## Reduce Tax Cut to Pay for Guns and Butter VIEWS OF BUSINESS AND REGULATION UNCHANGED BY ENRON

|  | Also Inside ... |
| :--- | :--- |
| W | Bush's Short Coattails. |
| W | Enron's Lesson: Watch Your 401K. |
| W | Warmer Feelings Toward China. |
| W | Cautious Optimism on Campaign Reform. |

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## Reduce Tax Cut to Pay for Guns and Butter VIEWS OF BUSINESS AND REGULATION UNCHANGED BY ENRON

The American public increasingly recognizes the gravity of the Enron scandal - a greater percentage than in January has been following news about the case, and more now think the collapse of the Houston energy giant is of great importance to the nation. Yet the public's underlying attitudes toward business and government regulation have been largely unaffected by the scandal. And there is no evidence of significant political fallout from Enron as of yet. Rather, the major lesson being drawn from Enron is that retirement accounts may be less safe than previously believed.

Even as the percentage of Americans paying some attention to news of Enron has steadily risen - from $34 \%$ in December, to $43 \%$ in January and $61 \%$ in February, basic opinions of American business have not changed much. While the vast majority of the public continues to worry about the power wielded by a few companies and many think corporations make too much profit, the public is divided, as in previous surveys, over the necessity of government regulation. The Pew Research Center's latest nationwide poll of 1,199 adults, conducted Feb. 12-18, finds $50 \%$ saying such regulation is needed to protect the public interest, while $41 \%$ believe that government regulation does more harm than good. That is similar to the $48 \%-44 \%$ split on this question in 1999.

Most people continue to give mixed grades to American business for how it acts toward the public: as in previous surveys going back to the late 1970 s, the vast majority ( $64 \%$ ) express only
 some confidence in business to act responsibly, while just $12 \%$ express a great deal of confidence. Also, as in the past, relatively small minorities believe corporations put the interests of their employees, their customers or their communities first.

But Enron seems to have changed the public's perception of business's top priorities - $43 \%$ now say corporations put the interests of executives first, while $37 \%$ say stockholders come first. In 1995, a plurality took the opposite view ( $46 \%$ said stockholders, $34 \%$ executives).

Enron has clearly affected the way Americans view the security of stock-based retirement accounts. A 58\% majority said the major lesson of Enron was that such accounts may not be safe. That is a significantly larger percentage than say that Enron shows more government regulation is needed, or that large corporations have too much clout in Washington. The potential vulnerability of retirement accounts was an even bigger lesson for people with stock-based retirement accounts than for others in the survey.

| Enron: Lessons and Consequences |  |
| :--- | :---: |
|  |  |
| Biggest lessons learned ... | Feb 2002 |
| Retirement accounts at risk | $58 \%$ |
| CEOs too profit-oriented | $47 \%$ |
| Political influence of business too great | $37 \%$ |
| Need more regulation | $32 \%$ |
|  |  |
| Worst things ... |  |
| Employees lost retirement | $70 \%$ |
| Executives got rich | $59 \%$ |
| Untrustworthy accounting | $26 \%$ |
| Political leaders involved | $23 \%$ |

Note: Columns add to more than $100 \%$. Combined first and second choices.

Politically, most Americans see only venial sins arising from the Enron affair. Roughly three-in-ten (31\%) think that Enron executives were able to influence Republican leaders a great deal; a smaller number (19\%) believe they had sway with Democrats. Only about a quarter (26\%) say that Enron officials exerted considerable influence over the White House. A 36\% plurality says the Bush administration acted unethically, but not illegally, in connection with Enron, although the percentage who see illegal activity has risen to $24 \%$ from $15 \%$ in a late January Gallup survey. As in previous polls, an overwhelming majority say the White House should turn over information to Congress on energy policy meetings that involved Enron officials.

## Bush: High Approval, Short Coattails

Nonetheless, the Enron scandal has shown no signs of diminishing the president's standing with the public. The president's approval rating remains at a lofty $78 \%$, virtually unchanged from January, although down slightly from his fall ratings in the mid- $80 \%$ range. However, the president's approval measures are not translating into a partisan advantage for the GOP. Republicans continue to run even with Democrats in a congressional ballot test conducted among registered voters $-46 \%$ to $45 \%$.

The lack of a major lift in voting intentions for the GOP also stands in sharp contrast to the fact that more say that President Bush will be a factor in their choice come Election Day than said that about former presidents Clinton, Bush or Reagan. Among the registered voters surveyed, $34 \%$ say that their vote in this fall's midterm elections will be a vote "for" Bush, compared with just $9 \%$ who view their ballot as a vote "against" the president. This is a far better for-against ratio than enjoyed by other recent presidents.

But the president's coattails may be less of a factor than these numbers indicate. An analysis of this attitude in relationship to voting intentions compared with four years ago finds that expressions of support for Bush have less connection to congressional preference than was the case with Bill Clinton. For example, one-in-five (19\%) of

| Looking for Coattails |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| President a Factor in Vote ... |  |  |  |
| Mid-term ballot will be a vote |  |  |  |
| For Against Nota DK/ |  |  |  |
|  | President Pre | ident Fa | tor Ref |
| President in office ... | ... \% | \% |  |
| George W. Bush | 34 | 9 | ) 7=100 |
| Bill Clinton | 21 | 5 | 5 5=100 |
| George Bush, Sr.* | 19 | 5 | 6=100 |
| Ronald Reagan* | 23 |  | 1 5=100 |
| * CBS News/New York Times trend. |  |  |  |
| ... But Bush Boosters Less Swayed Mid-term ballot will be a vote ... |  |  |  |
| For <br> Bush |  | Against | Not a |
|  |  | Bush | Factor |
| Congressional vote ... | ... \% | \% | \% |
| Rep/Lean Republican | can 75 | 1 | 38 |
| Dem/Lean Democrat | rat 19 | 96 | 52 |
| Other/Don't know | $\underline{6}$ | 3 | $\underline{10}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 |
|  | For | Against | Not a |
|  | Clinton | Clinton | Factor |
| Congressional vote ... | ... \% | \% | \% |
| Rep/Lean Republican | can | 89 | 42 |
| Dem/Lean Democrat | at 90 | 8 | 49 |
| Other/Don't know | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{9}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Figures based on registered voters. |  |  |  | those who say their midterm vote will be "for" Bush still intend to vote Democratic. Four years ago, just 7\% of those who saw their vote as an expression of support for Clinton intended to vote Republican in the midterm balloting.

The findings of the poll also underscore some potential policy trouble spots for the Bush administration. Strong majorities favor increased spending for domestic priorities such as health care, Medicare, and education. Support for higher expenditures in these areas rivals the high levels of backing for boosting defense spending and funding of homeland defenses. When offered a choice of how to pay for defense and security needs, just $22 \%$ favor cutting domestic programs, compared with $42 \%$ who prefer to postpone or reduce tax cuts. Reducing domestic spending has appeal to some Republicans (33\%), but even within Bush's own party as many as $35 \%$ favor postponing or reducing the tax cuts.

The poll also finds the public reacting with cautious optimism to the first potential policy consequence of the Enron scandal. In the survey, conducted as the House of Representatives debated and passed a ban on "soft money" donations, just 51\% expressed confidence that the president and Congress could write new laws that would reduce the role of money in politics. Still, this represents a significant increase from the $39 \%$ expressing that view at the outset of the last presidential campaign in February 2000.

## Business Views Change Little

Interest in the Enron case has been steadily increasing over the past two months, outpacing other news stories such as the Winter Olympics and the congressional debate over the budget and taxes. Currently, 28\% say they are following the investigation into the Enron bankruptcy very closely, up from $19 \%$ in mid-January, and $11 \%$ in mid-December. Another $33 \%$ are following the Enron investigation fairly closely. Concern about the Enron case is also on the rise, with roughly half (49\%) saying it is of

| Enron's Growing Importance |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Jan | Feb |
|  | 2002* | $\underline{2002}$ |
| Importance to nation | \% | \% |
| Great | 39 | 49 |
| Some | 44 | 38 |
| Very little | 8 | 8 |
| Don't know | $\frac{9}{100}$ | $\frac{5}{100}$ |
| * CBS/NYT trend |  |  | great importance to the nation today, up from four-in-ten (39\%) in January.

Despite this interest and concern, Americans continue to be of two minds when it comes to evaluating the role of business in this country. Most see business success as essential to the nation's strength. Yet majorities also think too much power is concentrated in the hands of a few large companies, and that the system favors the rich over the poor. As a result, the public is divided over whether regulation of business is necessary or does more harm than good, and whether businesses effectively balance profits with public interests, attitudes which remain unchanged by the Enron case.

Today, $76 \%$ say the strength of this country is mostly based on the success of American business, unchanged from previous surveys conducted over the past 15 years. While a comparable number feel that too much power is concentrated in the hands of a few large companies, this concern is also no higher than in the past. In fact, fewer Americans today (66\%) than three years ago (72\%) subscribe to the axiom that the rich get richer while the poor get poorer.

