

**FOR RELEASE:
Monday, January 18, 1999, 4:00 P.M.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Andrew Kohut, Director**

Public Satisfied with State of Nation, Clinton Accomplishments Outweigh Failures
SENATE TRIAL: LITTLE VIEWERSHIP, LITTLE IMPACT

President Clinton's impeachment trial has neither engaged the attention of the American public nor changed its mind about the continuance of his presidency. The public gives Clinton high marks for his job performance, expresses satisfaction with the state of the nation, and registers even more contentment with their own lives than just two years ago. And most say Clinton's upcoming State of the Union address is as important as past speeches (51%) or more important (27%).

Fewer than one-third of Americans are paying very close attention to the Senate proceedings and just 15% say they have watched all or a lot of the live coverage of the trial. Fully 69% say that the trial has not changed their opinions about whether the president should be removed from office or resign. A steady two-thirds of the public wants Clinton to remain in office. One-in three say Clinton should be removed from office and, in a separate question, even fewer say he should resign.

Verdict on the Trial?				
	<u>All</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
<i>Watching the trial ...</i>				
All/a lot of it	15	18	16	14
Some of it	34	38	33	32
Hardly any of it	28	32	28	27
None of it	22	12	22	27
Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>In the Senate ...</i>				
Parties working together	19	23	17	17
Mostly bickering	76	72	76	79
Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>A fair trial?</i>				
Yes	55	75	42	52
No	34	17	44	39
Don't know/Refused	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100

The public judges the Senate trial much the way it did the House proceedings. An overwhelming 76% say the Senate is mostly bickering, compared to just 19% who say they are working together. When asked directly to compare the Senate and House proceedings, a 43% plurality see the level of partisanship as the same.

As in December, none of the major actors in the proceedings is given favorable marks. Congressional Republicans are given much lower ratings for their handling of the investigation (32% approve) than are Democrats (44% approve) or Bill Clinton (45% approve). The media too is rated poorly (35% approve). The one exception is Supreme Court

Chief Justice William Rehnquist who gets the best ratings (50% approve), but this may reflect his stature more than an appraisal of his performance. (Only 19% of Pew's respondents could name him as presiding over the trial, compared to 48% who correctly named Larry Flynt as the publisher putting up money for information about marital infidelity by members of Congress.)

What to Do with Clinton?			
	<u>11/98</u>	<u>12/98</u>	<u>1/99</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Should Clinton be removed?</i>			
Yes	23	31	32
No	70	65	64
Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Should Clinton resign?</i>			
Yes	--	30	28
No	--	68	69
Don't know/Refused	<u>--</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	--	100	100
<i>If not removed, censure?</i>			
Yes	--	50	50
No	--	47	45
Don't know/Refused	<u>--</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
	--	100	100

A 55% majority of Americans think the president will get a fair trial. Despite the lack of interest in the Senate proceedings so far, the public is divided over whether parts of the trial should be conducted in closed session: 52% say the trial should be entirely open, 43% say it's okay to close parts. Fewer Democrats than Republicans or Independents think the trial will be fair. All three groups are divided as to whether it should be entirely open.

High Marks for Clinton and the Nation

A full year of the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal has had little negative impact on how Americans judge the country or the president's job performance and overall record. In fact, more people are satisfied (53%) with *the way things are going in the country* than was true in early 1998 before the scandal broke (46%). Further, as many Americans say Clinton's accomplishments will outweigh his failures as said that about Ronald Reagan at a comparable time in his second term (50%-34% Clinton; 52%-38% Reagan).

Perhaps underpinning this view of the president and the country, Americans express high levels of satisfaction with various aspects of their own lives and continued optimism about their financial futures. Today, 45% of the public says they are very satisfied with their standard of living, up substantially from 35% in late 1996. Similarly, 37% say they are very satisfied with their household income, up from 27% in 1996. Americans are even happier about their family lives (71% are very satisfied) and with their housing situations (61%).

	<u>11/96</u>	<u>1/99</u>
	%	%
<i>Percent "very satisfied" with ...</i>		
Your family life	69	71
Your housing situation	56	61
Your free time	47	49
Your children's education*	44	46
Your standard of living	35	45
Your job	41	45
Your household income	27	37

* Asked of parents.

The increase in economic satisfaction over the past two years has been somewhat greater among those who are more affluent. Substantially more African-Americans say they are happy with their standard of living today, as well — fully 42% of blacks say they are very satisfied, compared to just 19% in 1996.

Overall, the public continues to express reservations about education in America today, although parents are much more satisfied than non-parents. Some 46% of parents are very satisfied with their children's education, compared to just 15% of non-parents who are very satisfied with the education children are getting.

