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Too Much Clinton Coverage
BUSH APPROVAL ON PAR, NO TAX CUT MOMENTUM

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Too Much Clinton Coverage

BUSH APPROVAL ON PAR, NO TAX CUT MOMENTUM

The public's view of George W. Bush's first month in office is remarkably unremarkable. Despite the extraordinary path he took to the White House, Americans are reacting to Bush in much the same way they responded to his predecessors. Bush's modest February job approval rating (53%) is comparable to ratings accorded Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan in the first weeks of their administrations, but significantly below those given one-term presidents George Bush Sr. and Jimmy Carter.

In typical fashion, many Americans are reserving judgment about what they have heard or seen about the new president in his first month in office. But for now, most are inclined to give him the benefit of the doubt. About six-in-ten could articulate things they like about Bush, while far fewer (40%) could cite anything they dislike about him.

Contrary to the widely-articulated opinion in Washington that the press has been too easy on Bush, fewer Americans think that coverage of the new president has been fair than felt that way about Clinton and Bush's father early in their terms.

An even smaller percentage thinks the press has been fair to Clinton since he left office, despite the public's generally negative view of the former president's pardon of financier Marc Rich and Clinton's other questionable activities on his way out of the White House.¹ It may be a matter of the amount of coverage as much as its tone and substance. A 53% majority says there has been too much coverage of the former president's activities, and a sizable minority (28%) says there has been too little coverage of the current occupant of the White House.

Judging New Presidents

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
George W. Bush	53	21	26=100
Bill Clinton (2/93)	56	25	19=100
George Bush Sr.* (2/89)	63	13	24=100
Ronald Reagan* (2/81)	55	18	27=100
Jimmy Carter* (2/77)	71	9	20=100

Judging Their Press Coverage

	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Unfair</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
George W. Bush	65	19	16=100
Bill Clinton (2/93)	72	17	11=100
George Bush Sr. (8/89)	82	12	6=100
Clinton since he left office	56	30	14=100

* Gallup polls.

¹

A Newsweek poll conducted at the same time as the Pew Research Center poll found 65% of Americans disapproved of Clinton's decision to pardon Rich.

The Pew Research Center’s nationwide survey of 1,513 adults, conducted Feb. 14-19, finds little movement in opinion on tax cuts, Bush’s signature issue, since he took office, although much has been made about the increasing political momentum for his plan. Overall, a modest plurality (43%) backs Bush’s tax cut, although many fewer people favor using the budget surplus for a tax cut than for shoring up Social Security and Medicare. Equally important, a large majority continues to think the president’s tax cut will benefit some people more than others — and 79% of this group believes that the rich will be advantaged over middle class and poor people. It is probably not surprising then that more Americans believe that the main goal of tax reduction should be to stimulate the economy, rather than to provide tax relief for people like themselves.

In that regard, more Americans identify economic concerns as the nation's top problem — 26% cited such concerns in the new poll, up from 15% in August 1999. In particular, more respondents volunteered worries about energy costs and the prospects of a recession. The survey also found significantly fewer Americans satisfied with national conditions than just a month ago (46% vs. 55%) — but that appears more politically based than economic, as dissatisfaction spiked mostly among Democrats and liberals.

Personality Bush’s Strong Suit

Just as during the campaign, Bush’s personal qualities are clearly serving him well in these first few weeks of his presidency. When respondents were asked in an open-ended format what they have liked most about Bush so far, personal traits were named more often than policy positions or political traits.

The top individual responses related to Bush’s honesty and integrity. These traits held the most appeal for Republicans — 18% cited this as what they like most about Bush, compared to only 4% of independents and 3% of Democrats. Bush’s tax proposal was also named frequently as were his character, his religious faith, his willingness to keep his campaign promises, and his calm, dignified manner.

What They Like About Bush ...	
<i>Like most about Bush</i>	<u>Percent</u>
Personal traits	22
Honesty/Integrity	8
Character	4
Religious faith	3
Calm, dignified manner	3
Policy proposals	14
Tax proposal	7
Political traits	13
Keeping campaign promises	3
Nothing/Too early/Don’t know	39

When respondents were asked what they *disliked* most about Bush so far, policy positions trumped personal qualities, although more than half couldn't come up with an answer. The president's tax proposal topped the list of complaints. This was followed by criticisms over the way he was elected. Other dislikes included his stand on abortion and his cabinet appointments, as well as assertions that he is not a good public speaker and that he's arrogant and cocky.

... And What Turns Them Off	
<i>Dislike most about Bush</i>	<u>Percent</u>
Policy proposals	16
Tax proposal	6
Abortion position	4
Personal traits	11
Not articulate	2
Arrogant/Cocky	2
The way he got elected	4
Cabinet appointments	3
Nothing/Too early/Don't know	57

Fully 57% of those asked either gave no answer or said they could think of *nothing* they dislike about the president — far more than the 39% who did not offer a positive impression. Even among Democrats a large proportion (38%) couldn't come up with a reason for disliking Bush.

Blacks Remain Wary

On balance, every major demographic group approves of the way Bush is handling his job as president, with one exception — non-whites. Overall, non-whites are fairly evenly divided over Bush's job performance: 30% approve, 33% disapprove, 37% have no opinion. Blacks are the most critical: 22% approve, 40% disapprove and 38% have no opinion. Hispanics approve of Bush by a margin of 46%-25%. Bush receives much lower job approval ratings from blacks than his father did in February 1989. Fully 53% of blacks approved of the job Bush Sr. was doing at that point in time. Bush Jr.'s support among blacks is much more comparable to Reagan's in 1981.

Blacks' Views on Father and Son		
	<i>Bush Sr.</i>	<i>G.W. Bush</i>
<i>African American</i>	<u>1989</u>	<u>2001</u>
<i>opinion ...</i>	%	%
Approve	53	22
Disapprove	12	40
Don't know	<u>35</u>	<u>38</u>
	100	100

There is a fairly substantial gender gap in approval of Bush, with men approving of the job he's doing by a 59%-19% margin and women approving by a narrower 48%-23%. There are also large religious gaps. While 72% of evangelical Protestants approve of the job Bush is doing, only 57% of mainline Protestants agree. Seculars are evenly divided in their evaluations of Bush: 34% approve, 33% disapprove, and another 33% are undecided.