Americans are no less divided over the value of government regulation than in the recent past, but there has been a modest uptick in pro-regulation sentiment since the mid-1990s. Half the public now sees government regulation of business as a necessity, which is largely unchanged from 1999, but up from $38 \%$ in October 1994. Similarly, the number who say government regulation does more harm than good has dropped steadily since 1994.

| Confidence in Business To Act Responsibly |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\frac{1979}{\%}$ | $\frac{1995}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Today }}{\%}$ |
| Great deal | 14 | 10 | 12 |
| Some | 57 | 65 | 64 |
| No real | 25 | 23 | 21 |
| Don't know | 4 | $\underline{2}$ | $\underline{3}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| * Time/Yankelovich trend |  |  |  |

This continuing ambivalence toward business is perhaps best highlighted by the public's tempered view of corporate responsibility. Both before and after the Enron story broke, roughly one-in-ten said they have a great deal of confidence in business to live up to its responsibility to the American public, while roughly two-in-ten said they have no confidence in business. The vast majority (about two-thirds) said they have "some" confidence that business will do what is right.

## Pro-Business, Less Worried About Enron

While the public's underlying views of business have been largely unaffected by Enron, the reverse is true - people's pre-existing attitudes toward business influence the way they view the seriousness of the case, and its implications. Fully $59 \%$ of those who look skeptically at corporate power and practices attach a great deal of importance to the Enron collapse. Those who take a relatively favorable view of business are less concerned -

| Importance of Enron Collapse |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ----- View of Business ---- |  |  |  |
|  | $\frac{\text { Anti- }}{\%}$ | \% $\%$ |  |
| Great | 59 | 47 | 38 |
| Some | 32 | 40 | 43 |
| Very little | 6 | 8 | 13 |
| Don't know | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{5}$ |  |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 | just $38 \%$ see the Enron bankruptcy as a major concern. ${ }^{1}$

[^0]Overall, Americans have been satisfied with the amount of media coverage of the Enron case. Roughly six-in-ten (59\%) say the press has spent the right amount of time covering Enron, while $24 \%$ say there has been too much coverage and $8 \%$ too little. This contrasts sharply with the public's view of media coverage of the Whitewater scandal during the Clinton administration, when most (55\%) said there was too much coverage, and just one-in-three said coverage was adequate.

However, as with the importance of the scandal, general views about business shape perceptions of press coverage. As many as $29 \%$ of those with a pro-business outlook think there has been too much coverage, compared with $18 \%$ of skeptics.

## Business Views Shape Enron Lessons

In similar fashion, Americans' general beliefs

| Too Much Enron? |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
|  | Whitewater | Enron |
| Amount of | $\frac{\text { March } 1994}{}$ | $\frac{\text { Feb } 2002}{}$ |
| media coverage $\ldots$ | $\%$ | $\%$ |
| Too much | 55 | 24 |
| Too little | 7 | 8 |
| Right amount | 33 | 59 |
| Don't know | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{9}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | about business affect what they see as the lessons to be derived from the company's collapse. Overall, $58 \%$ cite the potential insecurity of retirement accounts as one of the two most important lessons of Enron, with one-in-three listing it as the single most important thing for Americans to learn.

But among those who take a favorable view of business, this stands out as the singular message of Enron - $65 \%$ of those with pro-business attitudes see heightened risks in retirement accounts as a central lesson. By comparison, those who tend to be skeptical of business are nearly as likely to see the Enron case as evidence that business has too much influence in Washington, and that corporations are not regulated enough, ideas which those favorable toward business roundly reject.

## Worst Consequences: Employees Lost, Execs Gained

Overall, seven-in-ten say the fact that many Enron employees lost their retirement funds is either the worst or second worst thing about the collapse of Enron, and this view is consistent regardless of how one views business overall.

Enron executives walking off wealthy while the company collapsed rates among the worst things about the scandal to a majority (59\%), while only about a quarter sees the possibility that accounting firms may be untrustworthy (26\%) and that political leaders

## Business Beliefs Shape Impressions

 might be involved (23\%) as the worst things about the case.

The Enron case has apparently played into the predispositions of Americans who have an unfavorable view of business. Fully two-thirds of this group say the worst aspect of the Enron affair is that executives may have enriched themselves as the company was collapsing. That sentiment is shared by barely half ( $51 \%$ ) of pro-business Americans. Business skeptics also are more likely than the pro-business group to point to potential involvement by top political leaders as the worst thing about the case ( $28 \%$ to $17 \%$ ). For their part, those with favorable attitudes toward business are much more likely than those with negative views to rate questions about the trustworthiness of accounting reports as one of the worst things about the case (41\%-20\%).

## Shifting Views of Corporate Priorities

Public assessments of whose interests business corporations put first have been affected by recent events, as the public has witnessed top executives benefitting while stockholders and employees suffer.

However, the vast majority of Americans believe that companies should put the interests of their employees (31\%), their customers (27\%), and their communities (19\%) first. Smaller proportions identify stockholders (14\%) or top executives (3\%) as the proper focus of corporate decision-making. These figures are virtually unchanged from a Pew Research Center survey in October 1995.

Evaluations of corporate behavior could not be more different. A 43\% plurality says that top executives

| The Boss Comes First |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Whose interests business puts first |  |
|  | $\frac{1995}{\%}$ | $\frac{2002}{\%}$ |
| Their top executives | 34 | 43 |
| Their stockholders | 46 | 37 |
| Their employees | 4 | 3 |
| Their customers | 6 | 5 |
| Communities | 6 | 5 |
| None | 1 | 2 |
| Don't know | $\frac{3}{100}$ | $\frac{5}{100}$ | are the primary beneficiaries of corporate attention, with another $37 \%$ saying the interests of stockholders are put first. In the mid-1990s, the public saw stockholders coming before top executives. Both then and now, only a small minority say that employees (3\%), customers (5\%) or community interests (5\%) are put first by American business.

## Retirement Jitters

Overall, about one-in-three Americans (35\%) say they are more worried about their own retirement savings since the collapse of Enron. Not surprisingly, this concern is highest among those nearing retirement age, and those who have retirement accounts that include stock or mutual fund investments. Fully $42 \%$ of those age 50-64 say they are more worried today about their retirement accounts, compared with just one-infour of those over age 65 and $31 \%$ under age 30 . Four-in-ten Americans with retirement accounts in the market say they are more concerned since the Enron collapse, compared with $36 \%$ of those with non-market retirement accounts, and $29 \%$ of those with no retirement plan beyond Social Security.

| Concern About Retirement Savings Since Enron Collapse |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | More |  | DK/ |
|  | $\frac{\text { Worried }}{\%}$ |  | $\frac{\mathrm{Ref}}{\%}$ |
| Total | 35 | 60 | 5=100 |
| Age |  |  |  |
| 18-29 | 31 | 63 | 6=100 |
| 30-49 | 39 |  | $3=100$ |
| 50-64 | 42 |  | $4=100$ |
| 65+ | 26 | 67 | $7=100$ |
| Retirement plan |  |  |  |
| Stocks/Mutual Funds | s 41 |  | $2=100$ |
| Non-Market/Pension | 36 |  | 5=100 |
| None | 29 |  | $8=100$ |
| Partisanship |  |  |  |
| Republican | 29 |  | $3=100$ |
| Democrat | 43 | 53 | $4=100$ |
| Independent | 35 |  | 6=100 |

Though less concerned than Democrats (43\%), nearly three-in-ten Republicans (29\%) say the Enron case has made them more worried about their own retirement accounts. Roughly a third of independents (35\%) agree.

## Modest Political Fallout

Relatively few believe that the Bush administration is engaged in illegal activities related to the Enron case. Even among Democrats, just $35 \%$ hold this view. But most Americans remain skeptical of the administration's actions, and many believe that Enron was able to buy political influence in Washington. Partisans divide over these issues in predictable ways, but independents are nearly as suspicious as Democrats of Republican politicians and the Bush administration in particular.

Fully three-quarters (76\%) of Democrats see the Bush administration as ethically, if not legally, culpable in the Enron affair, and nearly two-thirds (64\%) of independents share this view. By comparison, fewer than half ( $45 \%$ ) of Republicans think the White House had any unethical or illegal involvement in the case.

Similarly, while roughly half (49\%) of the general public thinks the administration is hiding something related to the Enron case, solid majorities of Democrats (69\%) and independents ( $56 \%$ ) believe this to be the case.

Two-thirds of Americans think Vice

| Independents, Democrats Share <br> Enron Concerns |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bush administration's <br> involvement with Enron <br> Something illegal | $\frac{\text { Total }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Rep }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Dem }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Ind }}{\%}$ |
| Something unethical | 36 | 17 | 35 | 24 |
| Nothing seriously wrong | 21 | 36 | 41 | 40 |
| Don't know | $\underline{19}$ | $\underline{19}$ | $\underline{16}$ | $\underline{18}$ |
| Administration is ... | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Hiding something | 49 | 27 | 69 | 56 |
| Not hiding anything | 35 | 56 | 16 | 30 |
| Don't know | $\underline{16}$ | $\underline{17}$ | $\underline{15}$ | $\underline{14}$ |
| Information on Enron <br> meetingss should be ... | 200 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Kept confidential | 26 | 44 | 12 | 22 |
| Released to Congress | 66 | 47 | 83 | 72 |
| Don't know | $\underline{8}$ | $\underline{9}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{6}$ |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |  | President Cheney should provide Congress with information on the administration's energy meetings, which included sessions with Enron officials. Here again, Democrats (83\%) and independents (72\%) overwhelmingly side against Cheney. Even Republicans are divided on this question, with $47 \%$ saying he should release the information, and $44 \%$ saying the vice president is right to keep such information confidential.

