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Education and Maintaining Prosperity Are Top 2000 Priorities
 Gore Gains, Bradley Looks More Liberal

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Education and Maintaining Prosperity Are Top 2000 Priorities
GORE GAINS, BRADLEY LOOKS MORE LIBERAL

With the start of the new year, the presidential campaign has begun in earnest for many Americans. More people are paying attention now than in the fall, and the back and forth between candidates has started to change voter perceptions. In particular, Al Gore has begun to redefine himself and challenger Bill Bradley to Democrats across the nation. Fewer voters see the vice president as very liberal than did so in May, and fewer consider Bradley as right of center. In turn, Gore's margin of support over Bradley, which declined throughout the fall, has expanded significantly. He now holds a gaping 68% to 24% lead over his only rival for the Democratic nomination.

The shift mirrors a *Newsweek* poll in New Hampshire (conducted Jan. 12-14) showing the vice president retaking the lead from Bradley among likely Democratic voters in that early primary state. But other polls taken there at about the same time find the former New Jersey senator ahead or the race even. Projected turnout among Independents accounts for some of these differences and may be decisive in the New Hampshire primary. (See p. 9)

The latest nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Jan. 12-16, finds fewer Americans than in May rating Gore as very liberal (38% vs. 45%) and not as many viewing Bradley as right of center (45% vs. 54%). On the Republican side, Texas Governor George W. Bush continues to be seen as a conservative, but of the moderate variety. John McCain, Bush's leading rival, is judged about the same. The current survey shows that Bush has blunted McCain's rise in the national polls. Bush now leads the Arizona senator 69% to 17% — a slightly larger advantage than he held in December (64%-17%).

The poll finds Bush continuing to lead Gore in a general election test question, even when Pat Buchanan is included as the candidate for the Reform Party. Among all registered voters Bush leads Gore 51% to 39% with Buchanan getting just 4% — less than half of what he achieved (10%) in a September survey.

	May <u>1999</u>	Jan <u>2000</u>
Buchanan	2.5	2.7
Bush	3.0	3.0
McCain	--	3.0
Republican voters	2.9	2.8
All voters	3.4	3.2
Democrat voters	3.9	3.6
Bradley	3.5	3.7
Gore	4.1	3.9
Clinton	--	4.3
Jackson	4.4	4.4

* Average ratings, based on registered voters who could rate each on a scale where "6" represents very liberal and "1" represents very conservative.

Voter interest in, and knowledge of, the presidential campaign has increased since September. More people can identify the candidates without prompting and the number paying attention to campaign news has begun to inch up. In fact, a greater percentage are now following campaign news than in either January 1996 or January 1992.

Gore's Rally

Gore has widened his lead over Bradley in part by shoring up support among the most loyal Democratic voters. In December, Gore had the support of just over half of strong Democrats (54%). Today, nearly three-in-four (73%) support the vice president over Bradley, and Bradley's support among Independents who lean Democratic has fallen slightly as well.

	<i>December</i>		<i>January</i>	
	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Indep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Indep</u>
	%	%	%	%
Gore	54	49	73	51
Bradley	38	40	22	33
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100

Note: Based on registered voters. "Democrats" are solid Democrats; "Independents" are Independents who lean to the Democratic Party.

Gore has also made big gains among men and older voters. Among Democratic voters, men now prefer Gore over Bradley by a margin of 72%-23%. Those age 50 and older opt for Gore by an even wider margin — 70%-19%. In December each of these groups divided more evenly (men preferred Gore to Bradley by 53%-42%; older voters opted for Gore, 52%-40%). At the same time, men and older voters — regardless of their party affiliation — have dramatically changed their perceptions of the two Democratic candidates. Overall, men are much more likely to view Bradley as a liberal now than was the case in May. Similarly, voters age 50 and older are *less* likely to view Gore as a liberal.

Over the course of the campaign, Gore has come to be seen less as a liberal and more as a moderate among the general public and among Democratic voters. But not Bradley who, if anything, is seen as slightly more liberal. In May 1999, fully 67% of all voters and 64% of Democrats viewed Gore as left of center ideologically. Today, 60% of all voters and 54% of Democrats see him this way. Fully 46% of Democratic voters now view Gore as right of center — up from 36% in May.

	<i>May 1999</i>		<i>January</i>	
	<u>Conserv</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Conserv</u>	<u>Liberal</u>
	%	%	%	%
Gore	36	64	46	54
Bradley	51	49	48	52

* Based on registered Democrats and Independents who lean Democratic and were able to rate the candidates.

As Bradley has become better known to voters, his image as a moderate has faded somewhat. In May, only 57% of voters knew enough about Bradley to rate him. Those able to rate the former NBA star were as likely to view him as right of center politically as they were to view him left of center. Today, voters are more aware of Bradley (72% could rate him this month) and they are more likely to view him as liberal-leaning (55%) rather than conservative (45%). Democratic voters follow a similar pattern — 52% place him left of center, 48% put him on the right.

McCain Stalls

There has been very little change over the last month in the GOP nomination race. Bush continues to dominate the field, and McCain, his closest rival, has still failed to penetrate on the national level, which is underscored by Bush's 4:1 advantage (69%-17%) among Republicans and GOP-leaning voters. But the Arizona senator continues to be an attractive alternative to Bush. Nearly one-third of GOP voters (31%) say he is their *second* choice. In addition, McCain is more popular among Independents who lean Republican than he is among party stalwarts — 25% vs. 15%, respectively say he is their first choice. Bush, on the other hand, draws more strength from Republicans than from Independent leaners (73% vs. 55% first choice).