Among partisan groups, Bush's ratings mirror Clinton's at a comparable point in time. In February 1993, Clinton enjoyed strong support from Democrats (81% approved) and moderate support from independents (52% approved). Among Republicans, 29% approved of the job he was doing. Similarly, Bush enjoys strong support from within his party (85%) and moderate support from independents, while 29% of Democrats approve of the job he is doing.

	-- Bush --			-- Clinton --		
	Rep	Dem	Ind	Dem	Rep	Ind
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	85	29	51	81	29	52
Disapprove	3	41	20	7	51	24
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Personal Judgments, Partisan Divisions

Even though Bush's personal traits are working to his advantage, his ratings on several specific personal and leadership qualities lag behind Clinton's early ratings. While most Americans see Bush as warm and friendly rather than cold and aloof (67% vs. 21%), Clinton scored even higher on this dimension in January 1993 when fully nine-in-ten Americans said he was warm and friendly. Today only 51% of Democrats describe Bush as warm and friendly, compared to 81% of Republicans who described Clinton that way in 1993.

By a margin of 62%-27%, Americans see Bush as well informed rather than poorly informed. But Clinton was viewed as well informed by nearly eight-in-ten Americans (79%) in 1993. Again, partisan patterns are much different this year than they were eight years ago. Today only 42% of Democrats describe Bush as well informed. This compares with 64% of Republicans who judged Clinton favorably on this quality at the outset of his presidency.

	Clinton	Bush
	Jan 1993	Feb 2001
	%	%
Warm and friendly	90	67
Cold and aloof	7	21
Neither/Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100
Well informed	79	62
Not well informed	14	27
Neither/Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100
Trustworthy	63	60
Not trustworthy	29	28
Neither/Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100

Bush's ratings for trustworthiness are on a par with Clinton's early ratings. Six-in-ten Americans say Bush is trustworthy, while 28% see him as untrustworthy. In January 1993, Clinton was seen as trustworthy by 63% of Americans, while 29% saw him as untrustworthy. Republicans were most skeptical of Clinton in this regard; only 36% saw him as trustworthy. This is comparable to the 38% of Democrats who now see Bush as trustworthy. Opinions about Bush's trustworthiness have changed very little since October 1999 when 59% of the public said the then-Texas governor was trustworthy and 33% said he was not.

Two-thirds of Americans perceive Bush as being well organized, while only 22% say he is not well organized. Bush scores considerably better on this measure than Clinton did in August 1993, following some well-publicized early stumbles. Similarly, Bush is widely seen as able to get things done — 60% choose this over *not* able to get things done. Democrats are divided on these two issues. On balance, they see Bush as well organized but not necessarily able to get things done.

Demonstrating that opinions about Bush have yet to solidify, no consensus has emerged about the president's political ideology. A narrow plurality of Americans (44%) see him as a conservative. However, nearly as many (39%) describe him as middle of the road. Only 7% think he's a liberal. Conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats are among the most

	Conserv <u>Rep</u>	Mod <u>Rep</u>	Mod <u>Dem</u>	Liberal <u>Dem</u>
<i>Bush best described as ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Liberal	2	12	8	3
Middle of the road	35	51	46	16
Conservative	58	33	39	75
None/Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

likely to say Bush is a conservative (58% and 75%, respectively). Moderate Republicans as well as moderate Democrats are more likely to perceive him as middle of the road.

Surplus Views Unchanged

Bush's ratings for his handling of the economy are comparable to his overall approval ratings: 50% approve, 22% disapprove and 28% don't have an opinion. Support for Bush's tax proposal, however, is lukewarm at best, with the public favoring the plan by a nine-point margin (43%-34%).

In spite of Bush's focus on taxes, the idea of tapping the budget surplus to underwrite a tax cut is only slightly more popular than it was a year ago. When asked what should be done with the budget surplus, a plurality of the public (37%) continues to support shoring up Social Security and Medicare. Roughly one-quarter (23%) favors using the surplus to increase spending on domestic programs such as health, education and the environment, 19% say the surplus should be spent on a tax cut and 17% choose debt reduction.

But Bush has managed to expand GOP support for his plan. A narrow plurality of Republicans now say a tax cut would be the best use of the budget surplus, while a year ago Social Security and Medicare were seen as the top surplus priorities.

	-- Feb 2000 --			-- Feb 2001 --		
	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Surplus should used on ...</i>						
Tax cut	21	6	10	33	8	16
National debt	22	14	20	17	16	18
Domestic spending	19	28	26	16	28	29
Social Security/Medicare	36	50	42	30	45	34
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Support for Bush's tax proposal is strongest among men, those with annual household incomes over \$75,000, white evangelical Protestants, and married people. Support is also relatively strong among those who have been closely following news about Bush's tax plan. Among this group 52% approve and 41% disapprove. While Republicans overwhelmingly support Bush's plan (76% approve), independents are evenly divided and Democrats strongly oppose the plan. Even among moderate to conservative Democrats, only 19% approve of Bush's tax plan.

On balance, the public believes stimulating the economy to avoid a recession is a better reason for a national tax cut than providing tax relief to average Americans. Even those who support Bush's tax proposal opt narrowly for economic stimulus over tax relief. Republicans, Democrats and independents all agree that keeping the economy out of a recession is a better reason for cutting taxes than providing tax relief to people like themselves.

Few Believe Cuts Will Be Fair

The biggest hurdle Bush may face in gaining support for his tax proposal is the widespread perception that if his tax bill becomes law, it will benefit some people much more than others. Nearly two-thirds of the public holds this view, while only 26% think the tax bill will be fair to everyone.

Among those who think the tax cuts will not be fair, the consensus is clearly that they will benefit the wealthy at the expense of the middle class and the poor. Nearly eight-in-ten of those who think the tax cuts will benefit some more than others say the wealthy will be the primary beneficiaries. Only 12% think the middle class will benefit more than others, and 4% think the poor will benefit.

Blacks are among the most likely to think Bush's current tax plan will be inequitable: 84% vs. 62% of whites. An overwhelming majority of Democrats (87%) believe the Bush plan would benefit some more than others and nearly as many independents (71%) agree. Conservative Republicans, however, say that Bush's proposed tax cuts would be fair.

Opinion about these issues has changed only modestly over the last year, in spite of Bush's emphasis on the issue and the growing sense that a major tax cut is inevitable. In September 1999, a Pew Research Center survey found the public highly skeptical about the fairness of a proposed GOP tax cut. Roughly 80% thought a major tax cut would benefit some more than others, and 80% of that group saw the wealthy as the most likely winners.

