

NEWSRelease

1150 18th Street, N.W., Suite 975 Washington, D.C. 20036 Tel (202) 293-3126 Fax (202) 293-2569

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2002, 4:00 P.M.

<u>Reduce Tax Cut to Pay for Guns and Butter</u> 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut, Director Carroll Doherty, Editor Michael Dimock, Research Director Elizabeth Mueller Gross, Special Projects Director Nilanthi Samaranayake, Project Director Peyton Craighill, Project Director Pew Research Center for The People & The Press 202/293-3126 http://www.people-press.org

<u>Reduce Tax Cut to Pay for Guns and Butter</u> 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 1970s, the vast majority (64%) express only *some* confidence in business to act responsibly,

Rising Interest in Enron

	Dec	Jan	Feb
News interest in	2001	2002	<u>2002</u>
Enron collapse	%	%	%
Follow very closely	11	19	28
Follow fairly closely	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>33</u>
Total Attentive	34	43	61

Stable Opinions of Business

Business strikes profit/ public interest balance Agree Disagree Don't know	2		45	2002 % 40
<i>A few large</i> <i>corporations hold</i> Too much power Not too much power Neither/Don't know	-	% 75	<u>1999</u>	% 77
Government regulation of business Is necessary Does more harm than good Neither/Don't know	41 1 54 <u>5</u> 100	45 46 <u>9</u> 100	48 44 <u>8</u> 100	50 41 <u>9</u> 100

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 grea	ıt 37%
Need more regulation	32%
Worst things Employees lost retirement Executives got rich Untrustworthy accounting Political leaders involved	70% 59% 26% 23%
Note: Columns add to more than 100%. Combi second choices.	ned first and

Politically, most Americans see only venial sins arising from the Enron affair. Roughly threein-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 those who say their midterm vote will be

President a Factor in Vote ... Mid-term ballot will be a vote ... Against For Not a DK/ President Factor President Ref President in office ... % % % % George W. Bush 34 9 50 7=100 **Bill Clinton** 21 15 59 5=100 George Bush. Sr.* 19 15 61 6 = 100Ronald Reagan* 23 21 5=100 51 * CBS News/New York Times trend. ... But Bush Boosters Less Swayed Mid-term ballot will be a vote ... Against For Not a Bush Bush Factor Congressional vote ... % % % Rep/Lean Republican 75 38 1 19 Dem/Lean Democrat 96 52 Other/Don't know 10 6 3 100 100 100 For Against Not a Clinton Clinton Factor Congressional vote ... % % % Rep/Lean Republican 89 42 7 90 49 Dem/Lean Democrat 8 Other/Don't know 9 3 3 100100100 Figures based on registered voters.

Looking for Coattails

"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 great importance to the nation today, up from four-in-ten (39%) in January.

Enron's Growing Importance			
<i>Importance to nation</i> Great Some Very little Don't know	Jan <u>2002</u> * % 39 44 8 <u>9</u> 100	Feb <u>2002</u> % 49 38 8 <u>5</u> 100	
* CBS/NYT trend			

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				
	<u>1979</u> * %	<u>1995</u> %	<u>Today</u> %	
Great deal	14	10	12	
Some	57	65	64	
No real	25	23	21	
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	
	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 – just 38% see the Enron bankruptcy as a major concern.¹

Importance of Enron Collapse				
	Vie	ew of Busin	ess	
	<u>Anti-</u>	Moderate	Pro-	
	%	%	%	
Great	59	47	38	
Some	32	40	43	
Very little	6	8	13	
Don't know	<u>3</u>	5	6	
	100	100	100	

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.

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 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.

Too Much Enron?		
	Whitewater	Enron
Amount of	March 1994	Feb 2002
media coverage	. %	%
Too much	55	24
Too little	7	8
Right amount	33	59
Don't know	5	9
	100	100

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

Business Beliefs Shape Impressions				
-	View of Business			
	<u>Anti- N</u>	Moderat	e Pro-	
Biggest lesson	%	%	%	
Retirement account risk	53	59	65	
CEOs too profit oriented	47	48	45	
Political influence too great	49	36	23	
Need more regulation	43	28	30	
Worst thing				
Employees lost retirement	72	70	67	
Executives got rich	67	58	51	
Untrustworthy accounting	20	24	41	
Political leaders involved	28	22	17	
Note: Columns add to more than 1 second choices.	00%. Con	nbined fir	st and	

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

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.