Perceptions of Bush have changed very little over the course of the campaign. As was the case in May, Republican voters are as likely to characterize the Texas governor as a moderate as they are to call him a conservative. Roughly four-in-ten place Bush on the far right end of the ideological scale; a similar number place him squarely in the middle. Nonetheless, McCain is seen as the clear moderate in the GOP field. Fully 60% of GOP voters view McCain as a political moderate; half as many see him as a conservative.

Overall, voters place themselves closer to Bush and McCain on the ideological scale than either Gore or Bradley. Interestingly, Clinton is perceived as much more liberal than Gore. Fully 29% of Americans give Clinton the most liberal rating, compared to only 16% who rate Gore that way.

Buchanan Below 5%

If Pat Buchanan becomes the Reform Party nominee, he'll have to gain a lot of ground to reach the 15% threshold to be eligible to participate in debates with the major party nominees. In a hypothetical match-up with Gore and Bush, Buchanan draws only 4% of the vote, down from 10% in September. Even among Independent voters, Buchanan draws only 9%.

A Three-Way Race for President?*

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Indep</u>
	%	%	%	%
Bush	51	89	15	49
Gore	39	8	79	34
Buchanan	4	1	2	9
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

* Based on registered voters.

In spite of Gore's gains against Bradley, Bush continues to best the vice president in the general election match-up. Currently, 51% of voters would choose Bush in a three-way match-up with Gore and Buchanan; 39% prefer the vice president.

Gore continues to lag behind Bush among most major demographic groups. The only groups to give Gore majority support are non-whites (71%) and urban dwellers (55%). Gore's problems with women persist; they prefer Bush by a margin of 49% to 42%. In addition, more Democrats than Republicans are crossing party lines in the general election vote. At this point, Gore can count on the votes of 79% of Democrats in a three-way race with Bush and Buchanan. Bush receives the support of 89% of Republicans. Similarly, fully 21% of those who voted for Clinton in 1996 say they'll vote for Bush in 2000.

'00 Priorities

As President Clinton prepares to deliver his final State of the Union address Jan. 27, the public's top priority — education — remains unchanged from recent years. But Americans are also sending a strong message to the president and the candidates who are vying to succeed him: Keep the economic boom going.

Seven-in-ten Americans (70%) say that keeping the economy strong should be a top priority, placing that behind only improving education (77%) on the list of national priorities. Rounding out this year's top five are perennial concerns such as securing Social Security and Medicare and reducing crime.

While the public is keenly interested in maintaining the current wave of prosperity, its anxiety over the nation's employment picture has markedly decreased. Just 41% say that improving the job situation should be a top priority, down from 54% in July 1999 and 66% just three years ago.

As the president and the Republican-led Congress get ready to square off for the final time, there is a substantial partisan divide over a number of key legislative issues. Nearly half of Democrats (49%) call raising the minimum wage a top priority, against just 17% of Republicans. The gap over whether to enact tougher gun control laws is even larger, with more than two-thirds (68%) of Democrats naming it as a top priority, versus 27% of Republicans. Democrats place a greater priority than Republicans on regulating HMOs, insuring the uninsured, and adding prescription drug benefits for Medicare recipients.

Significantly, Democrats even attach equal or higher priority to a pair of the GOP's signature issues — taxes and crime. More Democrats than Republicans rate reducing crime a top priority (75%-67%); and as many rate cutting middle class taxes (53%-51%) a top priority. The only issue that Republicans rate more highly than Democrats is dealing with the country's moral breakdown (55%-45%).

On many issues, particularly economic matters, the gap between rich and poor is as formidable as the partisan divide. Roughly half of Americans with family incomes of less than \$30,000 a year rate improving the job situation and boosting the minimum wage as top priorities; but of those making at least \$50,000, fewer than one-third (30%) attach as much importance to improving the job situation, and just 25% consider raising the minimum wage to be a top priority.

Top Priorities for the Nation			
	<u>All</u>	<u>Reps</u>	<u>Dems</u>
<i>Priorities ...</i>	%	%	%
Improving educational system	77	68	78
Keeping economy strong	70	66	73
Securing Social Security	69	61	77
Reducing crime	69	67	75
Securing Medicare	64	54	69
Regulating HMOs	56	45	70
Providing insurance to uninsured	55	40	67
Dealing with problems of poor	55	42	65
Protecting the environment	54	40	59
Reducing middle class taxes	54	51	53
Adding Medicare drug benefits	54	43	66
Dealing with problems of families with children	52	45	63
Dealing with moral breakdown	48	55	45
Working to reduce racial tensions	46	39	56
Strengthening gun control laws	46	27	68
Paying off the national debt	44	39	41
Improving the job situation	41	31	54
Increasing minimum wage	34	17	49
Reforming campaign finance	32	36	34
Dealing with global trade	30	26	35

Money Matters				
--- Family Income ---				
\$30,000				
	<u>Total</u>	<u><\$30,000</u>	<u>\$49,999</u>	<u>\$50,000+</u>
<i>Percent giving top priority to...</i>	%	%	%	%
Improving job situation	41	52	37	31
Increasing minimum wage	34	46	34	25

Men and women also disagree, on issues ranging from gun control to health care. A strong majority of women (57%) consider tougher gun laws a top priority, while slightly more than one-third of men (34%) agree. More women than men attach greater priority to adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare (61%-47%) and providing health insurance to the uninsured (62%-47%).