Stable Opinion on Tax Cuts		
	Sept 1999*	Feb 2001
<i>Proposed Bush tax cuts will ...</i>	%	%
Be fair to all	12	26
Benefit some more than others	82	65
Other/Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100
<i>Who will benefit most?</i>		
Wealthy	80	79
Middle class	9	12
Poor	6	4
Other/Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100

* Sept. 1999 question referred to a recently proposed tax cut and did not reference Bush.

Charitable Choice: Some Doubts

The public is supportive, in principle, of Bush's plan to enable religious groups to receive government funding to provide some social services. Nearly two-thirds (64%) favor allowing religious organizations to apply, along with other organizations, for government funding to provide services such as job training or drug treatment, while only 30% oppose such an approach. The idea attracted similar levels of support during the heat of the presidential campaign in August and September.

However, when the faith-based model is specifically linked to the White House, support wanes. Just 46% think it is a good idea that Bush created an office in the White House to enlarge the role that religious organizations play in providing social services, and 38% think it is a bad idea. Republicans and evangelical Christians offer the most consistent support for Bush's proposal — both in theory and in practice. Democrats, independents and mainline Protestants are more conflicted. Each group supports the idea of a religious role in the delivery of social services, while raising concerns about White House involvement.

For example, while 56% of Democrats say they like the idea of religious groups having access to public money for social services, nearly as many (50%) think Bush's White House office is a bad idea. It is the more moderate and conservative Democrats who are most conflicted on this issue; 64% support a religious role in social services, but only 37% believe Bush's White House office is a good idea.

The divisions on this issue are most noteworthy across religious groups. While evangelical Protestants strongly support both the faith-based approach and Bush's White House office, mainline Protestants are much more divided. While nearly three-quarters of mainline Protestants favor allowing religious organizations to apply for federal money, only 40% approve of Bush's action to create a White House office.

There is a significant generational gap on this issue as well. Older Americans are less supportive than their younger counterparts of the idea of allowing religious groups to provide social services. They are also more skeptical about the existence of a White House office undertaking such an effort. Only 55% of those age 65 and older favor the faith-based approach and fewer than four-in-ten support the creation of a White House office.

Partisans See More Bias

The public's views of whether the press has been fair to Bush, and Clinton for that matter, are colored by politics and partisanship. Not surprisingly, supporters of a president (or an ex-president) are more likely to regard the media as biased, but this factor has been growing in recent years.

Today, just 58% of Republicans say news organizations are fair to Bush, and 30% believe they are unfair. At the start of Clinton's first term in office, 67% of Democrats thought the press was fair to the former president, and 24% thought they were unfair. In 1989, fully 77% of Republicans thought the press was being fair to Bush Sr., and just 18% saw bias. Partisanship is evident in contemporary views of Clinton as well; just 42% of Democrats say press coverage of Clinton's post-presidency has been fair compared to 71% of Republicans.

	Favor Faith-based <u>Approach</u> %	Good idea to have <u>W.H. office</u> %
Total	64	46
Republican	76	66
Democrat	56	34
Independent	62	41
Evangelical*	72	64
Mainline	72	40
Catholic	65	47

* Religious classifications based on whites only.

	Percent "Fair"			
	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Bush	65	58	73	70
Clinton (2/93)	72	81	67	73
Bush Sr. (9/89)	82	77	86	86
Clinton since leaving office	56	71	42	58

The public professes to be growing weary of Clinton and the continuing media interest in his alleged transgressions. While more than half of Americans say there has been too much coverage of Clinton, just 9% believe there has been too little. Still, nearly six-in-ten say they followed the controversy over Clinton's last-minute presidential pardons very (28%) or fairly (32%) closely.

A slim majority of Americans (52%) are satisfied with the amount of coverage of Bush's first weeks in office. But nearly three times as many say the media has been giving Bush's policy proposals too little attention versus those who say coverage has been excessive (28%-10%). Blacks in particular are dissatisfied with the amount of press coverage of the Bush agenda. Fully 43% of African-American respondents say there has been too little coverage of Bush's policy proposals, compared to only 27% of white respondents.

On other issues, pluralities of Americans are satisfied with the amount of coverage of signs of a slowing economy (46%) and the rising cost of energy (42%). But more than one-third (36%) believe the media has been giving too little coverage to energy prices.

Missile Defense: Arguments Matter

Bush's proposal to build a missile defense system to protect the nation against potential attack remains popular among the public, though the manner in which the issue is framed makes a difference, particularly to conservative Republicans.

Overall, a solid majority (54%) favors development of a national missile defense system, with just 32% opposed. However, when arguments in favor of and against the missile shield are presented, the public is more evenly divided. While a plurality of 49% still supports developing a missile defense system, four-in-ten oppose developing such a system.

Perhaps surprisingly, providing the supporting and opposing arguments (the goal of protecting the nation against the cost and diplomatic ramifications of proceeding) has a significant impact on the strongest supporters of missile defense — conservative Republicans. While 81% of conservative Republicans support missile defense in principle, support drops to 68% when points for and against the plan are provided. By comparison, the attitudes of moderate Republicans and Democrats are largely unchanged by the arguments.

Men and members of the Cold War generation (born before 1950) are among the most supportive of missile defense, regardless of how the issue is framed. Fully 61% of men favor missile defense in the simple question format, compared to 48% of women. While 63% of Americans age 50 and older favor a missile defense system, just half of those under 50 agree.

Economy Tops News Index

Reflecting Americans' pocketbook concerns, stories about Bush's tax plan and the economy led this month's news interest index. About three-in-ten Americans paid very close attention to Bush's tax proposal and news on the state of the economy. Nearly two-thirds of Americans paid at least fairly close attention to these stories (69% economic news, 66% Bush's tax proposal).

Clinton's pardons attracted wide public attention, as did the collision between a U.S. Navy submarine and a Japanese ship. Better than one-quarter of Americans followed news of the collision very closely, while 66% followed the story at least fairly closely.

About 60% of the public also followed the California energy crisis closely, with a quarter of Americans paying very close attention. Not surprisingly, people living in the West paid more attention to this story than did those in other regions by more than a two-to-one margin (43% vs. 20%).

The earthquake in India was followed very closely by 15% of the public. This level is considerably less than the attention paid to other international natural disasters such as Hurricane Mitch in 1998 (36%) and the earthquake in Turkey in 1999 (27%). Another foreign news story, Ariel Sharon's election victory in Israel, ranked at the bottom of this month's news interest index. Just one-in-ten followed this story very closely and one-quarter of the public followed it at least fairly closely.