## Enron's Political Influence

Majorities see both parties as tarnished a bit by the Enron affair, though Democrats and independents express particular suspicion about the links between Enron officials and Republicans. Overall, 68\% say Enron officials exerted some influence on GOP leaders ( $31 \%$ a great deal, $37 \%$ a fair amount), while $58 \%$ say the same about Democratic leaders (19\% a great deal, 39\% a fair amount).

| More See GOP-Enron Ties |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Enron's influence on ... |  |  |
|  | Dem | Rep | Bush |
|  | Leaders | Leaders | Admin |
|  | \% | \% | \% |
| Great Deal | 19 | 31 | 26 |
| Fair Amount | 39 | 37 | 35 |
| Not Much | 21 | 14 | 18 |
| No Influence | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| Don't Know | $\underline{16}$ | 14 | 14 |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Interestingly, there is no partisan divide over
Democratic involvement; roughly six-in-ten within all partisan groups see Democratic leaders as influenced. But there is a perception gap over the GOP's involvement with Enron. Roughly threequarters of Democrats and independents, compared with $58 \%$ of Republicans, think Enron executives were able to influence the Republican leadership. All in all, fully $34 \%$ of political independents think Enron executives had a great deal of influence on Republican leaders, while about half as many ( $18 \%$ ) say the same about Democratic leaders.

## Many Find Enron Saga Complex, Distant

Public attention to the Enron case has been gradually increasing, but many Americans continue to find it too complex or are turned off because it seems far removed or confirms their cynicism about corporate behavior.

More than half (55\%) of those who are not following the story, or are paying limited attention, say it is hard to follow the business and
 financial dealings that occurred. Slightly fewer ( $49 \%$ ) say they have not followed the story very closely because they see it as just another example of the wealthy taking advantage of the system. About four-in-ten ( $42 \%$ ) say they haven't been following the story because they think it does not affect them. Just $12 \%$ say they haven't followed the story very closely because there was no serious wrongdoing.

Perhaps not surprisingly, there is a strong socioeconomic component to interest in the Enron case. Americans who describe themselves as "working class" or part of a "struggling family" have been paying less attention to the story than those who describe themselves as part of the "professional" or "business" class. Working class respondents cite a variety of reasons for this many see the story as too complex, less relevant, and just another example of the rich getting rich, all at the same time.

## More Confidence in Reform Efforts

There has been a modest increase in public optimism in the ability of Washington politicians to write fair and effective campaign finance reform legislation, and the shift is attributable almost entirely to change among Republicans. Roughly half (51\%) of Americans express a lot or some confidence that the president and Congress can

| Rising GOP Confidence <br> In Political Reform |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | Feb | Feb |  |
| Confident fair \& effective | $\frac{2000}{\%}$ | $\frac{2002}{\%}$ | Diff. |
| reforms can be made | 38 | 68 | +30 |
| Republican | 45 | 42 | -3 |
| Democrat | 35 | 43 | +8 |
| Independent |  |  |  | reform the campaign finance system, up from $39 \%$ early in the presidential primaries of 2000 and $34 \%$ in September 1997. Republicans, who two years ago were more skeptical than confident, have changed their view completely. Today, $68 \%$ of Republicans have some confidence that campaign finance reform can be achieved, up from 38\% two years ago, while the perceptions of Democrats and independents have changed little, if any.

While optimism is up, it is worth noting that confidence in political leaders to enact effective political reforms is lowest among those who see such changes as most necessary. Just $42 \%$ of those rating Enron's political ties as one of the worst things about the case feel confident that the president and Congress will write fair and effective legislation, compared with $54 \%$ of those who do not list political involvement as one of the worst things about the case.

## Strong Support for Domestic Spending

Despite rising support for more military spending in the wake of Sept. 11, Americans continue to place domestic issues at or near the top of their budget priorities. As was the case last spring, three-in-four Americans say they want to increase federal spending on education, more than any other issue. Spending on health care continues to be the second highest concern: 69\% favor more spending in this area, largely unchanged since last spring.

| Guns and Butter, Please |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| April |  |  |  |
| Federal govt. should | $\frac{2001}{\%}$ | $\frac{2002}{\%}$ | Change |
| increase spending for: | 76 | 73 | -3 |
| Education | 71 | 69 | -2 |
| Health care | 70 | 63 | -7 |
| Medicare | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 63 |  |
| Homeland defense | 47 | 60 | +13 |
| Military defense | 48 | 43 | -5 |
| Environmental protection | 40 |  |  |
| Unemployment assistance* | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 40 | -18 |
| Energy | 52 | 34 | -18 |
| *20\% favored increasing unemployment assistance in May, |  |  |  |
| 1997. |  |  |  |

This continued emphasis on education and health care exists at the same time that more Americans support increased defense spending. Six-in-ten Americans want more military spending, up from $47 \%$ last April. And $63 \%$ favor raising the budget for homeland defense, an item not on the agenda last spring.

Republicans are much more supportive of increased military spending than are Democrats or independents, but this was the case before the terrorist attacks. In fact, Republican support for more military spending is almost unchanged, while the shift in priorities comes from Democrats and independents. And as seen in other Pew Research Center surveys since Sept. 11, one of the biggest boosts in backing for defense spending has occurred among women. Last year, $44 \%$ of women supported increased military spending; that figure has risen to $58 \%$. A similar jump in support for military spending has occurred among those living in the East.

While the public wants more spending on defense and domestic programs, it is willing to cut energy spending. Last April, when gas prices were rising and energy outages were in the news, $52 \%$ wanted more federal dollars to go to energy. Today, only $34 \%$ back higher spending on energy programs.

The public also assigns a slightly lower priority to spending on Medicare and environmental protection. Medicare is still near the top, with 63 percent favoring increased spending, but support has dropped from 70 percent last spring. The proportion supporting higher spending for environmental initiatives has fallen from $48 \%$ to $43 \%$.

## Paying for Priorities

To pay for the increased defense and homeland security spending that President Bush has proposed, a plurality of Americans favor postponing or reducing last year's tax cut rather than adding to the budget deficit or reducing domestic spending. In large part, people's spending priorities are linked with preferred means of paying for those priorities.

| Footing the Bill |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| By their spending preferences |  |  |  |
| How to pay | Guns | Both | Butter |
| for defense? | \% | \% | \% |
| Add to deficit | 17 | 29 | 18 |
| Reduce domestic | 39 | 19 | 12 |
| Postpone tax cut | 35 | 42 | 52 |
| Other/None | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Don't know | 7 | 7 | $\underline{15}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Number of respondents | (225) | (675) | (207) |

For instance, among the minority who favor domestic spending increases but do not back Bush's proposed increases in defense and security spending, most (52\%) prefer reducing the tax cut. Among the majority who want both guns and butter, scaling back the tax cuts remain the plurality choice (42\%), though three-in-ten (29\%) favor adding to the budget deficit. Only those who primarily want higher defense spending do not clearly favor postponing or reducing last year's tax cuts (35\%).

Americans with higher incomes and better education - those most likely to benefit from the tax cut - are most supportive of postponing or reducing it. More than half ( $52 \%$ ) of those with incomes above $\$ 50,000$ and $56 \%$ of college graduates prefer this means of paying for increased defense spending.

Support for the various budgetary options follows party lines, but only to a point. Democrats and independents favor scaling back the tax cut ( $47 \%$ of each group), and fewer than one-in-five would trim domestic spending ( $15 \%$ of Democrats and $19 \%$ of independents). Republicans, however, are almost evenly split between these two options.

While Republicans are the most likely to opt for cuts in domestic programs as a way to pay for defense and security (33\%), almost the same number would forgo the tax break (35\%). Within the Republican party, there is an ideological divide. Conservative Republicans have a slight preference for reducing domestic spending, while a plurality of moderate and liberal Republicans favor reducing or postponing the tax cut.

There is little or no partisan split regarding adding to the budget deficit to pay for increased spending. Only $26 \%$ of Democrats, and fewer Republicans and independents (22\%), support this alternative.

## Energy Conservation Gains

During the energy crisis last May, the public had a slight preference for energy conservation and regulation (49\%) over expanding energy sources (44\%). Today that gap has widened: 54\% favor conservation and regulation, only $37 \%$ want to expand exploration and build new power plants.

But when it comes to a choice between protecting the environment and developing new energy sources, Americans continue to be narrowly divided. By a slim 48\%-45\% margin, Americans rate developing new energy sources as a higher priority than protecting the environment, largely unchanged from last May (49\%-42\%).

## China's Image Improves

As President Bush tours Asia this week, public opinion of China has improved significantly since tensions were high last spring. While a minority of the public (17\%) continues to see China as an adversary, the proportion viewing China as a serious problem for the United States has dropped from 51\% in May 2001 to $39 \%$ today. Moreover, one-third think China is not much of a problem for the U.S., up from $22 \%$ in May.