The Boss Comes First			
b Their top executives Their stockholders Their employees Their customers Communities None Don't know		$ interests puts first \frac{2002}{\%}433735525100 $	

Concern About Retirement
Savings Since Enron Collapse

Total	More <u>Worried</u> % 35	No <u>Effec</u> % 60	DK/ <u>t Ref</u> % 5=100
Age 18-29 30-49 50-64 65+	31 39 42 26	63 58 54 67	6=100 3=100 4=100 7=100
<i>Retirement plan</i> Stocks/Mutual Func Non-Market/Pensio None		57 59 63	2=100 5=100 8=100
<i>Partisanship</i> Republican Democrat Independent	29 43 35	68 53 59	3=100 4=100 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 President Cheney should provide Congress with

Independents, Democrats Share Enron Concerns

	T (1	ъ	D	T 1
Bush administration's	Total	<u>Rep</u>		Ind
involvement with Enron	%	%	%	%
Something illegal	24	17	35	24
Something unethical	36	28	41	40
Nothing seriously wrong	21	36	8	18
Don't know	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100	100	100
Administration is				
Hiding something	49	27	69	56
Not hiding anything	35	56	16	30
Don't know	<u>16</u>	17	15	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100
Information on Enron				
meetings should be				
Kept confidential	26	44	12	22
Released to Congress	66	47	83	72
Don't know	8	9	5	6
	100	100	100	100

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								
	Dem <u>Leaders</u>	Leaders	Bush <u>Admin</u>					
Great Deal Fair Amount Not Much No Influence Don't Know	% 19 39 21 5 <u>16</u> 100	% 31 37 14 4 <u>14</u> 100	% 26 35 18 7 <u>14</u> 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

Reasons for Enron Disinterest							
Social Class							
	Prof./ Working						
	Total	Business	Struggling				
	%	%	%				
Story complexity	55	48	58				
More of the same	49	38	55				
Doesn't affect me	42	37	44				
Nothing wrong	12	6	16				
* Based on those not following very closely. Respondents could say yes to all that applied.							

(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 reform the campaign finance system, up from 39%

Rising GOP Confidence In Political Reform							
Confident fair & effective reforms can be made	Feb <u>2000</u> %	Feb <u>2002</u> %	<u>Diff.</u>				
Republican Democrat Independent	38 45 35	68 42 43	+30 -3 +8				

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							
Federal govt. should increase spending for: Education Health care Medicare Homeland defense Military defense Environmental protection Unemployment assistance* Energy	April <u>2001</u> % 76 71 70 n/a 47 48 n/a 52	Feb <u>2002</u> % 73 69 63 63 60 43 40 34	<u>Change</u> -3 -2 -7 +13 -5 -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	<u>Both</u>	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	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.-Chinese relations are staying about the same.

Since the Spy Plane Incident							
		Early					
	May	Sept	Feb				
	2001	2001	2002				
China is	%	%	%				
An adversary	19	23	17				
A serious problem	51	48	39				
Not much problem	22	23	33				
Don't know	8	6	<u>11</u>				
	100	100	100				
Relations between							
U.S. and China are							
Improving	6		16				
Getting worse	40		14				
Staying about same	48		61				
Don't know	6		9				
	100		100				

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

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 (N=594) or Form 2 (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.