International Natural Disasters	
<i>News followed very closely ...</i>	<u>%</u>
Hurricane Mitch (11/98)	36
Earthquake in Turkey (9/99)	27
Earthquake in Japan (2/95)	25
Cyclone in Bangladesh (5/91)	23
Earthquake in Iran (7/90)	20
Earthquake in India	15
Floods in Mozambique (3/00)	10

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	Bush's Tax cut <u>Plan</u> %	Reports About U.S. <u>Economy</u> %	Clinton <u>Pardons</u> %	Navy Submarine <u>Collision</u> %	California Energy <u>Crisis</u> %	Bush's Education <u>Plan</u> %	Earthquake <u>In India</u> %	Sharon's Election <u>Victory</u> %	(N)
Total	31	30	28	26	25	21	15	9	(1513)
Sex									
Male	33	33	30	25	23	18	15	11	(721)
Female	30	27	26	26	27	24	16	7	(792)
Race									
White	31	29	29	28	26	19	14	8	(1116)
Non-white	33	32	27	19	19	28	18	13	(374)
Black	39	30	19	22	26	40	21	9	(278)
Age									
Under 30	22	16	20	16	11	14	10	4	(285)
30-49	24	26	20	18	26	16	11	6	(618)
50+	42	39	40	38	32	25	22	13	(579)
Education									
College Grad.	39	43	30	32	34	27	16	16	(476)
Some College	32	28	36	32	24	20	11	7	(347)
High School Grad.	27	24	24	20	23	18	18	7	(521)
<H.S. Grad.	27	24	21	17	17	19	16	6	(168)
Region									
East	37	30	25	24	29	23	20	11	(260)
Midwest	28	30	28	25	16	21	15	9	(343)
South	33	31	31	25	18	25	15	8	(653)
West	26	27	24	28	43	12	12	8	(257)
Party ID									
Republican	36	33	42	28	25	23	12	9	(456)
Democrat	34	34	24	26	27	24	16	11	(562)
Independent	25	25	21	25	25	17	18	6	(373)
Internet User									
Yes	32	32	27	24	26	22	11	8	(905)
No	30	26	29	27	23	19	22	10	(608)

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

+ These items are based on split sample; the 'N' does not apply.

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?

GEORGE W. BUSH JOB APPROVAL

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N)</u>
	%	%	%	
Total	53	21	26=100	(1513)
Sex				
Male	59	19	22	(721)
Female	48	23	29	(792)
Race				
White	59	18	23	(1116)
Non-white	30	33	37	(374)
Black	22	40	38	(278)
Hispanic*	46	25	29	(111)
Race and Sex				
White Men	65	16	19	(552)
White Women	54	20	26	(564)
Age				
Under 30	52	26	22	(285)
30-49	57	17	26	(618)
50-64	52	22	26	(335)
65+	49	23	28	(244)
Sex and Age				
Men under 50	62	17	21	(460)
Women under 50	47	23	30	(443)
Men 50+	56	20	24	(257)
Women 50+	47	23	30	(321)
Education				
College Grad.	55	24	21	(476)
Some College	54	18	28	(347)
High School Grad.	55	17	28	(521)
<H.S. Grad.	46	28	26	(168)
Family Income				
\$75,000+	63	22	15	(290)
\$50,000-\$74,999	55	19	26	(204)
\$30,000-\$49,999	57	15	28	(355)
\$20,000-\$29,999	51	24	25	(191)
<\$20,000	47	24	29	(288)

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

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

Continued ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N)</u>
	%	%	%	
Total	53	21	26=100	(1513)
Region				
East	53	24	23	(260)
Midwest	53	20	27	(343)
South	59	19	22	(653)
West	44	23	33	(257)
Religious Affiliation				
Total White Protestant	65	14	21	(603)
White Protestant Evangelical	72	11	17	(307)
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	57	18	25	(296)
White Catholic	60	14	26	(257)
Secular	34	33	33	(111)
Community Size				
Large City	42	26	32	(372)
Suburb	54	25	21	(329)
Small City/Town	55	19	26	(529)
Rural Area	62	15	23	(267)
Party ID				
Republican	85	3	12	(456)
Democrat	29	41	30	(562)
Independent	52	20	28	(373)
Party and Ideology				
Conservative Republican	89	2	9	(252)
Moderate/Liberal Republican	80	5	15	(194)
Conserv./Moderate Democrat	34	37	29	(378)
Liberal Democrat	16	53	31	(160)
2000 Presidential Vote				
Bush	90	1	9	(494)
Gore	22	45	33	(493)
Marital Status				
Married	61	17	22	(767)
Unmarried	46	25	29	(736)
Parental Status				
Parent	58	15	27	(501)
Non-Parent	51	24	25	(1008)
Labor Union				
Union Household	47	28	25	(212)
Non-Union Household	54	20	26	(1286)

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE BUDGET SURPLUS?

	----- February 2000 -----				----- February 2001 -----				Change In Tax Cut
	Tax Cut	National Debt	Domestic Programs	Social Security/ Medicare	Tax Cut	National Debt	Domestic Programs	Social Security/ Medicare	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	12	18	24	44	19	17	23	37	+7
Sex									
Male	14	23	19	42	25	21	18	33	+11
Female	10	13	28	47	14	13	29	41	+4
Race									
White	13	19	22	44	20	18	21	38	+7
Non-white	6	9	38	44	12	10	37	37	+6
Black	4	7	37	49	14	11	28	41	+10
Race and Sex									
White Men	16	25	17	40	26	23	16	33	+10
White Women	11	14	26	48	15	13	26	43	+4
Age									
Under 30	12	16	43	30	21	14	36	28	+9
30-49	15	16	24	43	21	16	29	32	+6
50-64	11	21	16	49	20	13	16	46	+9
65+	6	20	8	62	8	27	9	52	+2
Sex and Age									
Men under 50	17	21	25	36	27	19	23	28	+10
Women under 50	11	11	36	41	15	11	38	34	+4
Men 50+	10	27	8	52	20	26	8	41	+10
Women 50+	8	15	16	57	11	13	16	56	+3
Education									
College Grad.	18	28	22	31	22	27	26	22	+4
Some College	9	16	31	41	19	16	29	31	+10
High School Grad.	11	15	23	50	17	14	19	46	+6
<H.S. Grad.	10	10	20	58	19	7	21	50	+9
Family Income									
\$75,000+	19	29	14	38	25	26	25	21	+6
\$50,000-\$74,999	14	23	20	42	19	12	32	37	+5
\$30,000-\$49,999	11	19	26	42	24	16	24	34	+13
\$20,000-\$29,999	13	12	30	42	15	15	20	42	+2
<\$20,000	6	10	30	53	11	12	22	54	+5

Question: As you may know, the federal government now has a budget SURPLUS. In your opinion, which ONE of the following should be done with the available money? Should the money be used for a tax cut, to pay off the national debt more quickly, for increased spending on domestic programs such as health, education and the environment -OR- to help make the Social Security AND medicare programs financially sound?