In May 2001, four-in-ten Americans thought relations between the U.S. and China were deteriorating. Today, just $14 \%$ hold this view, with $16 \%$ saying relations are improving. Roughly six-in-ten (61\%) think U.S.-

| Since the Spy Plane Incident ... |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Early |  |
|  | May | Sept Feb |
|  | $\underline{2001}$ | $\underline{2001} 2002$ |
| China is ... | \% | \% \% |
| An adversary | 19 | 2317 |
| A serious problem | 51 | 4839 |
| Not much problem | 22 | 2333 |
| Don't know | 8 | $\underline{6} \underline{11}$ |
|  | 100 | 100100 |
| Relations between |  |  |
| U.S. and China are ... |  |  |
| Improving | 6 | 16 |
| Getting worse | 40 | - 14 |
| Staying about same | 48 | -- 61 |
| Don't know |  | -- $\underline{9}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | Chinese relations are staying about the same.

## War Leads News Index

The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan led the news interest index for February, with 47\% of the public following this story very closely, down slightly from 51\% a month ago. As in January, men are paying more attention to this story than are women ( $52 \%$ vs. $42 \%$ ).

Reports on the state of the economy captured the close attention of slightly more than a third of the public (35\%). Interest has rebounded a bit since January, when 30\% closely followed this story. Democrats were more likely to follow economic news (41\%) than were Republicans or independents ( $33 \%$ and $32 \%$, respectively).

Interest in the Enron investigation is modest compared with news of the war or economy. But it does rank among the most closely followed business stories of the past decade. Of the business and economic news stories surveyed over the past decade, only major job cuts by General Motors in 1992 attracted more public attention.

Interest in the Enron story is highest among older people, especially those age 50-64. Among people who have retirement plans other than Social Security, $31 \%$ followed the story very closely, compared with $21 \%$ of those who do not.

| Corporate News Stories |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Very Closely \% |
| Major cuts by GM \{1-92\} | 35 |
| Gov. decision on Microsoft \{6-00\} | 28 |
| Enron investigation \{2-02\} | 28 |
| Savings \& Loans scandal \{6-90\} | 18 |
| AOL-Time merger \{1-00\} | 17 |
| AT\&T layoffs \{1-96\} | 16 |
| BCCI scandal \{10-91\} | 13 |
| Chrysler/Daimler merger \{6-98\} | 12 |
| ABC Purchase by Disney \{8-95\} | 10 |
| Breakup of AT\&T \{9-95\} | 9 |
| Exxon/Mobil merger \{12-98\} | 8 |
| Time-Warn./Turner merger \{5-95\} | 6 |
| AOL/Netscape merger \{12-98\} | 6 |

The abduction in Pakistan of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl was followed very closely by about a quarter of the public (24\%). It has attracted an audience among groups which, in general, tend to express little interest in news. Americans with less than a high school degree and whose annual household income is less than $\$ 20,000$ paid the most attention to Pearl's abduction. Women devoted more attention to this story than did men ( $28 \%$ vs. $20 \%$ ).

The Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah drew the attention of $22 \%$ of Americans. Attention to this story is significantly lower than for the 1992 Winter Olympics in France, which was followed closely by a third of the public. Not surprisingly, interest is especially high in the West, with one-third in that region following the story very closely.

The debate in Congress over George W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan was tracked by only $17 \%$ of the public. This is down significantly from a year ago when almost a third of the public (31\%) followed the budget and tax debate very closely.


#### Abstract

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 1,199 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period February $12-18,2002$. 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 $1(\mathrm{~N}=594)$ or Form 2 $(\mathrm{N}=605)$, 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.

## PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

|  | Military Effort in Afghanistan | Reports About U.S. Economy | $\qquad$ | Abduction of WSJ <br> Reporter | The Winter Olympics | Bush's Budget and Tax Plan | (N) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |  |
| Total | 47 | 35 | 28 | 24 | 22 | 17 | (1199) |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 52 | 36 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 18 | (569) |
| Female | 42 | 33 | 27 | 28 | 25 | 16 | (630) |
| Race |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 46 | 35 | 27 | 23 | 22 | 15 | (979) |
| Non-white | 50 | 35 | 34 | 31 | 23 | 24 | (204) |
| Black | 49 | 37 | 34 | 35 | 21 | 27 | (110) |
| Hispanic ${ }^{\wedge}$ | 44 | 31 | 24 | 20 | 16 | 14 | (64) |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 30 | 42 | 23 | 16 | 16 | 22 | 11 | (248) |
| 30-49 | 48 | 35 | 26 | 20 | 21 | 15 | (485) |
| 50+ | 50 | 42 | 38 | 33 | 24 | 23 | (449) |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 52 | 38 | 35 | 22 | 24 | 19 | (404) |
| Some College | 48 | 36 | 28 | 20 | 26 | 18 | (311) |
| High School Grad. | 45 | 36 | 28 | 26 | 20 | 16 | (381) |
| $<$ H.S. Grad. | 40 | 25 | 18 | 31 | 19 | 12 | (98) |
| Region |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| East | 45 | 33 | 26 | 28 | 23 | 19 | (212) |
| Midwest | 48 | 36 | 30 | 24 | 21 | 17 | (281) |
| South | 47 | 36 | 26 | 25 | 17 | 16 | (456) |
| West | 47 | 33 | 32 | 20 | 33 | 16 | (250) |
| Party ID |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 51 | 33 | 26 | 23 | 23 | 17 | (398) |
| Democrat | 52 | 41 | 33 | 31 | 23 | 20 | (364) |
| Independent | 39 | 32 | 28 | 19 | 22 | 15 | (360) |
| Internet User |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yes | 49 | 35 | 27 | 20 | 23 | 15 | (810) |
| No | 43 | 34 | 31 | 31 | 22 | 19 | (389) |

${ }^{\wedge}$ 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?

## THE ENRON COLLAPSE

|  | ---- Importance to the nation --- |  |  |  | ---- Reasons for not paying attention ---- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Very | Don't | Hard to | Doesn't | Same Old | No Serious |
|  | Great | Some | Little | Know | Follow | Affect Me | Stuff* | Wrongdoing |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 49 | 38 | 8 | $5=100$ | 55 | 49 | 42 | 12 |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 48 | 37 | 12 | 3 | 51 | 51 | 45 | 12 |
| Female | 49 | 39 | 6 | 6 | 58 | 47 | 40 | 13 |
| Race |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 48 | 40 | 8 | 4 | 56 | 47 | 42 | 12 |
| Non-white | 51 | 32 | 11 | 6 | 50 | 57 | 43 | 14 |
| Black | 58 | 26 | 10 | 6 | 50 | 61 | 43 | 8 |
| Race and Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White Men | 47 | 39 | 11 | 3 | 52 | 48 | 45 | 13 |
| White Women | 50 | 40 | 5 | 5 | 60 | 46 | 40 | 12 |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 30 | 32 | 49 | 9 | 10 | 55 | 42 | 47 | 10 |
| 30-49 | 48 | 43 | 7 | 2 | 53 | 50 | 40 | 11 |
| 50-64 | 58 | 33 | 5 | 4 | 53 | 54 | 38 | 13 |
| 65+ | 61 | 20 | 16 | 3 | 68 | 55 | 45 | 20 |
| Sex and Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Men under 50 | 42 | 43 | 11 | 4 | 51 | 51 | 41 | 11 |
| Women under 50 | 43 | 47 | 4 | 6 | 56 | 43 | 44 | 11 |
| Men 50+ | 60 | 26 | 13 | 1 | 54 | 51 | 52 | 15 |
| Women 50+ | 59 | 28 | 8 | 5 | 64 | 57 | 33 | 17 |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 48 | 41 | 8 | 3 | 52 | 31 | 36 | 5 |
| Some College | 48 | 43 | 5 | 4 | 53 | 47 | 42 | 9 |
| High School Grad. | 48 | 36 | 10 | 6 | 55 | 57 | 42 | 17 |
| $<$ H.S. Grad. | 53 | 33 | 9 | 5 | 63 | 58 | 50 | 19 |
| Family Income |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \$75,000+ | 52 | 39 | 7 | 2 | 46 | 35 | 41 | 10 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 49 | 42 | 8 | 1 | 56 | 49 | 39 | 10 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 47 | 44 | 5 | 4 | 60 | 57 | 48 | 9 |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 45 | 43 | 6 | 6 | 51 | 51 | 36 | 16 |
| <\$20,000 | 51 | 29 | 16 | 4 | 65 | 58 | 49 | 19 |

Question: How important an issue do you think the collapse of the Enron Corporation is to the nation - of great importance, of some importance, or of very little importance?