	Military Effort in	Reports About U.S.	Ongoing Enron	Abduction of WSJ	n The Winter	Bush's Budget and	
	<u>Afghanistan</u>	<u>Economy</u>	Investigation	Reporter	Olympics	<u>Tax Plan</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Total	% 47	% 35	% 28	% 24	% 22	% 17	(1199)
10111	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	40 50	35	34	31	22	13 24	(204)
Black	30 49	33	34	35	23 21	24	(204) (110)
Hispanic [^]	49	31	24	20	16	14	(64)
Inspanie		51	24	20	10	14	(04)
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	22	24 26	19	(311)
High School Grad.	48	36	28	20 26	20 20	16	(311)
<h.s. grad.<="" td=""><td>43 40</td><td>30 25</td><td>28 18</td><td>20 31</td><td>20 19</td><td>10</td><td>(98)</td></h.s.>	43 40	30 25	28 18	20 31	20 19	10	(98)
<п.5. Glad.	40	23	18	51	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	- 1	22	2.6	•••	•••	15	
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	23	19	(389)
		2.				- /	(20))

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

[^] 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				
	Great	Some	Very Little	Don't <u>Know</u>	Hard to Follow	Doesn't Affect Me	Same Old Stuff*	No Serious 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.<="" td=""><td>53</td><td>33</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>63</td><td>58</td><td>50</td><td>19</td></h.s.>	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."

Continued ...

	Imp	ortance		nation		sons for not p		
	Great	Some	Very <u>Little</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>		Doesn't Affect Me	Same Old Stuff*	No Serious Wrongdoing
	<u>610au</u> %	<u>801110</u>	<u>12mm</u>	<u>100w</u> %	<u>1 0110w</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>80011</u> %	%
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 5	53	45	48	11
Secular	43	46	6	5	53	44	37	9
Community Size	47	40	ø	5	47	45	37	10
Large City Suburb	47 55	40 33	8 7	5 5	47 52	43 44	37 44	10
Small City/Town	44	43	9	4	52 58	50	44	10
Rural Area	51	36	9	4	62	57	42	19
Party ID	40	46	11	2	53	40	43	12
Republican Democrat	40 56	40 34	7	3 3	53 57	40 56	43 40	12
Independent		34	8	6	54	50 52	40 45	10
macpenaent	ر ۲	51	0	0	54	52	75	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	4.6	40	0	2		47		12
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			~	2		40		10
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 Budget <u>Deficit</u> %	Cut Domestic <u>Programs</u> %	Postpone or Reduce <u>Tax Cut</u> %	None/ Other %	Don't <u>Know</u> %	<u>(N)</u>
Total	24	22	42	3	9=100	(1199)
<i>Sex</i> Male	20	25	44	4	7	(5(0))
Female	20 26	25 19	44 41	4 3	7 11	(569) (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	20	22	25	4	10	(2 , 40)
Under 30 30-49	28 23	23 21	35 48	4 3	10	(248)
50-64	23 21	21	48 43	3	5 8	(485) (260)
65+	21	18	43	3	8 16	(189)
051	21	10	42	5	10	(10))
Sex and Age					_	(251)
Men under 50	21	25	45	4	5	(371)
Women under 50 Men 50+	29 19	18 24	41 44	3 3	9 10	(362) (190)
Women 50+	22	24 21	44	3	10	(190) (259)
	22	21	41	5	15	(239)
Education				-	_	
College Grad.	16	21	56	2	5	(404)
Some College	24	22	41	5	8	(311)
High School Grad. <h.s. grad.<="" td=""><td>24 34</td><td>21 24</td><td>40 29</td><td>3 2</td><td>12 11</td><td>(381)</td></h.s.>	24 34	21 24	40 29	3 2	12 11	(381)
<h.s. grad.<="" td=""><td>34</td><td>24</td><td>29</td><td>2</td><td>11</td><td>(98)</td></h.s.>	34	24	29	2	11	(98)
Family Income	. –					
\$75,000+	17	25	52	2	3	(235)
\$50,000-\$74,999 \$20,000 \$40,000	20	22	51 40	1	6	(204)
\$30,000-\$49,999 \$20,000 \$20,000	27 30	22 20	40 36	4	7 11	(245)
\$20,000-\$29,999 <\$20,000	30 28	20	36 35	3 4	11	(153) (186)
~\$20,000	20	23	55	4	10	(100)

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 ...