Not surprisingly, there is a sizable generation gap on questions relating to Social Security and Medicare. More than three-quarters (78%) of those age 50 to 64 say securing Social Security should be a top priority; that is the highest-rated issue for this group. Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) of those age 30-49 rate Social Security a top priority; that group's top priority is improving education (75%). Just 57% of those in the 18-29 age group consider Social Security a top priority. Improving education is the most important issue for these younger Americans, with 85% naming it a top priority.

Presidential Campaign Gains Attention

Interest in the presidential election has risen slowly but steadily since last summer and is now higher than at a comparable period in past election cycles. Fully 19% are following news about this year's presidential election very closely, up from 11% in June 1999, when the Pew Research Center began asking whether Americans were following the campaign. And the percentage following very closely is nine points higher than in January 1996 and eight points higher than in January 1992.

Likely voters are even more tuned into the campaign. Of those who say they always vote, 29% are watching the campaign very closely.

In contrast, however, Independents are not as engaged by the presidential race. Almost the same percentage of Democrats and Republicans — 22% and 23%, respectively — are paying very close attention to the race; only 14% of Independents are doing so.

Following Campaign News		
	<u>Very Closely</u> %	<u>Fairly Closely</u> %
<i>News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election ...</i>		
January 2000	19	34
December 1999	16	36
October 1999	17	32
September 1999	15	31
July 1999	15	38
June 1999	11	25
<i>News about the Republican presidential candidates ...</i>		
January 1996	10	34
<i>News about Democratic presidential candidates ...</i>		
January 1992	11	25
<i>Coverage of Democratic and Republican presidential candidates ...</i>		
September 1987	14	34

Reflecting increased interest, all of the candidates are now better known, although only the frontrunners are readily recalled. When asked to name GOP presidential candidates, George W. Bush is volunteered by 71% of Republicans, an 11 percentage point gain since September. In comparison, only about one-quarter (27%) of Republicans and those leaning Republican know John McCain is a presidential candidate. That represents a large increase from the 10% who mentioned him only a few months ago but still places McCain far behind Bush. Al Gore is mentioned by more than half (55%) of Democrats and those who lean Democratic, up from 47% last September. Although Bill Bradley's recognition jumped 14 percentage points since fall, it still lags behind Gore.

Growing Awareness of Candidates			
Can you name any presidential candidates?	Sept 1999	Jan 2000	Change
<i>Among Republicans/Lean Rep</i>			
George W. Bush	60	71	+11
John McCain	10	27	+17
Steve Forbes	13	20	+7
Alan Keyes	4	10	+6
Orrin Hatch	3	7	+4
Gary Bauer	3	6	+3
DK/Refused/Incorrect	32	24	-8
<i>Among Democrats/Lean Dem</i>			
Al Gore	47	55	+8
Bill Bradley	15	29	+14
DK/Refused/Incorrect	50	42	-8

Most Americans — 68% — can identify George W. Bush as governor of Texas but fewer can cite basic biographical information about Bill Bradley or John McCain. Only 30% are able to identify Bradley as a former U.S. senator from New Jersey, and significantly fewer (17%) correctly name McCain as the co-sponsor of a campaign finance reform bill. In fact, more Republicans correctly identify Bradley's former elective office than Democrats. More than one-third (36%) of Republicans know that Bradley was a New Jersey senator compared to only 27% of Democrats.

	<u>Total</u>	----- Age -----					
		18-29		30-49		50+	
		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<i>Correctly identify...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bush as governor of Texas	68	57	45	71	66	91	69
Bradley as former senator	30	19	12	38	26	53	25
McCain as co-sponsor of a campaign finance reform bill	17	9	3	20	13	31	18

And in each of three questions regarding the candidates, older men are much better informed than either women or younger men. For example, 91% of men age 50 and older know that Bush is governor of Texas compared to only 69% of women in the same age group and 57% of men under age 30.

News Interest Index

Although attentiveness to the presidential campaign is increasing, the debate over whether 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez should return to Cuba tops the news interest index for the month, with almost four-in-ten Americans (39%) saying they have followed this story very closely. Nearly as many people — 35% — paid very close attention to coverage of millennium celebrations around the world.

In other domestic news, 23% paid very close attention to the arrests of suspected terrorists, and the merger between America Online and Time Warner was followed very closely by only 17% of Americans. Internationally, the release of hostages from a hijacked Indian Airline jet in Afghanistan garnered the very close attention of 19%. Two news stories about Russia — the resignation of Boris Yeltsin and the conflict in Chechnya — received the least attention of recent major news events. Only 11% and 10%, respectively, paid very close attention to these stories. The Chechnyan conflict received virtually the same level of attention as in prior years. The story was followed very closely by 11% in December 1999 and by 10% in 1995.

Older Americans and Democrats have followed the Gonzalez story very closely. Half of adults age 50 and older have kept a very close eye on this story while only about a quarter (27%) of adults under age 30 have done so. Similarly, nearly half (49%) of Democrats have paid very close attention to the 6-year-old's saga compared to 35% of both Republicans and Independents.

Computer users tended to follow the story about America Online merging with Time Warner more closely than non-users, with one-in-five paying very close attention to it, compared to just 10% of those who do not use a computer. Almost a quarter (24%) of people with incomes of over \$75,000 also followed the merger very closely; only 13% of Americans with incomes of \$20,000 or less did so.

In both news stories about Russia, older Americans were more attentive than other age groups. Among those age 50 and older, 16% paid very close attention to the conflict in Chechnya compared to only 4% of those under age 30. And 16% of those age 50 and over tuned in very closely to Yeltsin's resignation while 7% of younger adults did so.