We are interested in finding out why many people have not paid much attention to the Enron case. As I read a list, tell me if this reason applies to you, or not.
*"Its's just another example of the wealthy taking advantage of the system."

|  | ---- Importance to the nation --- |  |  |  | ---- Reasons for not paying attention ---- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Very | Don't | Hard to | Doesn't | Same Old | No Serious |
|  | Great | Some | $\underline{\text { Little }}$ | Know | Follow | Affect Me | Stuff* | Wrongdoing |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 49 | 38 | 8 | $5=100$ | 55 | 49 | 42 | 12 |
| Region |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| East | 49 | 41 | 8 | 2 | 54 | 47 | 41 | 16 |
| Midwest | 49 | 38 | 8 | 5 | 59 | 48 | 45 | 10 |
| South | 50 | 36 | 8 | 6 | 54 | 53 | 43 | 13 |
| West | 46 | 40 | 11 | 3 | 54 | 47 | 38 | 12 |
| Religious Affiliation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total White Prot | 49 | 39 | 9 | 3 | 58 | 50 | 43 | 13 |
| White Prot. Evan. | 49 | 37 | 10 | 4 | 58 | 50 | 46 | 14 |
| White Prot. Non-Evan. | 48 | 41 | 8 | 3 | 58 | 50 | 41 | 11 |
| White Catholic | 52 | 39 | 6 | 3 | 53 | 45 | 48 | 11 |
| Secular | 43 | 46 | 6 | 5 | 53 | 44 | 37 | 9 |
| Community Size |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Large City | 47 | 40 | 8 | 5 | 47 | 45 | 37 | 10 |
| Suburb | 55 | 33 | 7 | 5 | 52 | 44 | 44 | 14 |
| Small City/Town | 44 | 43 | 9 | 4 | 58 | 50 | 44 | 10 |
| Rural Area | 51 | 36 | 9 | 4 | 62 | 57 | 42 | 19 |
| Party ID |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 40 | 46 | 11 | 3 | 53 | 40 | 43 | 12 |
| Democrat | 56 | 34 | 7 | 3 | 57 | 56 | 40 | 18 |
| Independent | 49 | 37 | 8 | 6 | 54 | 52 | 45 | 11 |
| Party and Ideology |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Con. Rep. | 42 | 46 | 9 | 3 | 50 | 35 | 42 | 12 |
| Mod./Lib. Rep. | 40 | 44 | 13 | 3 | 59 | 51 | 46 | 9 |
| Con./Mod. Dem. | 58 | 36 | 4 | 2 | 56 | 58 | 38 | 20 |
| Liberal Democrat | 57 | 31 | 10 | 2 | 68 | 52 | 46 | 8 |
| Bush Approval |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Approve | 46 | 42 | 9 | 3 | 57 | 47 | 44 | 13 |
| Disapprove | 60 | 28 | 8 | 4 | 45 | 59 | 38 | 11 |
| GOP Congressional Approval |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Approve | 47 | 42 | 8 | 3 | 56 | 47 | 42 | 12 |
| Disapprove | 57 | 31 | 9 | 3 | 54 | 62 | 40 | 15 |
| 2000 Presidential Vote |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bush | 46 | 42 | 9 | 3 | 51 | 43 | 41 | 13 |
| Gore | 62 | 28 | 8 | 2 | 54 | 56 | 36 | 8 |
| Marital Status |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Married | 51 | 38 | 8 | 3 | 54 | 48 | 38 | 12 |
| Unmarried | 46 | 39 | 9 | 6 | 56 | 50 | 46 | 13 |
| Parental Status |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent | 42 | 46 | 8 | 4 | 55 | 48 | 42 | 12 |
| Non-Parent | 52 | 34 | 9 | 5 | 55 | 50 | 42 | 13 |
| Labor Union |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Union Household | 54 | 39 | 4 | 3 | 61 | 53 | 45 | 13 |
| Non-Union Household | 48 | 38 | 9 | 5 | 54 | 48 | 41 | 13 |

HOW TO PAY FOR MILITARY DEFENSE

|  | Add to <br> Budget <br> $\frac{\text { Deficit }}{\%}$ | Cut <br> Domestic <br> $\frac{\text { Programs }}{\%}$ | Postpone or Reduce $\frac{\text { Tax Cut }}{\%}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { None/ } \\ & \frac{\text { Other }}{\%} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Don't } \\ & \frac{\text { Know }}{\%} \end{aligned}$ | (N) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 24 | 22 | 42 | 3 | $9=100$ | (1199) |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 20 | 25 | 44 | 4 | 7 | (569) |
| Female | 26 | 19 | 41 | 3 | 11 | (630) |
| Race |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 23 | 22 | 44 | 3 | 8 | (979) |
| Non-white | 25 | 23 | 39 | 2 | 11 | (204) |
| Black | 24 | 22 | 37 | 2 | 15 | (110) |
| Race and Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White Men | 21 | 24 | 45 | 3 | 7 | (461) |
| White Women | 25 | 20 | 42 | 3 | 10 | (518) |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 30 | 28 | 23 | 35 | 4 | 10 | (248) |
| 30-49 | 23 | 21 | 48 | 3 | 5 | (485) |
| 50-64 | 21 | 25 | 43 | 3 | 8 | (260) |
| 65+ | 21 | 18 | 42 | 3 | 16 | (189) |
| Sex and Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Men under 50 | 21 | 25 | 45 | 4 | 5 | (371) |
| Women under 50 | 29 | 18 | 41 | 3 | 9 | (362) |
| Men 50+ | 19 | 24 | 44 | 3 | 10 | (190) |
| Women 50+ | 22 | 21 | 41 | 3 | 13 | (259) |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 16 | 21 | 56 | 2 | 5 | (404) |
| Some College | 24 | 22 | 41 | 5 | 8 | (311) |
| High School Grad. | 24 | 21 | 40 | 3 | 12 | (381) |
| <H.S. Grad. | 34 | 24 | 29 | 2 | 11 | (98) |
| Family Income |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \$75,000+ | 17 | 25 | 52 | 2 | 3 | (235) |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 20 | 22 | 51 | 1 | 6 | (204) |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 27 | 22 | 40 | 4 | 7 | (245) |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 30 | 20 | 36 | 3 | 11 | (153) |
| <\$20,000 | 28 | 23 | 35 | 4 | 10 | (186) |

Question: As you may know, President Bush has proposed large increases in the budget for military defense and homeland security. Which one of the following do you think is the BEST way to pay for these increases, if they are to happen... add to the budget deficit, reduce spending on domestic programs, or postpone or reduce last year's tax cuts?

Continued ...


# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE \& THE PRESS FEBRUARY 2002 NEWS INTEREST INDEX <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> February 12-18, 2002 <br> $$
\mathrm{N}=1199
$$ 

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]

|  | Approve |  | Disapprove |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 78 |  | 13 |  |
| February, 2002 |  |  | $9=100$ |  |
| January, 2002 | 80 |  | 11 |  |
| Mid-November, 2001 | 84 |  | 9 | $9=100$ |
| Early October, 2001 | 84 |  | 8 | $7=100$ |
| Late September, 2001 | 86 |  |  | $8=100$ |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 80 |  | 9 | $7=100$ |
| Early September, 2001 | 51 |  | 34 | $11=100$ |
| August, 2001 | 50 |  | 32 | $15=100$ |
| July, 2001 | 51 |  | 32 | $18=100$ |
| June, 2001 | 50 |  | 33 | $17=100$ |
| May, 2001 | 53 |  | 32 | $17=100$ |
| April, 2001 | 56 |  | 27 | $15=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 55 |  | 25 | $17=100$ |
| February, 2001 | 53 |  | 21 | $20=100$ |
|  |  |  |  | $26=100$ |

Q. 4 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]
a. The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan January, 2002
December, 2001
Mid-November, 2001
Early November, 2001
Mid-October, 2001
January, $1991^{2}$

| Very | Fairly | Not too | Not at all |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Closely | Closely | Closely | Closely | DK/Ref |
| 47 | 39 | 8 | 5 | $1=100$ |
| 51 | 35 | 9 | 4 | $1=100$ |
| 44 | 38 | 12 | 5 | $1=100$ |
| 49 | 36 | 11 | 3 | $1=100$ |
| 45 | 36 | 12 | 6 | $1=100$ |
| 51 | 35 | 10 | 3 | $1=100$ |
| 67 | 28 | 4 | 1 | $0=100$ |