	Add to Budget <u>Deficit</u> %	Cut Domestic <u>Programs</u> %	Postpone or Reduce <u>Tax Cut</u> %	None/ Other %	Don't <u>Know</u> %	<u>(N)</u>
Total	24	22	42	3	9	(1199)
Region						
East	24	20	43	3	10	(212)
Midwest	23	22	43	2	10	(281)
South	22	24	42	3	9	(456)
West	27	19	43	3	8	(250)
Religious Affiliation						
Total White Protestant	22	25	40	3	10	(547)
White Protestant Evangelical	22	31	33	4	10	(280)
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	21	18	49	3	9	(267)
White Catholic	23	20	49	2	6	(207)
Secular	25	17	51	2	5	(116)
Community Size						
Large City	28	19	43	2	8	(250)
Suburb	21	20	51	2	6	(289)
Small City/Town	24	23	39	4	10	(425)
Rural Area	21	26	41	2	10	(219)
Party ID						
Republican	22	33	35	3	7	(398)
Democrat	26	15	47	3	9	(364)
Independent	22	19	47	4	8	(360)
Party and Ideology						
Conservative Republican	22	36	32	3	7	(255)
Moderate/Liberal Republican	24	26	43	1	6	(133)
Conservative/Moderate Democrat	27	14	45	4	10	(253)
Liberal Democrat	22	16	57	2	3	(103)
Bush Approval						
Approve	25	25	41	2	7	(944)
Disapprove	19	12	58	4	7	(158)
GOP Congressional Approval						
Approve	29	26	37	2	6	(663)
Disapprove	17	17	57	3	6	(303)
2000 Presidential Vote						
Bush	22	31	35	4	8	(455)
Gore	20	10	59	2	9	(341)
Marital Status						
Married	21	23	46	3	7	(670)
Unmarried	26	20	39	3	12	(521)
Parental Status						
Parent	25	23	42	2	8	(418)
Non-Parent	22	21	43	4	10	(779)
Labor Union						
Union Household	27	20	44	4	5	(171)
Non-Union Household	23	20	42	3	10	(1018)
				-	- •	(-010)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS FEBRUARY 2002 NEWS INTEREST INDEX FINAL TOPLINE February 12-18, 2002 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	Don't Know
February, 2002	78	13	9=100
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.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	47 51 44 49 45 51	Fairly <u>Closely</u> 39 35 38 36 36 35 35	Closely 8 9 12 11 12 10	Not at all <u>Closely</u> 5 4 5 3 6 3	<u>DK/Ref</u> 1=100 1=100 1=100 1=100 1=100 1=100
	January, 1991 ²	67	28	4	1	0=100

2

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

Q.4 CONTINUED		Very			Not at al	
		Closely	<u>Closely</u>	<u>Closely</u>	Closely	DK/Ref
b.	Reports about the condition of					
	the U.S. economy	35	40	15	9	1=100
	January, 2002	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
	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
с.	The ongoing investigation into the					
	bankruptcy of the Enron corporation	28	33	19	19	1=100
	January, 2002	19	24	20	35	2=100
	December, 2001 ³	11	23	28	36	2=100

3

In December 2001 the question was worded "The bankruptcy of the Enron Corporation and its impact on the retirement investments of Enron employees."

CONTINU	ED	Very Closely	5	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
d.	The Winter Olympics in			<u></u>	<u></u>	
	Salt Lake City, Utah	22	30	21	26	1=100
	October, 2000^4	27	28	24	21	*=100
	Early September, 1996	32	34	20	14	*=100
	July, 1996	45	30	13	11	1=100
	February, 1992	33	30	19	17	1=100
e.	The abduction in Pakistan of Wall Street					
	Journal reporter Daniel Pearl	24	40	20	15	1=100
f.	The debate in Congress over George					
	W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan	17	31	28	23	1=100
	April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*=100
	February, 2001 ⁵	31	35	19	14	1=100

Now a few questions about politics...

Q.4

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/	Democrat/	Other/
	Lean Rep.	Lean Dem.	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

⁴

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."

⁵

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

Q.5/Q.5a CONTINUED	Republican/ Lean Rep.	Democrat/ Lean Dem.	Other/ Undecided
November, 1996 ⁶	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
		2000	2000	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
46	Yes, will be a factor	46	46	46	47	41	44	45
49	No, will not	50	49	50	49	56	53	51
5	Don't know/Refused	4	5	4	4	3	3	4
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

⁶

November 1996 trend based on likely voters.