Wobbly New Hampshire Polls

Three New Hampshire polls of likely Democratic primary voters, all conducted in early January, had widely varying results. The Newsweek survey showed Gore ahead of Bradley by a healthy margin (50% to 36%), while the Washington Post/ABC News poll had the two men in a statistical dead heat (Bradley leading 48% to 47%). Bradley led Gore in the Quinnipiac survey (47% to 37%). Differing percentages of Independents in the three polls accounted for some of the variation — independent voters who plan to vote in the Democratic primary made up 45% of the Newsweek sample, 30% of Post/ABC sample, and 36% of those surveyed in the Quinnipiac poll. There has been less variability on the Republican side, where most recent polls show McCain with a modest lead.

New Hampshire Democratic Primary Voters								
(Based on New Hampshire likely Democratic voters)								
	----- Democrats -----				----- Independents -----			
	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bradley</u>	<u>Other/ Undecided</u>	<u>(% of Sample)</u>	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bradley</u>	<u>Other/ Undecided</u>	<u>(% of Sample)</u>
	%	%	%		%	%	%	
<i>Washington Post/ABC</i> 01/13-16/00534 -- N=534	53	43	4=100	(70)	39	55	6=100	(30)
<i>Newsweek</i> 01/12-14/00 -- N=285	50	35	15=100	(55)	50	38	12=100	(45)
<i>Quinnipiac College</i> 01/7-11/00 -- N=416	40	42	18=100	(64)	32	55	13=100	(36)
New Hampshire Republican Primary Voters								
(Based on New Hampshire likely Republican voters)								
	----- Republicans -----				----- Independents -----			
	<u>Bush</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Other/ Undecided</u>	<u>(% of Sample)</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Other/ Undecided</u>	<u>(% of Sample)</u>
	%	%	%		%	%	%	
<i>Washington Post/ABC</i> 01/13-16/00 -- N=733	45	32	23=100	(75)	21	49	30=100	(25)
<i>Newsweek</i> 01/12-14/00 -- N=347	35	40	25=100	(65)	33	46	21=100	(35)
<i>Quinnipiac College</i> 01/7-11/00 -- N=567	29	34	37=100	(71)	26	46	28=100	(29)

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

	Rescued Cuban <u>Boy+</u> %	Y2K Cele- brations+ %	Terrorist Arrests in U.S.+ %	2000 Presidential Election %	Indian Airlines Hostages+ %	AOL/ Time- Warner %	Yeltsin Resignation+ %	Chechnya Conflict+ %	(N)
Total	39	35	23	19	19	17	11	10	(1091)
Sex									
Male	38	34	22	20	21	19	14	13	(514)
Female	40	36	23	18	17	14	9	8	(577)
Race									
White	38	33	22	19	17	16	12	10	(914)
Non-White	42	48	30	18	27	23	10	14	(159)
Age									
Under 30	27	37	17	16	15	12	7	4	(233)
30-49	36	33	22	16	17	18	10	9	(457)
50+	50	37	27	23	22	17	16	16	(388)
Education									
College Grad.	36	25	20	25	20	23	17	12	(343)
Some College	34	37	24	18	17	18	14	12	(315)
H. S. Grad & Below	43	39	23	16	19	13	8	9	(430)
Region									
East	42	36	28	20	17	24	15	8	(180)
Midwest	40	34	21	17	18	13	6	10	(251)
South	34	37	21	19	20	16	14	9	(432)
West	42	30	23	20	19	15	9	14	(228)
Party ID									
Republican	35	28	25	23	16	20	13	13	(335)
Democrat	49	38	25	22	21	17	10	11	(337)
Independent	35	38	19	14	24	14	12	8	(326)

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

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

DEMOCRATIC PREFERENCE BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

(Based on Registered Democrats/Lean Democrat)

	----- December 1999 -----			----- January 2000 -----			Change in Gore %
	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bradley</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bradley</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	53	38	9=100	68	24	8=100	+15
Sex							
Male	53	42	5	72	23	5	+19
Female	54	35	11	65	25	10	+11
Race							
White	49	43	8	67	26	7	+18
Race and Sex							
White Men	48	47	5	70	27	3	+22
White Women	50	38	12	65	26	9	+15
Age							
Under 50	55	37	8	66	28	6	+11
50+	52	40	8	70	19	11	+18
Education							
College Grad.	46	46	8	54	40	6	+8
Some College	57	33	10	70	24	6	+13
H. S. Grad. & Below	55	37	8	73	18	9	+18
Family Income							
\$50,000+	45	49	6	60	34	6	+15
\$30,000-\$49,999	57	34	9	79	16	5	+22
<\$30,000	62	30	8	66	25	9	+4
Party ID							
Independent	49	41	10	51	33	16	+2
Democrat	54	38	8	73	22	5	+19

Question: There are now two candidates for the Democratic nomination for President in 2000, Al Gore and Bill Bradley. Please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Democratic Party's candidate for President? Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

TREND IN PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEAT*

(Based on Registered Voters)