## Q. 4 CONTINUED ...

b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy

January, 2002
December, 2001
Mid-November, 2001
June, 2001
May, 2001
April, 2001
February, 2001
January, 2001
June, 1995
March, 1995
February, 1995
December, 1994
October, 1994
June, 1994
May, 1994
January, 1994
Early January, 1994
December, 1993
October, 1993
September, 1993
Early September, 1993
August, 1993
May, 1993
February, 1993
January, 1993
September, 1992
May, 1992
March, 1992
February, 1992
January, 1992
October, 1991
c. The ongoing investigation into the bankruptcy of the Enron corporation January, 2002
December, 20013
Very Fairly Not too Not at all
$\underline{\text { Closely }}$ Closely
$\underline{\text { Closely }}$ Closely DK/Ref

| 35 | 40 | 15 | 9 | $1=100$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 30 | 44 | 16 | 9 | $1=100$ |
| 37 | 40 | 13 | 8 | $2=100$ |
| 41 | 36 | 15 | 7 | $1=100$ |
| 24 | 41 | 18 | 16 | $1=100$ |
| 34 | 36 | 15 | 15 | $0=100$ |
| 36 | 34 | 16 | 13 | $1=100$ |
| 30 | 39 | 18 | 12 | $1=100$ |
| 32 | 38 | 17 | 11 | $2=100$ |
| 26 | 41 | 22 | 11 | $*=100$ |
| 27 | 45 | 19 | 9 | $*=100$ |
| 23 | 41 | 22 | 13 | $1=100$ |
| 28 | 43 | 20 | 9 | $*=100$ |
| 27 | 40 | 20 | 12 | $1=100$ |
| 25 | 42 | 23 | 10 | $*=100$ |
| 33 | 40 | 16 | 10 | $1=100$ |
| 34 | 39 | 16 | 10 | $1=100$ |
| 36 | 44 | 13 | 7 | $*=100$ |
| 35 | 41 | 15 | 8 | $1=100$ |
| 33 | 38 | 20 | 9 | $*=100$ |
| 37 | 40 | 14 | 8 | $1=100$ |
| 39 | 39 | 14 | 9 | $*=100$ |
| 41 | 36 | 14 | 9 | $*=100$ |
| 37 | 38 | 18 | 6 | $1=100$ |
| 49 | 36 | 10 | 5 | $*=100$ |
| 42 | 39 | 12 | 7 | $*=100$ |
| 43 | 37 | 13 | 6 | $*=100$ |
| 39 | 39 | 15 | 6 | $1=100$ |
| 47 | 38 | 11 | 4 | $*=100$ |
| 47 | 37 | 10 | 6 | $*=100$ |
| 44 | 40 | 11 | 5 | $*=100$ |
| 36 | 38 | 16 | 9 | $1=100$ |


| 28 | 33 | 19 | 19 | $1=100$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 19 | 24 | 20 | 35 | $2=100$ |
| 11 | 23 | 28 | 36 | $2=100$ |

## Q. 4 CONTINUED ...

d. The Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah

October, $2000^{4}$
Early September, 1996
July, 1996
February, 1992

| Very | Fairly | Not too | Not at al |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Closely | Closely | Closely | Closely | DK/Ref |
| 22 | 30 | 21 | 26 | $1=100$ |
| 27 | 28 | 24 | 21 | * $=100$ |
| 32 | 34 | 20 | 14 | * $=100$ |
| 45 | 30 | 13 | 11 | $1=100$ |
| 33 | 30 | 19 | 17 | $1=100$ |

e. The abduction in Pakistan of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl
$24 \quad 40 \quad 20 \quad 15 \quad 1=100$
f. The debate in Congress over George W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan April, 2001
February, 2001 ${ }^{5}$

Now a few questions about politics...
Q. 5 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?
IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '3' OR ' 9 ' IN Q.5, ASK:
Q.5a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=906]:

|  | Republican/ <br> Lean Rep. | Democrat/ <br> Lean Dem. | Other/ <br> Undecided |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| February, 2002 | 46 | 45 | $9=100$ |
| Early November, 2001 | 44 | 44 | $12=100$ |
| Early November, 2000 | 42 | 48 | $10=100$ |
| Early October, 2000 | 43 | 47 | $10=100$ |
| July, 2000 | 43 | 47 | $10=100$ |
| February, 2000 | 44 | 47 | $9=100$ |
| October, 1999 | 43 | 49 | $8=100$ |
| June, 1999 | 40 | 50 | $10=100$ |
| November, 1998 | 42 | 48 | $10=100$ |
| Late October, 1998 | 40 | 47 | $13=100$ |
| Early October, 1998 | 43 | 44 | $13=100$ |
| Early September, 1998 | 45 | 46 | $9=100$ |
| Late August, 1998 | 44 | 45 | $11=100$ |
| Early August, 1998 | 42 | 49 | $9=100$ |
| June, 1998 | 44 | 46 | $10=100$ |
| March, 1998 | 40 | 52 | $8=100$ |
| February, 1998 | 41 | 50 | $9=100$ |
| January, 1998 | 41 | 51 | $8=100$ |
| August, 1997 | 45 | 48 | $7=100$ |

[^1]| Q.5/Q.5a CONTINUED ... | Republican/ <br> Lean Rep. | Democrat/ <br> Lean Dem. | Other/ <br> Undecided |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| November, 1996 | 44 | 48 | $8=100$ |
| October, 1996 | 42 | 49 | $9=100$ |
| Late September, 1996 | 43 | 49 | $8=100$ |
| Early September, 1996 | 43 | 51 | $6=100$ |
| July, 1996 | 46 | 47 | $7=100$ |
| June, 1996 | 44 | 50 | $6=100$ |
| March, 1996 | 44 | 49 | $7=100$ |
| January, 1996 | 46 | 47 | $7=100$ |
| October, 1995 | 48 | 48 | $4=100$ |
| August, 1995 | 50 | 43 | $7=100$ |
| November, 1994 | 45 | 43 | $12=100$ |
| October, 1994 | 47 | 44 | $9=100$ |
| Early October, 1994 | 52 | 40 | $8=100$ |
| September, 1994 | 48 | 46 | $6=100$ |
| July, 1994 | 45 | 47 | $8=100$ |

## ROTATE Q. 6 AND Q. 7

## ASK ALL:

Q. 6 Thinking about your vote for Congress this fall, will the issue of which party controls Congress, the Republicans or the Democrats, be a factor in your vote, or not?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=906]:

|  | Early Oct | July | Late Oct | Early Oct | Early Sept Early Aug | June |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{2000}$ | $\frac{2000}{46}$ | $\frac{1998}{46}$ | $\frac{1998}{47}$ | $\frac{1998}{41}$ | $\frac{1998}{44}$ | $\frac{1998}{45}$ |  |
| 46 | Yes, will be a factor | 46 | 46 | 46 |  | 49 | 56 | 53 | 51 |
| 49 | No, will not | 50 | 49 | 50 | 49 | $\underline{3}$ |  |  |  |
| $\frac{5}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{4}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{4}$ | $\underline{4}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\frac{3}{4}$ | $\underline{4}$ |  |
|  |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |  |

Q. 7 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote for George W. Bush, as a vote against George W. Bush, or isn't George W. Bush much of a factor in your vote?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=906]:

February, 2002
Clinton: Late October, 1998
Clinton: Early October, 1998
Clinton: Early September, 1998
Clinton: Late August, 1998
Clinton: Early August, 1998
Clinton: June, 1998
Clinton: March, 1998
Clinton: September, 1996
Clinton: November, 1994

| $\frac{\text { For }}{34}$ | $\frac{\text { Against }}{}$ | Not a <br> Factor | DK/ <br> Ref. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 20 |  | 50 |  | $7=100$ |
| 20 |  | 58 | $5=100$ |  |
| 19 |  | 23 | 52 | $6=100$ |
| 18 | 16 |  | 63 | $3=100$ |
| 20 | 17 | 61 | $2=100$ |  |
| 21 | 18 | 57 | $4=100$ |  |
| 20 | 18 | 57 | $5=100$ |  |
| 21 | 15 | 59 | $5=100$ |  |
| 24 | 18 | 51 | $7=100$ |  |
| 17 | 21 | 55 | $7=100$ |  |
| 17 | 21 | 57 | $5=100$ |  |
| 17 | 23 | 54 | $6=100$ |  |
| 19 | 15 | 61 | $6=100$ |  |
| 26 | 12 | 55 | $7=100$ |  |
| 26 | 16 | 51 | $7=100$ |  |
| 23 | 21 | 51 | $5=100$ |  |

Q. 8 Now I am going to read you a few statements. For each, please tell me if you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly DISagree with it or completely disagree with it. The first one is... [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE]
a. The strength of this country today is mostly based on the success of American business Late September, 1999
November, 1997
July, 1994
June, 1992
Nov, 1991
May, 1990
Feb, 1989
May, 1988
May, 1987

| Completely | Mostly | Mostly | Completely | Don't |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | Agree | Disagree | Disagree | Know |
| 25 | 51 | 16 | 4 | $4=100$ |
| 23 | 53 | 14 | 5 | $5=100$ |
| 22 | 54 | 16 | 5 | $3=100$ |
| 26 | 52 | 15 | 5 | $2=100$ |
| 24 | 54 | 15 | 5 | $2=100$ |
| 29 | 47 | 15 | 6 | $3=100$ |
| 20 | 57 | 14 | 3 | $6=100$ |
| 23 | 54 | 14 | 4 | $5=100$ |
| 25 | 54 | 14 | 3 | $4=100$ |
| 16 | 60 | 16 | 3 | $5=100$ |

b. Business corporations generally strike a fair balance between making profits and serving the public interest

Late September, 1999
November, 1997
July, 1994
June, 1992
Nov, 1991
May, 1990
Feb, 1989
May, 1988
May, 1987

| 7 | 33 | 38 | 16 | $6=100$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 38 | 37 | 13 | $5=100$ |
| 7 | 38 | 40 | 12 | $3=100$ |
| 7 | 38 | 38 | 15 | $2=100$ |
| 5 | 35 | 42 | 14 | $4=100$ |
| 8 | 32 | 38 | 19 | $3=100$ |
| 5 | 38 | 37 | 13 | $7=100$ |
| 5 | 33 | 44 | 12 | $6=100$ |
| 6 | 36 | 39 | 13 | $6=100$ |
| 4 | 39 | 38 | 10 | $9=100$ |

