=100
May, 1999	48	52	0=100
April, 1999	51	49	*=100
March, 1999	49	51	*=100
February, 1999	49	51	*=100
January, 1999	47	53	*=100
Early December, 1998	42	58	0=100
November, 1998	37	63	*=100
Early September, 1998	42	58	*=100
Late August, 1998	43	57	*=100
Early August, 1998	41	59	*=100
April, 1998	36	64	0=100
January, 1998	37	63	0=100
November, 1997	36	63	1=100
July, 1996	23	77	0=100
April, 1996	21	79	*=100
March, 1996	22	78	0=100
February, 1996	21	79	*=100
January, 1996	21	79	0=100
June, 1995 <sup>13</sup>	14	86	*=100

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The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:

(1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)

(2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?