	----- September 1999 -----				----- January 2000 -----			
	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	35	49	10	6=100	39	51	4	6=100
Sex								
Male	33	51	11	5	35	54	5	6
Female	37	47	9	7	42	49	4	5
Race								
White	31	53	11	5	35	56	4	5
Non-white	63	22	7	8	71	23	4	2
Black	70	15	7	8	76	18	3	3
Age								
Under 30	35	43	13	9	37	53	5	5
30-49	33	52	10	5	38	52	5	5
50-64	38	49	8	5	37	53	4	6
65+	38	48	9	5	47	45	3	5
Education								
College Grad.	35	52	7	6	36	58	3	3
Some College	34	51	10	5	40	52	4	4
H.S. Grad & Below	37	46	11	6	41	46	5	8
Family Income								
\$75,000+	30	57	8	5	28	64	4	4
\$50,000-\$74,999	29	61	7	3	44	49	4	3
\$30,000-\$49,999	34	47	14	5	38	51	6	5
\$20,000-\$29,999	44	42	9	5	45	44	4	7
<\$20,000	43	37	11	9	47	43	3	7
Region								
East	38	41	14	7	34	54	5	7
Midwest	38	46	11	5	39	49	6	6
South	32	54	7	7	40	53	3	4
West	34	52	9	5	44	48	4	4

* Includes leaners.

Question: Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat, George W. Bush, the Republican, and Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party. Who would you vote for? As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat, Bush, the Republican, or Buchanan of the Reform Party?

Continued ...

	----- September 1999 -----				----- January 2000 -----			
	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	35	49	10	6=100	39	51	4	6=100
Religious Affiliation								
Total White Protestant	28	56	11	5	29	62	5	4
White Protestant Evangelical	23	60	11	6	24	65	6	5
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	35	50	12	3	32	60	4	4
White Catholic	31	53	10	6	39	51	6	4
Community Size								
Large City	41	45	7	7	55	38	1	6
Suburb	35	47	11	7	40	52	5	3
Small City/Town	33	51	12	4	38	52	5	5
Rural Area	34	53	8	5	27	60	6	7
Party ID								
Republican	6	85	6	3	8	89	1	2
Democrat	77	13	6	4	79	15	2	4
Independent	25	50	17	8	34	49	9	8
Clinton Approval								
Approve	54	31	9	6	63	29	4	4
Disapprove	9	74	12	5	8	85	4	3
GOP Congressional Approval								
Approve	15	69	12	4	24	71	3	2
Disapprove	53	34	8	5	57	33	5	5
1996 Presidential Vote								
Clinton	62	25	7	6	72	21	3	4
Dole	5	86	8	1	1	95	2	2

PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

(Demographic Breakdown of Top 10 Responses)

	Improving the Educational <u>System</u> %	Keeping the Economy <u>Strong</u> %	Securing Social <u>Security</u> %	Reducing <u>Crime</u> %	Securing <u>Medicare</u> %
Total	77	70	69	69	64
Sex					
Male	76	71	67	63	60
Female	78	70	70	75	67
Race					
White	75	70	67	67	62
Non-white	86	75	77	82	73
Black	86	72	78	83	81
Race and Sex					
White Men	74	70	65	60	57
White Women	77	70	69	73	68
Age					
Under 30	85	73	57	72	58
30-49	75	69	68	66	64
50+	74	72	76	72	68
Education					
College Grad.	68	65	60	59	53
Some College	81	74	68	66	64
H..S. Grad. & Below	79	71	73	76	69
Family Income					
\$75,000+	72	70	59	58	56
\$50,000-\$74,999	76	73	71	59	63
\$30,000-\$49,999	79	67	75	72	66
<\$30,000	77	72	70	74	64
Region					
East	71	72	64	67	63
Midwest	78	73	66	70	64
South	77	67	73	73	61
West	80	72	69	64	67

Question: As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should (INSERT ITEM) be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?

Continued ...

	Improving the Educational <u>System</u>	Keeping the Economy <u>Strong</u>	Securing Social <u>Security</u>	Reducing <u>Crime</u>	Securing <u>Medicare</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Total</i>	77	70	69	69	64
<i>Religious Affiliation</i>					
Total White Protestant	73	70	67	65	61
White Protestant Evangelical	70	67	69	68	58
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	72	70	65	63	59
White Catholic	75	71	68	73	64
<i>Community Size</i>					
Large City	85	74	71	77	68
Suburb	74	69	70	59	53
Small City/Town	78	70	68	69	67
Rural Area	70	68	66	74	66
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	68	67	61	67	54
Democrat	78	73	77	75	69
Independent	84	74	67	65	67
<i>Clinton Approval</i>					
Approve	78	77	73	72	65
Disapprove	75	63	62	68	61
<i>GOP Congressional Approval</i>					
Approve	73	70	65	70	57
Disapprove	78	71	76	70	70
<i>1996 Presidential Vote</i>					
Clinton	78	73	75	73	67
Dole	65	62	57	57	48

PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT con't

(Demographic Breakdown of Top 10 Responses)

	<u>Regulating HMOs And Managed Health Care Plans</u>	<u>Providing Health Insurance to the Uninsured</u>	<u>Dealing with Problems of the Poor and Needy</u>	<u>Adding Prescription Drug Benefits</u>	<u>Protecting the Environment</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Total</i>	56	55	55	54	54
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	51	47	47	47	55
Female	60	62	61	61	53
<i>Race</i>					
White	53	52	51	53	52
Non-white	67	71	81	60	66
Black	71	74	86	62	70
<i>Race and Sex</i>					
White Men	48	44	43	44	51
White Women	58	59	59	61	52
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	50	48	53	48	59
30-49	55	54	53	52	53
50+	60	59	57	62	53
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	60	46	45	44	43
Some College	45	53	51	43	52
H.S. Grad. & Below	58	68	61	65	60
<i>Family Income</i>					
\$75,000+	46	38	43	39	41
\$50,000-\$74,999	62	50	50	57	60
\$30,000-\$49,999	54	59	60	48	54
>\$30,000	55	62	57	63	57
<i>Region</i>					
East	57	60	52	49	46
Midwest	59	52	52	59	53
South	60	54	58	58	60
West	43	53	54	49	52

Question: As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should (INSERT ITEM) be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?