## Q. 8 CONTINUED ...

c. Today it's really true that the rich just get richer while the poor get poorer

| Completely <br> Agree | Mostly <br> Agree | Mostly <br> Disagree | Completely Disagree | Don't <br> Know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 35 | 31 | 20 | 9 | $3=100$ |
| 33 | 39 | 20 | 6 | $2=100$ |
| 34 | 36 | 22 | 6 | $2=100$ |
| 33 | 38 | 20 | 7 | $2=100$ |
| 38 | 40 | 16 | 4 | $2=100$ |
| 45 | 35 | 13 | 5 | $2=100$ |
| 38 | 40 | 16 | 3 | $3=100$ |
| 40 | 38 | 15 | 4 | $3=100$ |
| 34 | 42 | 18 | 3 | $3=100$ |
| 31 | 43 | 19 | 3 | $4=100$ |

On another subject...
Q. 9 Do you think the media is giving TOO MUCH attention to the Enron case, TOO LITTLE attention, or about the right amount?

| 24 | Too much |
| :---: | :--- |
| 8 | Too little |
| 59 | Right amount |
| $\frac{9}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

Q. 10 Does the collapse of Enron make you more worried about your own retirement savings, or has it not affected the way you view your own retirement savings?

| 35 | More worried |
| :--- | :--- |
| 60 | Has not affected |
| $\frac{5}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

## NO Q. 11 OR Q. 12

Thinking more generally...
Q. 13 If you were making up the budget for the federal government this year, would you increase spending for [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE], decrease spending for [ITEM], or keep spending the same for this? What about for [NEXT ITEM]...

| a. |  | Increase <br> Spending | Decrease Spending | Keep Spending The Same | DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Military defense | 60 | 5 | 31 | 4=100 |
|  | April, 2001 | 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 | $3=100$ |
| b. | Anti-terrorism defenses in the U.S. | 63 | 4 | 29 | $4=100$ |
| c. | Environmental protection | 43 | 9 | 45 | $3=100$ |
|  | April, 2001 | 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 | $3=100$ |
| d. | Energy | 34 | 9 | 49 | $8=100$ |
|  | April, 2001 | 52 | 9 | 35 | $4=100$ |
| e. | Medicare | 63 | 3 | 31 | $3=100$ |
|  | April, 2001 | 70 | 2 | 26 | $2=100$ |
|  | May, 1997 | 44 | 8 | 44 | $4=100$ |
| f. | Health care | 69 | 4 | 24 | $3=100$ |
|  | April, 2001 | 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 | $2=100$ |
| g. | Education | 73 | 3 | 22 | $2=100$ |
|  | April, 2001 | 76 | 5 | 18 | $1=100$ |
|  | May, $1997{ }^{7}$ | 67 | 7 | 23 | $3=100$ |
|  | December, 1994 | 64 | 6 | 28 | $2=100$ |
|  | May, 1990 | 76 | 3 | 20 | $1=100$ |
|  | May, 1987 | 69 | 4 | 25 | $2=100$ |

7
From May 1987 through May 1997 the item was "the public school systems."
Q. 13 CONTINUED ...
h. Government assistance for the unemployed

| Increase <br> Spending | Decrease <br> Spending | Keep Spending <br> The Same | DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 14 |  |  |
| 40 | 33 | 41 | $5=100$ |
| 20 | 23 | 49 | $3=100$ |
| 25 | 14 | 57 | $3=100$ |
| 26 | 15 | 41 | $3=100$ |
| 41 |  |  | $3=100$ |

NO Q. 14

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N = 5 9 4 ] :}$

Q.15F1 Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be a more important priority for this country... [READ AND ROTATE]?

|  |  | May 2001 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 45 | Protecting the environment [OR] | 42 |
| 48 | Developing new sources of energy | 49 |
| $\frac{7}{100}$ | (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused | $\frac{9}{100}$ |

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=605$ ]:

Q.16F2 Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be the more important priority for U.S. energy policy... [READ AND ROTATE]

|  |  | May 2001 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 37 | Expanding exploration, mining and drilling, |  |
| and the construction of new power plants [OR] | 44 |  |
| $\frac{9}{100}$ | More energy conservation and regulation on energy use and prices | 49 |
| (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused | $\frac{7}{100}$ |  |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 17 I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views - even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is...
[INSERT ITEM, ROTATE] [AFTER CHOICE IS MADE, PROBE: Do you feel STRONGLY about that, or not?]
a. Government regulation of business

50 necessary to protect the public interest
35 Strongly
15 Not Strongly
Government regulation of business usually
41 does more harm than good
31 Strongly
10 Not Strongly
$\underline{9}$ Neither/Don't know
100
b. Too much power is concentrated in the

77 hands of a few large companies
62 Strongly
15 Not Strongly
The largest companies do NOT have
17 too much power

| Aug | Oct | Oct | April | Oct | July |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\underline{1999}$ | $\underline{1996}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ |
| 48 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 38 | 41 |
| 32 | 29 | 28 | 25 | 24 | 24 |
| 16 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 14 | 17 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 44 | 46 | 50 | 51 | 55 | 54 |
| 32 | 33 | 37 | 38 | 41 | 39 |
| 12 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| $\frac{8}{100}$ | $\frac{9}{100}$ | $\frac{5}{100}$ | $\frac{6}{100}$ | $\frac{7}{100}$ | $\frac{5}{100}$ |

9 Strongly
8 Not Strongly
6 Neither/Don't know
100
c. $\quad 54 \quad$ Business corporations make too much profit

44 Strongly
10 Not Strongly
Most corporations make a fair and reasonable
39 amount of profit
$\begin{array}{lllllll}42 & 43 & 42 & 43 & 44 & 44 & 43\end{array}$
24 Strongly
$\begin{array}{lllllll}29 & 28 & 27 & 27 & 26 & 28 & 27\end{array}$
15 Not Strongly
$\begin{array}{lllllll}13 & 15 & 15 & 16 & 18 & 16 & 16\end{array}$
$\frac{7}{100} \quad$ Neither/Don't know
$\frac{6}{100} \quad \frac{6}{100} \quad \frac{7}{100} \quad \frac{4}{100} \quad \frac{5}{100} \quad \frac{6}{100} \quad \frac{5}{100}$
Q. 18 How much confidence do you have in business living up to its responsibility to the American public -- a great deal of confidence, some confidence, or no real confidence?

|  |  |  | Time-Yankelovich |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 12 | Great deal of confidence | $\underline{\text { Oct 1995 }}$ | $\underline{10}$ |
| 64 | Some confidence | 65 | 14 |
| 21 | No real confidence | 23 | 57 |
| $\underline{3}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{2}$ | 25 |
| 100 |  | 100 | $\underline{4}$ |
| 100 |  |  |  |

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=594$ ]:

Q.19F1 These days, whose interests do business corporations put first? The interests of... [READ]?

|  |  | Oct 1995 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 37 | Their stockholders | 46 |
| 43 | Their top executives | 34 |
| 3 | Their employees | 4 |
| 5 | Their customers, OR | 6 |
| 5 | The communities they are located in? | 6 |
| 2 | None of the above (VOL -- DO NOT READ) | 1 |
| $\underline{5}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{3}$ |
| $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |  | 100 |

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=605$ ]:

Q.20F2 In your opinion, whose interests should business corporations put first? The interests of... [READ]?

|  |  | Oct 1995 |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| 14 | Their stockholders | 15 |
| 3 | Their top executives | 4 |
| 31 | Their employees | 30 |
| 27 | Their customers, OR | 31 |
| 19 | The communities they are located in? | 18 |
| 1 | None of the above (VOL - DO NOT READ) | $*$ |
| $\underline{\mathbf{5}}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{2}$ |
| $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |  | 100 |

## NO Q. 21

## ASK ALL:

More specifically about the Enron situation...
Q. 22 How important an issue do you think the collapse of the Enron Corporation is to the nation - of great importance, of some importance, or of very little importance?

|  |  | CBS News/NYT <br> Jan 2002 |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| 49 | Great importance | 39 |
| 38 | Some importance | 44 |
| 8 | Very little importance | 8 |
| $\underline{5}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{9}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 |

IF NOT FOLLOWING ENRON INVESTIGATION VERY CLOSELY (ANSWERED 2, 3, 4 OR 9 IN Q.4c), ASK [ $\mathrm{N}=\mathbf{8 4 0}$ ]:
Q. 23 We are interested in finding out why many people have not paid much attention to the Enron case. As I read a list, tell me if this reason applies to you, or not. First, [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE]. Is this a reason why you haven't paid more attention, or not? ... Here's another... [NEXT ITEM] Is this a reason why you haven't paid more attention, or not?

|  |  | Yes | No | DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. | It's hard to follow the business and financial dealings that occurred | 55 | 40 | 5=100 |
| b. | There was no serious wrongdoing | 12 | 78 | $10=100$ |
| c. | It's just another example of the wealthy taking advantage of the system | 49 | 45 | $6=100$ |
| d. | It doesn't affect me | 42 | 54 | $4=100$ |