Continued ...

	----- February 2000 -----				----- February 2001 -----				Change In Tax Cut
	Tax Cut	National Debt	Domestic Programs	Social Security/ Medicare	Tax Cut	National Debt	Domestic Programs	Social Security/ Medicare	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	12	18	24	44	19	17	23	37	+7
Region									
East	11	16	29	43	19	17	28	34	+8
Midwest	11	18	22	46	21	21	21	31	+10
South	12	17	20	49	19	10	23	44	+7
West	14	19	28	37	16	21	23	36	+2
Religious Affiliation									
Total White Protestant	14	19	18	47	21	18	18	39	+7
White Protestant Evangelical	15	18	16	49	23	14	14	43	+8
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	12	20	20	45	18	23	24	34	+6
White Catholic	11	19	21	48	25	16	24	32	+14
Community Size									
Large City	14	13	27	45	15	14	30	36	+1
Suburb	12	18	28	40	19	21	31	29	+7
Small City/Town	12	18	24	44	19	15	21	41	+7
Rural Area	10	22	18	48	23	16	15	42	+13
Party ID									
Republican	21	22	18	36	33	17	16	30	+12
Democrat	6	14	28	50	8	16	28	45	+2
Independent	11	20	26	42	16	18	29	34	+5
Party and Ideology									
Conservative Republican	--	--	--	--	40	16	15	26	--
Moderate/Liberal Republican	--	--	--	--	25	20	18	31	--
Conserv./Moderate Democrat	--	--	--	--	9	15	28	44	--
Liberal Democrat	--	--	--	--	4	21	33	42	--
Bush Approval									
Approve	--	--	--	--	28	15	20	34	--
Disapprove	--	--	--	--	8	20	31	40	--
1996/2000 Presidential Vote									
Dole/Bush	24	29	10	36	35	14	14	31	+11
Clinton/Gore	6	18	26	48	6	22	26	45	0
Marital Status									
Married	14	20	19	45	22	18	22	36	+8
Unmarried	9	15	30	44	15	15	25	39	+6
Parental Status									
Parent	14	16	29	39	22	14	30	33	+8
Non-Parent	11	18	21	47	18	18	20	40	+7
Labor Union									
Union Household	10	16	25	46	13	18	28	40	+3
Non-Union Household	12	18	24	44	20	17	23	36	+8

CHARITABLE CHOICE

(Based on Registered Voters)

	--- September 2000 ---			--- February 2001 ---			Change in Favor
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	67	29	4=100	63	32	5=100	-4
Sex							
Male	60	37	3	59	35	6	-1
Female	74	22	4	66	30	4	-8
Race							
White	64	32	4	64	32	4	0
Non-white	84	14	2	56	36	8	-28
Black	87	11	2	59	35	6	-28
Race and Sex							
White Men	56	41	3	60	35	5	+4
White Women	71	25	4	68	29	3	-3
Age							
Under 30	71	27	2	70	25	5	-1
30-49	75	23	2	64	32	4	-11
50-64	64	32	4	63	34	2	-1
65+	53	39	8	53	36	11	0
Sex and Age							
Men under 50	66	32	2	62	33	5	-4
Women under 50	80	18	2	70	27	3	-10
Men 50+	51	44	5	53	39	8	+2
Women 50+	65	28	7	65	31	4	0
Education							
College Grad.	63	35	2	60	38	2	-3
Some College	63	35	2	64	31	4	-1
H.S. Grad & Below	72	23	5	63	30	7	-9
Family Income							
\$75,000+	58	39	3	53	45	2	-5
\$50,000-\$74,999	68	31	1	68	28	4	0
\$30,000-\$49,999	68	29	3	60	37	3	-8
<\$30,000	76	20	4	72	23	5	-4

Question: Would you say that you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing religious organizations to apply, along with other organizations, for government funding to provide social services such as job training or drug treatment counseling to people who need them?

Continued ...

	--- September 2000 ---			--- February 2001 ---			Change in Favor
	Favor	Oppose	DK	Favor	Oppose	DK	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	67	29	4=100	63	32	5=100	-4
Region							
East	71	26	3	61	34	5	-10
Midwest	69	27	4	66	29	5	-3
South	67	29	4	68	26	6	-1
West	64	33	3	52	45	3	-12
Religious Affiliation							
Total White Protestant	64	32	4	72	25	3	+8
White Protestant Evangelical	66	29	5	72	24	4	+6
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	62	35	3	70	27	3	+8
White Catholic	71	27	2	64	33	3	-7
Community Size							
Large City	77	21	2	59	40	1	-18
Suburb	62	33	5	60	33	7	-2
Small City/Town	67	30	3	62	34	4	-5
Rural Area	66	29	5	73	22	5	7
Party ID							
Republican	63	33	4	75	22	3	+12
Democrat	74	23	3	54	40	6	-20
Independent	64	33	3	63	33	4	-1
Party and Ideology							
Conservative Republican	60	36	4	75	22	3	+15
Moderate/Liberal Republican	69	28	3	79	18	3	+10
Conserv./Moderate Democrat	77	20	3	61	32	7	-16
Liberal Democrat	66	30	4	39	58	3	-27
Bush Approval							
Approve	--	--	--	72	25	3	--
Disapprove	--	--	--	46	49	5	--
1996/2000 Presidential Vote							
Dole/Bush	57	39	4	71	26	3	+14
Clinton/Gore	70	26	4	47	47	6	-23
Marital Status							
Married	65	32	3	66	31	3	+1
Unmarried	70	25	5	59	33	8	-11
Parental Status							
Parent	76	22	2	69	30	1	-7
Non-Parent	63	32	5	59	34	7	-4
Labor Union							
Union Household	73	22	5	55	45	*	-18
Non-Union Household	66	30	4	64	30	6	-2

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 1,513 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period February 14-19, 2001. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=728) or Form 2 (N=785), 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 was designed to generalize to the U.S. adult population in telephone households, and to allow separate analyses of responses by African-Americans and younger respondents. To achieve these objectives in a cost effective manner, the design uses standard *list-assisted random digit dialing* (RDD) methodology, but telephone numbers are drawn disproportionately from telephone exchanges with higher than average density of African-American households. Weighting adjustments are made in the analysis to ensure the overall representativeness of the sample.