Continued ...

	<u>Regulating HMOs And Managed Health Care Plans</u>	<u>Providing Health Insurance to the Uninsured</u>	<u>Dealing with Problems of the Poor and Needy</u>	<u>Adding Prescription Drug Benefits</u>	<u>Protecting the Environment</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
<i>Total</i>	56	55	55	54	54
<i>Religious Affiliation</i>					
Total White Protestant	53	50	49	52	49
White Protestant Evangelical	50	54	52	54	45
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	55	45	47	49	54
White Catholic	50	52	49	50	51
<i>Community Size</i>					
Large City	63	65	65	67	60
Suburb	53	45	46	43	47
Small City/Town	50	54	54	53	52
Rural Area	61	56	53	57	59
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	45	40	42	43	40
Democrat	70	67	65	66	59
Independent	54	55	53	52	60
<i>Clinton Approval</i>					
Approve	62	60	61	63	62
Disapprove	47	44	46	44	44
<i>GOP Congressional Approval</i>					
Approve	52	48	49	50	55
Disapprove	60	58	58	57	55
<i>1996 Presidential Vote</i>					
Clinton	69	62	61	65	62
Dole	40	33	35	34	33

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 1,091 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period January 12-16, 2000. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=529) or Form 2 (N=562), the sampling error is plus or minus 5 percentage points. For results based on registered voters (N=851), the sampling error is plus or minus 4 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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2000 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
January 12-16, 2000
N=1,091

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton 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 Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
January, 2000	56	35	9=100
December, 1999	55	35	10=100
October, 1999	59	34	7=100
Late September, 1999	59	33	8=100
September, 1999	56	36	8=100
August, 1999	60	32	8=100
July, 1999	58	31	11=100
June, 1999	55	35	10=100
May, 1999	56	34	10=100
April, 1999	56	38	6=100
March, 1999	62	31	7=100
February, 1999	64	30	6=100
Mid-January, 1999	66	29	5=100
January, 1999	63	30	7=100
Late December, 1998	71	27	2=100
Early December, 1998	61	32	7=100
November, 1998	65	29	6=100
September 21-22, 1998	62	33	5=100
September 19-20, 1998	55	36	9=100
Early September, 1998	61	33	6=100
Late August, 1998	62	32	6=100
Early August, 1998	63	28	9=100
June, 1998	59	32	9=100
May, 1998	62	28	10=100
April, 1998	62	28	10=100
March, 1998	65	26	9=100
Early February, 1998	71	26	3=100
January, 1998	61	30	9=100
November, 1997	58	31	11=100
September, 1997	58	29	13=100
August, 1997	59	32	9=100
June, 1997	54	34	12=100
May, 1997	57	34	9=100
April, 1997	55	34	11=100
February, 1997	60	32	8=100
Early February, 1997	57	30	13=100
January, 1997	59	31	10=100
November, 1996	57	34	9=100
July, 1996	54	38	8=100
June, 1996	54	38	8=100
April, 1996	53	39	8=100

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
March, 1996	55	38	7=100
February, 1996	51	39	10=100
January, 1996	50	43	7=100
October, 1995	48	42	10=100
September, 1995	45	42	13=100
August, 1995	44	44	12=100
June, 1995	50	40	10=100
April, 1995	47	43	10=100
March, 1995	44	44	12=100
February, 1995	44	44	12=100
December, 1994	41	47	12=100
November, 1994	48	40	12=100
October, 1994	41	47	12=100
Early October, 1994	38	47	15=100
September, 1994	41	52	7=100
July, 1994	45	46	9=100
June, 1994	42	44	14=100
May, 1994	46	42	12=100
March, 1994	45	42	13=100
January, 1994	51	35	14=100
Early January, 1994	48	35	17=100
December, 1993	48	36	16=100
October, 1993	44	42	14=100
September, 1993	49	35	16=100
Early September, 1993	43	43	14=100
August, 1993	39	46	15=100
May, 1993	39	43	18=100
Early May, 1993	45	37	18=100
April, 1993	49	29	22=100
February, 1993	56	25	19=100

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
January, 2000	39	41	20=100
December, 1999	38	42	20=100
October, 1999	34	50	16=100
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100
September, 1999	35	48	17=100
August, 1999	40	44	16=100
July, 1999	36	45	19=100
June, 1999	37	46	17=100
May, 1999	38	44	18=100
March, 1999	38	47	15=100
February, 1999	37	51	12=100
Mid-January, 1999	36	51	13=100

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Late December, 1998	39	56	5=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
September 21-22, 1998	44	44	12=100
September 19-20, 1998	46	41	13=100
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Late August, 1998	48	36	16=100
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
June, 1998	42	38	20=100
May, 1998	40	41	19=100
April, 1998	41	40	19=100
March, 1998	43	39	18=100
January, 1998	43	41	16=100
November, 1997	41	43	16=100
August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 1997	40	44	16=100
February, 1997	44	42	14=100
January, 1997	38	47	15=100
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100
October, 1995	36	51	13=100
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

On another subject...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=529]:

Q.3F1 In the long run, do you think the accomplishments of the Clinton Administration will outweigh its failures, or will the failures outweigh the accomplishments?