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?

			Not a	DK/
	For	<u>Against</u>	Factor	<u>Ref.</u>
February, 2002	34	9	50	7=100
Clinton: Late October, 1998	20	17	58	5=100
Clinton: Early October, 1998	19	23	52	6=100
Clinton: Early September, 1998	18	16	63	3=100
Clinton: Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2=100
Clinton: Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4=100
Clinton: June, 1998	20	18	57	5=100
Clinton: March, 1998	21	15	59	5=100
Clinton: September, 1996	24	18	51	7=100
Clinton: November, 1994	17	21	55	7=100
Clinton: October, 1994	17	21	57	5=100
Clinton: Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6=100
CBS/NYT (BUSH): 10/28-31, 1990	19	15	61	6=100
CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 10/24-28, 1986	26	12	55	7=100
CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 9/28-10/1, 1986	26	16	51	7=100
CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 10/23-28, 1982	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]**

	Completely	Mostly	Mostly	Completely	Don't
	Agree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Know
a. The strength of this country today is mostly					
based on the success of American business	25	51	16	4	4=100
Late September, 1999	23	53	14	5	5=100
November, 1997	22	54	16	5	3=100
July, 1994	26	52	15	5	2=100
June, 1992	24	54	15	5	2=100
Nov, 1991	29	47	15	6	3=100
May, 1990	20	57	14	3	6=100
Feb, 1989	23	54	14	4	5=100
May, 1988	25	54	14	3	4=100
May, 1987	16	60	16	3	5=100
b. Business corporations generally strike					
a fair balance between making profits					
and serving the public interest	7	33	38	16	6=100
Late September, 1999	7	38	37	13	5=100
November, 1997	7	38	40	12	3=100
July, 1994	7	38	38	15	2=100
June, 1992	5	35	42	14	4=100
Nov, 1991	8	32	38	19	3=100
May, 1990	5	38	37	13	7=100
Feb, 1989	5	33	44	12	6=100
May, 1988	6	36	39	13	6=100
May, 1987	4	39	38	10	9=100

Q.8 CONTINUED	Completely	Mostly	-	Completely	Don't
	Agree	Agree	<u>Disagree</u>	Disagree	Know
c. Today it's really true that the rich just get					
richer while the poor get poorer	35	31	20	9	3=100
Late September, 1999	33	39	20	6	2=100
November, 1997	34	36	22	6	2=100
July, 1994	33	38	20	7	2=100
June, 1992	38	40	16	4	2=100
Nov, 1991	45	35	13	5	2=100
May, 1990	38	40	16	3	3=100
Feb, 1989	40	38	15	4	3=100
May, 1988	34	42	18	3	3=100
May, 1987	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
 - Don't know/Refused <u>9</u> 100
- 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
 - Has not affected 60
 - <u>5</u> 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]...

for [f	NEXT TTEMJ				
		Increase	Decrease	Keep Spending	
		Spending.	Spending [Variable]	The Same	DK/Ref
a.	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
C	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 CONTIN	NUED	Increase Spending	Decrease Spending	Keep Spending <u>The Same</u>	DK/Ref
h.	Government assistance for				
	the unemployed	40	14	41	5=100
	May, 1997	20	33	44	3=100
	December, 1994	25	23	49	3=100
	Feb, 1989	26	14	57	3=100
	May, 1987	41	15	41	3=100

NO Q.14

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=594]:

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
7	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	9
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [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]

		<u>May 2001</u>
	Expanding exploration, mining and drilling,	
37	and the construction of new power plants [OR]	44
54	More energy conservation and regulation on energy use and prices	49
9	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	_7
100		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?]