Using RDD methods, every *active block* of telephone numbers (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) that contains one or more residential directory listings is proportionally likely to be selected; after selection two more digits are added randomly to complete the number. This method guarantees coverage of every assigned phone number regardless of whether that number is directory listed, purposely unlisted, or too new to be listed. After selection, the numbers are compared against business directories and matching numbers are purged.

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

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

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

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

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

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2001 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
February 14-19, 2001
N = 1,513

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.]**

		----- Gallup -----			
		Clinton	Bush	Reagan	Carter
		<u>Feb 1993</u>	<u>Feb 1989</u>	<u>Feb 1981</u>	<u>Feb 1977</u>
53	Approve	56	63	55	71
21	Disapprove	25	13	18	9
<u>26</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>19</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.2F1 Based on what you've seen or heard so far, what, if anything, would you say you have LIKED most about George W. Bush? **[IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

- 22 Personal Traits (NET)
 - 8 Honesty/Integrity/Trustworthy
 - 4 His character/Good man/Wants to do the right thing/Moral
 - 3 A Christian/Man of faith
 - 3 Way he presents himself/Relaxed/Calm/Dignified
 - 5 Other personal traits
- 14 Policy Positions and Proposals (NET)
 - 7 Tax proposals/Economy
 - 3 Support of the military
 - 2 Stand on abortion/Cutting funds for abortion clinics
 - 2 Education policy
 - 3 Other policy position/proposal
- 13 Political Traits (NET)
 - Trying to keep campaign promises/Following his campaign agenda/Doing what he said he would
 - 3 Leadership style/Takes charge/No nonsense/Sticks to his guns/Consistent
 - 2 Republican/Conservative
 - 2 Bipartisan/Reaches out/Conciliatory
 - 2 Getting things done/Taken quick action
 - 2 Other political trait
- 2 He's OK/Good President/Good job
- 2 Don't like him
- 2 Appointments
- 2 Too early to tell/Hasn't been President long enough to judge
- 2 Everything
- 8 Other
- 20 Nothing
- 17 Don't know/Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.3F2 Based on what you've seen or heard so far, what, if anything, would you say you have DISliked most about George W. Bush? [IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

- 16 Policy Positions and Proposals (NET)
 - 6 Tax proposals/Economy
 - 4 Stand on abortion/Will take away a woman's right to chose
 - 2 Education policy
 - 6 Other policy position/proposal
- 11 Personal Traits (NET)
 - 2 Not articulate/Poor public speaker
 - 2 Attitude/Arrogant/Self-righteous/Cocky
 - 1 Deceitful/Don't trust him/Not trustful
 - 1 Stupid/Lack of knowledge
 - 1 His looks/Appearance/Dress
 - 1 Past sins/(cocaine use/DUI)
- 4 Political Traits (NET)
 - 1 Republican/Not a Democrat
 - 1 Inexperienced
 - 3 Other political traits
- 4 The way he got the job/Stole the election
- 3 Too early to tell/Hasn't been President long enough to judge
- 2 Appointments
- 2 Everything
- 1 His not taking action against Clinton (furniture, pardons, pranks)
- 1 Handling current issues (Iraq, Mexico, Submarine)
- 1 Like him/The job he's doing
- 1 Just don't like him
- 4 Other
- 39 Nothing
- 15 Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.4F1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	
February, 2001	46	43	11=100	(N=728)
January, 2001	55	41	4=100	
September, 2000	51	41	8=100	
June, 2000	47	45	8=100	
April, 2000	48	43	9=100	
August, 1999	56	39	5=100	
January, 1999	53	41	6=100	
November, 1998	46	44	10=100	
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100	
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100	
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100	
February, 1998	59	37	4=100	
January, 1998	46	50	4=100	
September, 1997	45	49	6=100	
August, 1997	49	46	5=100	
January, 1997	38	58	4=100	
July, 1996	29	67	4=100	
March, 1996	28	70	2=100	
October, 1995	23	73	4=100	
June, 1995	25	73	2=100	
April, 1995	23	74	3=100	
July, 1994	24	73	3=100	
March, 1994	24	71	5=100	
October, 1993	22	73	5=100	
September, 1993	20	75	4=100	
May, 1993	22	71	7=100	
January, 1993	39	50	11=100	
January, 1992	28	68	4=100	
November, 1991	34	61	5=100	
<i>Late February, 1991 (Gallup)</i>	66	31	3=100	
August, 1990	47	48	5=100	
May, 1990	41	54	5=100	
January, 1989	45	50	5=100	
September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100	
May, 1988	41	54	5=100	
January, 1988	39	55	6=100	

Q.5F1 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

		Aug 1999	June 1999	May 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995	Mar 1994	Dec 1993	June 1993	Jan 1992	May 1990	Feb 1989	April 1987
12	Morality/Ethics/Family values	13	11	10	9	13	12	10	6	7	3	5	2	3
11	Education	8	7	9	5	6	6	5	5	5	2	4	4	0
8	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	12	11	13	12	19	22	31	25	7	3	7	8	3
7	Economy (general)	2	3	4	4	4	5	4	6	17	43	5	4	7
6	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	3	4	6	6	7	10	12	15	19	22	7	9	13
6	Drugs/Alcohol	6	5	7	7	8	5	10	8	5	4	37	23	6
6	Health care/Cost/ availability of health care	6	3	4	5	4	7	14	14	11	3	3	1	*
4	Energy crisis/rising gas/heating prices	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	3	3	5	4	8	6	5	2	5	2	2	1	0
3	Other social issues	4	4	3	--	2	0	*	3	*	*	*	*	*
3	Poverty	4	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	3	1	3	4	6
3	Taxes	3	2	4	3	3	3	3	2	4	1	3	2	0
3	Inflation/Difference between wages/costs	1	*	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
2	Other International issues	2	4	3	--	*	4	1	2	3	4	6	10	22
2	Youth/Teenage kids not acting responsible	2	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Racism	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	0	0
2	Homelessness	2	4	2	3	2	4	3	5	5	6	8	10	*
2	Immigration	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Recession/slowing of the economy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Issues related to elderly	1	3	3	1	2	*	1	1	2	1	2	2	0
1	Other defense issues	--	--	1	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	3	1	6	5	7	9	5	6	13	4	11	19	12
1	Social Security	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Welfare abuse	2	1	3	1	7	5	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
1	Scandal/Corruption in govt	3	2	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Teen violence in school	6	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Too much foreign aid/ Spend money at home	2	4	2	1	5	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	0
1	Other economic issues	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Environment/Pollution	*	*	2	1	1	1	2	1	*	1	8	2	0
1	Too many guns/Gun control	4	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Medicare	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Uneven distribution of wealth	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Other health care mentions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Other domestic issues	4	1	1	--	2	5	1	3	2	10	11	10	21

Q.5F2 CONTINUED ...