ASK ALL:
Q. 24 As you may know, Vice President Dick Cheney has said he will not provide Congress with information on energy meetings that included Enron officials. Do you think... [READ AND ROTATE]

26 The vice president is right to insist on the confidentiality of these meetings OR do you think]
66 He should release the information to Congress
8 Don't know/Refused
100
Q. 25 To what extent do you think Enron executives were able to influence [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE, WITH ITEM C ALWAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ITEM B]. Would you say they had a great deal of influence, a fair amount, not much, or no influence at all?

|  | A Great <br> Deal | A Fair <br> Amount | Not <br> Much | No <br> Influence | $\frac{\text { DK/Ref }}{16=100}$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. | Leaders of the Democratic Party |  | $\frac{19}{21}$ |  | 5 |  |
| b. | Leaders of the Republican Party | 31 | 37 | 14 | 4 | $14=100$ |
| c. | The Bush administration | 26 | 35 | 18 | 7 | $14=100$ |

Q. 26 Which of the following statements best describes your view of members of the Bush administration's involvement with the Enron corporation [READ AND ROTATE]:
---- Gallup ----

## 24 They did something illegal

36 They did something unethical, but nothing illegal [OR]

| $\frac{1 / 25-27 / 02}{15}$ | $\underline{1 / 11-14 / 02}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 32 | 10 |
| 28 | 36 |
| $\underline{25}$ | 28 |
| 100 | $\underline{26}$ |
| 100 |  |

Q. 27 Regardless of what they may or may not have done, do you think Bush administration officials are hiding something, or don't you think they're hiding anything?

49 Think they're hiding something
35 Don't think they're hiding anything
16 Don't know/Refused
100

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=594]$ :

Q.28a From what you know so far, what do you think is the worst thing about the Enron case [READ AND ROTATE]?
ASK IF RESPONSE GIVEN $(\mathbf{1 , 2 , 3 , 4 , 5 )}$ IN Q.28a:
Q.28b What would you say is the SECOND worst thing about the Enron case? [READ REMAINING OPTIONS]

|  | Worst Thing | Second Worst | Combined |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| That many Enron employees lost their retirement funds | 47 | 25 | 70 |
| That top political leaders might be involved | 7 | 17 | 23 |
| That the reports of accounting firms may not be trustworthy | 12 | 15 | 26 |
| That Enron executives may have enriched themselves as the company collapsed | 23 | 39 | 59 |
| Other (VOL) | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Don't know/Refused | $\underline{9}$ | $\underline{2}$ | 10 |
|  | 100 | $\begin{gathered} 100 \\ (\mathbf{N}=554) \end{gathered}$ |  |

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=605]$ :

Q.29a From what you know so far, what do you think is the biggest lesson we should learn from the Enron case [READ AND ROTATE]?
ASK IF RESPONSE GIVEN $(1,2,3,4,5)$ IN Q.29a.
Q.29b What would you say is the SECOND biggest lesson we should learn from the Enron case? [READ REMAINING OPTIONS]

|  | Biggest <br> Lesson | Second <br> Biggest | Combined |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| That retirement accounts are not as safe as many think they are | 33 | 28 | 58 |
| That business corporations have too much influence in Washington | 19 | 19 | 37 |
| That business corporations are not regulated enough | 17 | 16 | 32 |
| That corporate executives are too focused on profits | 20 | 29 | 47 |
| Other (VOL) | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Don't know/Refused | 7 | 4 | 11 |
|  | 100 | 100 |  |
|  |  | $(\mathrm{N}=562)$ |  |

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N = 5 9 4 ] :}$

Q.30F1 How much confidence do you have in the president and Congress to write new laws that would reduce the role of money in politics AND be fair to ALL candidates -- including challengers, third parties and independents? Do you have a lot of confidence, some, only a little or no confidence in them to write such laws?

|  | Feb | Sept | Ctr for Responsive Politics |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12 | A lot of confidence | $\frac{2000}{4}$ | $\frac{1997}{6}$ | $\underline{\text { April 1997 }}$ |
| 39 | Some confidence | 35 | 28 | 10 |
| 27 | Only a little confidence | 37 | 34 | 32 |
| 20 | No confidence | 22 | 29 | 32 |
| $\underline{2}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{2}$ | $\underline{3}$ | 25 |
| 100 |  | 100 | 100 | $\frac{1}{100}$ |

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=605$ ]:

Q.31F2 In general, do you think new laws COULD BE written that would be effective in reducing the role of money in politics, OR don't you think any new laws would be effective?

|  |  | Feb | Sept | Ctr for Responsive Politics |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 55 | Yes, new laws would be effective | $\frac{2000}{59}$ | $\frac{1997}{62}$ | $\underline{\text { April 1997 }}$ |
| 34 | No, new laws would not be effective | 34 | 32 | 62 |
| $\frac{11}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\frac{7}{10}$ | $\underline{6}$ | 32 |
| 100 | $\underline{6}$ |  |  |  |

And a couple questions about China...
Q. 32 All things considered, which of these descriptions comes closest to your view of China today... Do you think China is [READ, IN ORDER]:

|  |  | Early Sept | May | March | June | March | Sept |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{2001}$ | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 | 1999 | 1997 |
| 17 | An adversary | 23 | 19 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 14 |
| 39 | A serious problem, but not an adversary | 48 | 51 | 44 | 53 | 48 | 46 |
| 33 | OR, Not much of a problem | 23 | 22 | 26 | 22 | 25 | 32 |
| 11 | Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ) | 6 | 8 | $\underline{13}$ | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| 100 |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q. 33 What is your impression... These days are relations between the U.S. and China improving, getting worse, or staying about the same?

|  |  | May | March | June March Aug |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $\underline{2001}$ | $\frac{2000}{6}$ | $\frac{1999}{13}$ | $\frac{1999}{7}$ | $\frac{1995}{13}$ |
| 16 | Improving | 40 | 19 | 35 | 19 | 22 |
| 14 | Getting worse | 48 | 55 | 50 | 60 | 53 |
| 61 | Staying about the same | $\underline{6}$ | $\underline{13}$ | $\underline{8}$ | $\underline{8}$ | $\underline{9}$ |
| $\frac{9}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | $\underline{100}$ |

And one last subject...
Q. 34 As you may know, President Bush has proposed large increases in the budget for military defense and homeland security. Which one of the following do you think is the BEST way to pay for these increases, if they are to happen? [READ AND ROTATE]

24 Add to the budget deficit
22 Reduce spending on domestic programs [OR]
42 Postpone or reduce last year's tax cuts
2 None (VOL)

* Multiple (VOL)

1 Other (VOL)
$\underline{9}$ Don't know/Refused 100

Now, just a few questions for statistical purposes only.
Q. 35 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, at home or anywhere else on at least an occasional basis?

|  | $\frac{\text { Yes }}{}$ | $\underline{\text { No }}$ | Don't Know |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| February, 2002 | 71 | 29 | $*=100$ |
| 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 | 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 | 69 | 32 | $*=100$ |
| January, 1999 | 64 | 31 | $*=100$ |
| Early December, 1998 | 64 | 36 | $*=100$ |
| Early September, 1998 | 36 | $*=100$ |  |
| Late August, 1998 | 34 | $0=100$ |  |
| Early August, 1998 | 34 | $*=100$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |

8
In March 2000, "or anywhere else" was added to the question wording.

## Q. 35 CONTINUED ...

April, 1998
January, 1998

| $\frac{\text { Yes }}{61}$ | $\frac{\text { No }}{39}$ | $\frac{\text { Don't Know }}{*=100}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 65 | 35 | $*=100$ |
| 66 | 34 | $*=100$ |
| 60 | 40 | $0=100$ |
| 56 | 44 | $*=100$ |
| 56 | 44 | $*=100$ |
| 58 | 42 | $*=100$ |
| 61 | 39 | $*=100$ |
| 60 | 40 | $0=100$ |
| 59 | 41 | $0=100$ |

IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.35, ASK:
Q. 36 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

|  | Goes Online | Doesn't Go Online | DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| February, 2002 | 62 | 38 | $0=100$ |
| 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 | $1=100$ |

## Q. 36 CONTINUED ...

July, 1996
April, 1996

| Goes Online | Doesn't Go Online | DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 23 | 77 | $0=100$ |
| 21 | 79 | *=100 |
| 22 | 78 | $0=100$ |
| 21 | 79 | * $=100$ |
| 21 | 79 | $0=100$ |
| 14 | 86 | * $=100$ |


[^0]:    1 An index of general attitudes toward business is based on respondents' views of whether business corporations balance profits and public interests, whether corporations have too much power and make too much money, and whether the rich get richer while the poor get poorer. The quarter of respondents scoring lowest and the quarter scoring highest on this index are identified as being generally anti- or pro-business, respectively, while the half of respondents in the middle are identified as moderate.

[^1]:    4

    5
    In October 2000 the question was worded "The summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia." In early September and July 1996 the question was worded, "The summer Olympic Games in Atlanta." In February 1992 the question was worded, "The Winter Olympics."

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