			Aug 1999	Oct 1996	Oct <u>1995</u>	April <u>1995</u>	Oct 1994	July 1994	
a.		Government regulation of business is							
	50	necessary to protect the public interest	48	45	45	43	38	41	
		35 Strongly	32	29	28	25	24	24	
		15 Not Strongly	16	16	17	18	14	17	
		Government regulation of business usually							
	41	does more harm than good	44	46	50	51	55	54	
		31 Strongly	32	33	37	38	41	39	
		10 Not Strongly	12	13	13	13	14	15	
	<u>9</u> 100	Neither/Don't know	8	9	5	<u>6</u>	7	5	
	100		100	100	100	100	100	100	
b.		Too much power is concentrated in the							
	77	hands of a few large companies	77	75	77	75	73	76	
		62 Strongly	62	61	62	59	58	59	
		15 Not Strongly	15	14	15	16	15	17	
		The largest companies do NOT have							
	17	too much power	17	18	18	20	20	19	
		9 Strongly	10	10	9	10	10	9	
		8 Not Strongly	7	8	9	10	10	10	
	6	Neither/Don't know	6	7	5	5	7	5	
	100		100	100	100	100	100	100	
			Aug	June	Oct	Oct	April	Oct	July
			1999	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	1995	<u>1994</u>	1994
c.	54	Business corporations make too much profit	52	51	51	53	51	50	52
		44 Strongly	42	43	43	44	42	40	43
		10 Not Strongly	10	8	8	9	9	10	9
		Most corporations make a fair and reasonable							
	39	amount of profit	42	43	42	43	44	44	43
		24 Strongly	29	28	27	27	26	28	27
		15 Not Strongly	13	15	15	16	18	16	16
	<u>_7</u>	Neither/Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	7	4	5	<u>6</u>	5
	100		100	100	100	100	100	100	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
		<u>Oct 1995</u>	Dec 1979
12	Great deal of confidence	10	14
64	Some confidence	65	57
21	No real confidence	23	25
3	Don't know/Refused	2	4
100		100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=594]:

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

		<u>Oct 1995</u>
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
5	Don't know/Refused	3
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=605]:

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

		<u>Oct 1995</u>
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)	*
5	Don't know/Refused	2
100		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
		<u>Jan 2002</u>
49	Great importance	39
38	Some importance	44
8	Very little importance	8
5	Don't know/Refused	9
100		100

IF NOT FOLLOWING ENRON INVESTIGATION VERY CLOSELY (ANSWERED 2, 3, 4 OR 9 IN Q.4c), ASK [N=840]:

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?

a.	It's hard to follow the business and financial dealings that occurred	<u>Yes</u> 55	<u>No</u> 40	<u>DK/Ref</u> 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.	Leaders of the Democratic Party	A Great <u>Deal</u> 19	A Fair <u>Amount</u> 39	Not <u>Much</u> 21	No <u>Influence</u> 5	<u>DK/Ref</u> 16=100
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		
		1/25-27/02	1/11-14/02	
24	They did something illegal	15	10	
36	They did something unethical, but nothing illegal [OR]	32	36	
21	They did not do anything seriously wrong	28	28	
<u>19</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	
100		100	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 [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 (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	Second	
	<u>Thing</u>	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	9	2	10
	100	100	
		(N=554)	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [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	Second	
	Lesson	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	
		(N=562)	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=594]:

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
		2000	<u>1997</u>	<u>April 1997</u>
12	A lot of confidence	4	6	10
39	Some confidence	35	28	32
27	Only a little confidence	37	34	32
20	No confidence	22	29	25
2	Don't know/Refused	2	3	<u> </u>
100		100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [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
		2000	<u>1997</u>	<u>April 1997</u>
55	Yes, new laws would be effective	59	62	62
34	No, new laws would not be effective	34	32	32
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused	7	6	<u>_6</u>
100		100	100	100

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
		2001	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1997</u>
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
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	6	8	<u>13</u>	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
		2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	1995
16	Improving	6	13	7	13	16
14	Getting worse	40	19	35	19	22
61	Staying about the same	48	55	50	60	53
9	Don't know/Refused	6	<u>13</u>	8	8	9
100		100	100	100	100	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]
 - 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)
 - 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?

5 1	Yes	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 ⁸	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

8

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

Q.35 CONTINUED ...

	Yes	No	Don't Know
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

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:

DAGED ON TOTAL RESI		~	
	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 ...

CONTINUED			
	Goes Online	Doesn't Go Online	DK/Ref
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 ⁹	14	86	*=100

⁹

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?