	Aug 1999	June 1999	May 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995	Mar 1994	Dec 1993	June 1993	Jan 1992	May 1990	Feb 1989	April 1987
* Terrorism	*	*	*	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
* AIDS	--	*	--	--	1	1	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
* HMO Reform	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5 Other	1	6	5	6	2	2	2	*	4	1	5	9	1
2 None	*	1	*	1	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7 Don't know/No answer	11	11	12	7	6	3	4	6	2	3	1	3	3
26 ECONOMIC (NET)	15	8	16	18	18	28	26	33	53	76	26	28	35
10 HEALTHCARE (NET)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
DEFENSE/INTER-													
5 NATIONAL (NET)	7	11	5	10	1	9	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
5 POVERTY/HOMELESS (NET)	6	6	6	6	5	8	6	*	*	*	*	*	*

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

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref	
FORM 1 [N=728]; FORM 2 [N=785]:						
a.F1 George W. Bush's education plan	21	35	23	19	2=100	
b. George W. Bush's tax-cut plan		31	35	19	14	1=100
c.F2 The controversy over the pardons Bill Clinton granted as he left office		28	32	20	19	1=100
d. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	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	

Q.6 CONTINUED ...

		Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
FORM 1 [N=728]; FORM 2 [N=785]:						
e.F1	The earthquake in India	15	33	31	20	1=100
f.F1	The California energy crisis	25	36	20	18	1=100
g.F2	Ariel Sharon's election victory in Israel	9	16	29	44	2=100
h.F2	The collision of a U.S. Navy submarine with a Japanese ship	26	40	19	14	1=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.7F1 In your opinion, are the news organizations you are familiar with being fair or unfair to **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**?

		<u>Fair</u>	<u>Unfair</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The Bush administration	65	19	16=100
	Clinton: Feb 1993	72	17	11=100
	Bush: Aug 1989	82	12	6=100
	Reagan: June 1985	78	12	10=100
b.	Bill Clinton since leaving office	56	30	14=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.8F2 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage, or the right amount of coverage to **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**? How about...**[NEXT ITEM]**

		<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too Little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Bill Clinton's activities as he was leaving office	53	9	31	7=100
b.	George W. Bush's policy proposals since he took office	10	28	52	10=100
c.	Signs of an economic slowdown	21	25	46	8=100
d.	Rising energy costs	17	36	42	5=100

ASK ALL:

Q.9 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of George W. Bush so far. (First,) does George W. Bush impress you as... [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]

		GW Bush	Clinton	
		<u>Oct 1999</u>	<u>Jan 1993</u>	
a.	60	Trustworthy or	59	63
	28	NOT trustworthy	33	29
	4	Neither particularly (VOL)	2	3
	<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
	100		100	100
b.	67	Warm and friendly or		90
	21	Cold and aloof		7
	6	Neither particularly (VOL)		1
	<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused		<u>2</u>
	100			100
c.	60	Able to get things done or		
	18	NOT able to get things done		
	7	Neither particularly (VOL)		
	<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused		
	100			
d.	62	Well informed or		79
	27	NOT well informed		14
	4	Neither particularly (VOL)		2
	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused		<u>5</u>
	100			100
e.	66	Well organized or		
	22	NOT well organized		
	3	Neither particularly (VOL)		
	<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused		
	100			
f.	7	Liberal,		
	39	Middle of the road or		
	44	Conservative		
	2	Neither particularly (VOL)		
	<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused		
100				

Q.10 How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the Internet? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE]

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' TELEVISION AS EITHER FIRST OR SECOND RESPONSE IN Q.10 ASK:

Q.11 Do you get most of your news about national and international issues from network TV news, from local TV news, or from cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE]

		Oct <u>1999</u>	Jan <u>1999</u>	Jan <u>1996</u>	Sept <u>1995</u> ²	Jan <u>1994</u>	Sept <u>1993</u>	Jan <u>1993</u>
76	Television	80	82	88	82	83	83	83
20	Network TV news	22	--	--	--	--	--	39
25	Local TV news	31	--	--	--	--	--	30
35	Cable news ³	35	--	--	--	--	--	38
1	Other	2	--	--	--	--	--	2
1	Don't know	*	--	--	--	--	--	1
40	Newspapers	48	42	61	63	51	60	52
16	Radio	19	18	25	20	15	17	17
4	Magazines	5	4	8	10	10	9	5
10	Internet ⁴	11	6	--	--	--	--	--
2	Other (VOL)	2	2	2	1	5	3	1
1	Don't know/Refused	*	*	*	1	1	*	1

On another subject...

Q.12 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

		<i>Gallup</i> Clinton <u>Feb 1993</u>	<i>CBS News/New York Times</i> Bush Sr. <u>April 1989</u>
50	Approve	45	45
22	Disapprove	35	35
<u>28</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
100		100	100

² In September 1995, question wording did not include "international."

³ Beginning in October 1999, "cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC" was substituted for "CNN," which was used previously.

⁴ Beginning in February 2001, "Internet" has been substituted for "computer online sources," which was used previously.

ASK FORM 1 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=728]:

Q.13 As you may know, the federal government now has a budget SURPLUS. In your opinion, which ONE of the following should be done with the available money? Should the money be used [READ AND ROTATE OPTIONS]... For a tax cut; to pay off the national debt more quickly; for increased spending on domestic programs such as health, education, and the environment; or to help make the Social Security and Medicare programs financially sound?