	Early			Reagan Administration	
	<u>Aug</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>Jan</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>1998</u>	<u>May</u> <u>1987</u>	<u>Newsweek</u> <u>Feb 1987</u>
51 Accomplishments will outweigh failures	56	50	52	46	52
37 Failures will outweigh accomplishments	38	34	35	41	38
<u>12</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=562]:

Q.4F2 Now thinking about Bill Clinton's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you consider this year's State of the Union address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

		Jan <u>1999</u>
16	More important	27
22	Less important	16
53	Same	51
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

Q.5 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; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS AS INDICATED]**

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK (VOL)</u>
a.	News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election	19	34	28	18	1=100
	December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1=100
	October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1=100
	September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1=100
	July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1=100
	June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1=100
b.F1	The resignation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin	11	32	33	22	2=100
c.F1	The release of hostages from a hijacked Indian Airlines passenger jet in Afghanistan	19	34	29	17	1=100
d.F2	The debate over whether a 6-year-old boy rescued at sea should be returned to his father in Cuba	39	38	14	8	1=100
e.F2	The conflict between the Russian military and the rebels in Chechnya	10	25	30	34	1=100
	December, 1999	11	22	31	34	2=100
	February, 1995 ¹	10	27	27	35	1=100
f.F1	The coverage of New Year celebrations around the world	35	31	19	15	*=100
g.F2	The recent arrests of suspected terrorists in the U.S.	23	36	23	17	1=100
h.	The merger of America Online and Time Warner	17	28	27	26	2=100

¹ In February 1995, the story was listed as "Russia's fighting in Chechnya."

On a different subject...

ROTATE Q.6 AND Q.7

Q.6 Do you happen to know the names of any of the Republicans running for their party's presidential nomination? Who are they? **(OPEN-END; DO NOT READ RESPONSES; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE FOR MULTIPLE RESPONSES: "CAN YOU NAME ANY OTHERS?")**

			<i>-- September 1999 --</i>	
	Republican/		Republican/	
<u>Total</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>
59	71	George W. Bush	54	60
15	20	Steve Forbes	11	13
23	27	John McCain	7	10
4	6	Gary Bauer	2	3
4	7	Orrin Hatch	2	3
6	10	Alan Keyes	4	4
2	2	Other	2	2
*	*	Dan Quayle	7	9
2	3	Elizabeth Dole	16	22
6	5	Patrick Buchanan	7	10
--	--	Could not recall names	8	6
31	22	Don't know/Refused	29	24
	(472)			

Q.7 Do you happen to know the names of any of the Democrats running for their party's presidential nomination? Who are they? **(OPEN-END; DO NOT READ RESPONSES; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE FOR MULTIPLE RESPONSES: "CAN YOU NAME ANY OTHERS?")**

			<i>-- September 1999 --</i>	
	Democrat/		Democrat/	
<u>Total</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
52	55	Al Gore	46	47
31	29	Bill Bradley	16	15
4	3	Other	2	3
42	39	Don't know/Refused	48	47
	(465)			

ROTATE BLOCK Q.8 (8, 8a, 8b) WITH BLOCK Q.9 (9 and 9a)

Now, a few more questions about the presidential race...

Q.8 I am going to read you the names of some possible candidates for the Republican nomination for President in 2000. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican party's candidate for President? **(PROBE: PLEASE WAIT UNTIL I READ THE ENTIRE LIST OF NAMES BEFORE YOU RESPOND.) (READ AND ROTATE)**

Q.8a And who would be your SECOND choice? **(READ LIST AGAIN IF NEEDED) — SKIP Q.8b.**

Q.8b Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN [N=389]:

	Jan <u>2000</u>	Dec <u>1999</u>	Oct <u>1999</u>	Sept <u>1999</u>	July <u>1999</u>	Dec <u>1998</u>
George W. Bush						
First Choice/Lean Bush	69	64	63	56	60	57
Second Choice	17	20	19	21	19	17
Steve Forbes						
First Choice/Lean Forbes	5	8	6	5	3	9
Second Choice	14	18	9	8	11	14
John McCain						
First Choice/Lean McCain	17	17	10	6	4	4
Second Choice	31	25	12	6	8	6
Gary Bauer						
First Choice/Lean Bauer	2	1	3	1	2	1
Second Choice	4	4	2	1	2	3
Orrin Hatch						
First Choice/Lean Hatch	1	2	2	3	1	N/A
Second Choice	6	4	1	2	4	N/A
Alan Keyes						
First Choice/Lean Keyes	2	3	1	2	N/A	N/A
Second Choice	4	6	3	2	N/A	N/A
None of them (VOL)						
First Choice	1	3	3	3	1	5
Second Choice	12	8	5	4	5	15
Don't know/Refused (VOL)						
First Choice	3	3	3	4	2	5
Second Choice	6	8	4	3	2	8

ASK ALL:

Q.9 There are now two candidates for the Democratic nomination for President in 2000, Al Gore and Bill Bradley. Please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Democratic party's candidate for President?

Q.9a Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT [N=365]:

	Dec <u>1999</u>	Oct <u>1999</u>	Sept <u>1999</u>	July <u>1999</u>
68 Al Gore/Lean Gore	53	60	58	65
24 Bill Bradley/Lean Bradley	38	31	32	29
4 None of them (VOL)	4	5	5	2
<u>4</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.10 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat, George W. Bush, the Republican, and Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party. Who would you vote for?