	<u>Tax Cut</u>	<u>National Debt</u>	<u>Domestic Programs</u>	<u>Social Security/Medicare</u>	<u>(VOL) DK/Ref</u>
February, 2001	19	17	23	37	4=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	14	21	25	38	2=100
February, 2000	12	18	24	44	2=100
Mid-January, 1999 ⁵	14	12	21	50	3=100
Early August, 1998	10	19	29	39	3=100
June, 1998	9	17	28	44	2=100
January, 1998	11	22	33	32	2=100

ASK FORM 2 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=785]:

Now thinking specifically about the debate over taxes,

Q.14 Do you approve or disapprove of George W. Bush's tax proposal?

43 Approve
34 Disapprove
23 Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:

Q.15 People have differing views on WHY we should cut taxes. In your view, what's the better reason for a national tax cut? To provide tax relief for people like yourself or to stimulate the economy to prevent a recession?

32 To provide tax relief for people like yourself
49 To stimulate the economy to prevent a recession
10 Both (VOL)
5 Neither/No good reason for tax cuts (VOL)
4 Don't know/Refused
100

5

In Mid-January 1999, Early August, June and January 1998, the question was worded: "If it turns out that the federal government has a budget SURPLUS this year, in your opinion, which ONE of the following should be done with the available money? Should the money be used ..."

Q.16 If George W. Bush's tax bill becomes law, do you think the tax cuts will generally be fair to everyone, OR will the tax cuts mainly benefit some people much more than others?

		<u>Sept 1999⁶</u>
26	Will be fair	12
65	Benefit some people much more than others	82
1	Other (VOL)	2
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

IF '2' "BENEFIT SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS" IN Q.16, ASK [N=1,001]:

Q.17 Who will mainly benefit from the tax cuts: the wealthy, the middle class, or the poor?

		<u>Sept 1999</u>
79	Wealthy	80
12	Middle class	9
4	Poor	6
1	Other (VOL)	1
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

[NO Q.18]

On another subject...

ASK FORM 1 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=728]:

Q.20F1 Would you say that you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing religious organizations to apply, along with other organizations, for government funding to provide social services such as job training or drug treatment counseling to people who need them?

<u>GP</u>	<u>RVs</u>		<u>Sept 2000⁷</u>
28	28	Strongly favor	32
36	35	Favor	35
19	19	Oppose	17
11	13	Strongly oppose	12
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100	100		100

(N=585)

⁶ In September 1999 the question was asked "As you may know, there has been discussion in Washington recently about a major tax cut that would take place over the next 10 years. If this bill becomes law, do you think the tax cuts will generally be fair to everyone, OR will the tax cuts mainly benefit some people much more than others?"

⁷ In September 2000 this question was part of a series, and the figures are based on registered voters.

ASK FORM 2 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=785]:

Q.21F2 Did you happen to hear about the creation of an office in the White House to enlarge the role that religious organizations play in providing social services, or haven't you heard about this?

40	Yes
59	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=785]:

Q.22F2 Do you think it's a good idea or a bad idea to have an office such as this in the White House?

46	Good idea
38	Bad idea
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.23 How much, if anything, have you heard about the recent debate over whether the U.S. should develop a national missile defense system to protect against missile attacks — a lot, a little or nothing at all?

		<u>May 2000</u>
20	A lot	10
47	A little	43
31	Nothing at all	47
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	*
100		100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.24F1 Do you favor or oppose the development of a national missile defense system?

54	Favor
32	Oppose
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.25F2 Some people feel the U.S. should try to develop a ground- and space-based missile defense system to protect the U.S. from missile attack. Others oppose such an effort because they say it would be too costly and might interfere with existing arms treaties with the Russians. Which position comes closer to your view?

		-- Gallup --				
		Early Oct <u>2000</u> ⁸	May <u>2000</u>	May <u>1987</u> ⁹	Dec <u>1986</u>	Aug <u>1985</u>
49	Should develop a ground- and space-based missile defense system	47	52	44	52	45
40	Oppose developing such a system	35	37	42	40	47
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Finally, I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only...

Q.42 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, at home or anywhere else on at least an occasional basis?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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 ¹⁰	72	28	0=100
February, 2000	67	33	*=100
January, 2000	68	32	*=100
December, 1999	67	33	*=100
October, 1999	67	33	*=100
Late September, 1999	68	32	*=100
September, 1999	70	30	*=100
August, 1999	67	33	*=100
July, 1999	68	32	*=100
June, 1999	64	35	1=100
May, 1999	66	33	1=100
April, 1999	71	29	*=100
March, 1999	68	32	*=100
February, 1999	68	32	*=100
January, 1999	69	31	*=100
Early December, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early September, 1998	64	36	*=100
Late August, 1998	66	34	0=100
Early August, 1998	66	34	*=100
April, 1998	61	39	*=100
January, 1998	65	35	*=100
November, 1997	66	34	*=100
June, 1997	60	40	0=100

⁸ Early October 2000 figures are based on registered voters.

⁹ In May 1987, December 1986, and August 1985, question was worded: "Some people feel the U.S. should try to develop a space-based "Star Wars" system to protect the U.S. from nuclear attack. Others oppose such an effort because they say it would be too costly and further escalate the arms race. Which position comes closer to your view?"

¹⁰ In March 2000, "or anywhere else" was added to the question wording.

Q.42 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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.42, ASK:

Q.43 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

	<u>Goes Online</u>	<u>Doesn't Go Online</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2001	60	40	*=100
January, 2001	61	39	0=100
July, 2000	55	45	*=100
June, 2000	56	44	*=100
April, 2000	54	46	*=100
March, 2000	61	39	0=100
February, 2000	52	48	0=100
January, 2000	52	48	*=100
December, 1999	53	47	0=100
October, 1999	50	50	0=100
Late September, 1999	52	48	*=100
September, 1999	53	47	0=100
August, 1999	52	48	0=100
July, 1999	49	51	0=100
June, 1999	50	50	*=100
May, 1999	48	52	0=100
April, 1999	51	49	*=100
March, 1999	49	51	*=100
February, 1999	49	51	*=100
January, 1999	47	53	*=100
Early December, 1998	42	58	0=100
November, 1998	37	63	*=100
Early September, 1998	42	58	*=100
Late August, 1998	43	57	*=100
Early August, 1998	41	59	*=100
April, 1998	36	64	0=100
January, 1998	37	63	0=100
November, 1997	36	63	1=100
July, 1996	23	77	0=100
April, 1996	21	79	*=100
March, 1996	22	78	0=100
February, 1996	21	79	*=100
January, 1996	21	79	0=100
June, 1995 ¹¹	14	86	*=100

11

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?