IF '4' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK:

Q.11 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat, Bush, the Republican, or Buchanan of the Reform Party?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N= 851]:

		<u>Sept 1999</u>
39	Gore/Lean Gore	35
51	Bush/Lean Bush	49
4	Buchanan/Lean Buchanan	10
<u>6</u>	Other/Don't Know/Refused	<u>6</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

Q.12 If "6" represents someone who is very liberal in politics and "1" represents someone who is very conservative, where on this scale of 6 to 1 would you rate the following people and yourself? First, where would you place (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS, BUT ALWAYS ASK "Yourself" LAST) ? [IF ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW"/"NEVER HEARD OF" DO NOT PROBE.]

		<i>Based on Those Who Could Rate</i>							
		---- Conservative ----			---- Liberal ----			DK/ Refused	(N) ²
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>		
a.	Al Gore	10	7	23	22	22	16=100	16%	946
	May, 1999	11	8	17	19	22	23=100	13%	
b.	George W. Bush	13	26	30	14	10	7=100	16%	941
	May, 1999	15	24	27	15	10	9=100	15%	
c.	Bill Bradley	4	14	27	28	17	10=100	32%	756
	May, 1999	9	12	33	24	13	9=100	44%	
d.	John McCain	9	23	37	18	8	5=100	39%	681
e.	Bill Clinton	10	6	14	18	23	29=100	12%	972
	September, 1996	7	4	18	27	20	24=100	5%	
f.	Jesse Jackson	10	7	15	13	19	36=100	21%	889
	May, 1999	11	6	15	14	21	33=100	13%	
g.	Pat Buchanan ³	36	17	16	11	9	11=100	31%	776
	May, 1999	39	15	19	14	5	8=100	28%	

² Numbers listed are the number of respondents who could rate each candidate or themselves and on which all percentages are based, except the for the percentage of "Don't know/Refused" which are based on total.

³ In May 1999 the category was worded "Patrick Buchanan."

Q.12 CONTINUED ...

		<i>Based on Those Who Could Rate</i>							
		---- Conservative ----			---- Liberal ----			DK/	(N)
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Refused</u>	
h.	Yourself	15	16	31	16	10	12=100	8%	1023
	May, 1999	13	12	30	20	11	14=100	7%	
	September, 1996	17	10	31	18	13	11=100		
	September, 1988	14	15	29	20	12	10=100		
	<i>Newsweek</i> : 1984	16	9	31	19	12	13=100		

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.19 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Clinton and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE; OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about **(INSERT ITEM)**)?⁴

ASK ITEMS a THRU j OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=529]:

		Top	Important	Not too	Should Not	DK/
		<u>Priority</u>	<u>But lower</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Be Done</u>	<u>Refused</u>
a.F1	Improving the job situation	41	35	16	4	4=100
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3=100
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100
b.F1	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	56	30	7	3	4=100
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	69	24	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1=100
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2 =100
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100
d.F1	Paying off the national debt	44	38	11	3	4=100
	July, 1999	45	41	10	2	2=100
	January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4=100
	January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2=100

4

In July 1999 the question was worded: "Now a few questions about national issues. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority..."

Q.19 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Top</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Important</u> <u>But lower</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Should</u> <u>Not be</u> <u>Done</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Refused</u>
e.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	54	34	7	3	2=100
	July, 1999	57	30	8	4	1=100
	January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4=100
	January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2=100
	January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2=100
	December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3=100
f.F1	Reforming the campaign finance system	32	34	20	6	8=100
	July, 1999	28	37	23	7	5=100
	January, 1999	29	36	21	6	8=100
	January, 1998	32	34	24	5	5=100
	January, 1997	31	37	23	5	4=100
g.F1	Dealing with the problems of families with children	52	31	8	5	4=100
	July, 1999	58	28	6	4	4=100
	January, 1999	58	30	5	3	4=100
	January, 1998	55	30	9	4	2=100
h.F1	Strengthening gun control laws	46	25	16	11	2=100
	July, 1999	51	23	11	12	3=100
i.F1	Adding prescription drug benefits to Medicare coverage	54	31	9	3	3=100
j.F1	Protecting the environment	54	37	6	2	1=100
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1=100
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100
ASK ITEMS k THRU t OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=562]:						
k.F2	Improving the educational system	77	18	3	1	1=100
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
l.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	69	27	2	1	1=100
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1=100
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100

Q.19 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Top</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Important</u> <u>But lower</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Should</u> <u>Not be</u> <u>Done</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Refused</u>
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	64	30	3	1	2=100
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100
n.F2	Working to reduce racial tensions	46	40	10	2	2=100
	July, 1999	49	37	8	4	2=100
	January, 1999	49	35	11	3	2=100
	January, 1998	41	38	13	7	1=100
	January, 1997	50	34	9	5	2=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	55	38	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1=100
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	48	34	9	6	3=100
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4=100
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100
q.F2	Increasing the minimum wage	34	41	16	6	3=100
r.F2	Dealing with global trade issues	30	48	14	1	7=100
s.F2	Keeping the economy strong	70	25	3	1	1=100
t.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	55	32	8	2	3=100

NO QUESTION 20

ASK ALL:

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

Q.21 Do you happen to know which of the presidential candidates is now governor of Texas?

68 George Bush (*correct answer*)
 2 Other answer
30 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.22 Do you happen to know which of the presidential candidates was formerly a senator from New Jersey?

30 Bill Bradley (*correct answer*)

9 Other answer

61 Don't know/Refused

100

Q.23 Do you happen to know which of the presidential candidates co-sponsored a campaign finance reform bill in Congress?

17 John McCain (*correct answer*)

10 Other answer

73 Don't know/Refused

100