Priorities

As the 106th Congress takes office, the public agenda remains much the same as it was prior to the 1998 elections, with at least 70% of Americans emphasizing education, Social Security and crime as top priorities. This is no different from January 1998, when these same three issues led the list of the public's concerns. What is different in 1999 is the emergence of health care reform as a major issue: 69% list it as a top priority, up from 62% last year and 56% in 1997.

	<u>'97</u>	<u>'98</u>	<u>'99</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Top Priority:</i>			
Education	75	78	74
Social Security	75	71	71
Crime	70	71	70
Health care	56	62	69
Medicare	64	64	62
Families with children	--	55	58
Problems of poor and needy people	57	57	57
Environment	54	53	52
Reducing income taxes for the middle class	42	54	52
Job situation	66	54	50
Moral breakdown	52	48	50
Reduce racial tensions	50	41	49
National debt	--	46	42
Campaign finance	31	32	29
Capital gains tax	29	25	24

Furthermore, as the country continues to enjoy economic prosperity, Americans are less concerned about employment issues than they were in past years.

Only 50% of the public lists jobs as a top priority, a drop of 4 percentage points since 1998 and 16 percentage points since 1997. Among 15 different domestic and economic issues, the public places the least emphasis on reducing the federal debt, reforming campaign finance and cutting the capital gains tax.

In general, both Republicans and Democrats rank the same issues — education, crime, Social Security and health care — as top priorities, but they give relatively different rankings to each. Health care reform takes lead post for Democrats (84%), but fifth place (56%) among Republicans. Conversely, while 64% of Republicans list dealing with moral breakdown as a top priority (ranking it 3rd), only 44% of Democrats agree. Indeed, morality does not make the list of top ten Democratic priorities.

Not surprisingly, senior citizens rank shoring up the Social Security (89%) and Medicare (81%) systems above all other items. Americans under age 30 place a lower priority on these two issues: 56% give Social Security a top ranking; 47% place Medicare this high. Conversely, young adults are much more likely than those 65 years and older to rank dealing with the problems of the poor (61% vs. 44%) and the environment (60% vs. 47%) as top priorities.

Women outnumber men in their emphasis on crime (79% vs. 61%), Medicare (67% vs. 57%), the environment (57% vs. 46%) and racial tensions (56% vs. 41%).

Democrats with Agenda Edge

On the public’s top priority items, the Democratic Party now enjoys a huge advantage over the Republicans. When it comes to improving education, protecting Social Security and regulating managed health care plans, the Democrats outrank the Republicans as the party with the best ideas by margins as great as 21 percentage points. The Democrats also have a clear edge on the classic GOP issue of tax cuts.

The Party with Better Ideas			
	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Neither/ DK</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Who has best ideas on...</i>			
HMO reform	46	25	29=100
Education	46	26	28=100
Social Security	46	27	27=100
Tax cuts	45	32	23=100
Global economy	38	33	29=100
Morality	29	37	34=100

The only issue on the which Republicans hold a significant advantage is improving morality in this country: 37% of Americans say Republicans have the best ideas in this area, compared to 29% who give Democrats the edge.

The percent of Americans who disapprove of the job the Republican leaders are doing is down slightly: 50% now vs. 56% in a late December poll taken immediately after the House vote to impeach President Clinton. Nonetheless, just 38% of Americans approve of the job the GOP leaders are doing. This number is virtually unchanged from November and December, 1998 and is in line with the average rating of 40% over the last four years.

Favorability ratings for Congress remain mixed: 48% of Americans have a favorable view, 45% unfavorable. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott also receives mixed marks: 27% have a favorable opinion of him, 30% unfavorable.

Looking Ahead to 2000

Potential presidential hopeful Elizabeth Dole gets high marks from the public. Fully two-thirds of Americans (66%) have a favorable opinion of the former Red Cross President; only 20% express an unfavorable view. Her appeal is not limited to Republicans: 56% of Democrats view her favorably, as do 68% of Independents.

Like Texas Governor George W. Bush, Dole stands up well in hypothetical match-ups against Vice President Al Gore for the 2000 presidential race: 47% of registered voters say they would vote for Dole, 43% favor Gore. At this point, Bush bests Gore 50% to 44%. In both cases, Independents favor Republicans Dole and Bush.

Most Americans don't think a woman president would be all that different from a man. When asked whether a women president would be better than a man at improving honesty and ethics in Washington, a 61% majority said there would be no difference. On the question of getting things done in Washington, 62% said there would be no difference between a woman and a man.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the main survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,200 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period January 14-17, 1999. 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=608) or Form 2 (N=592), 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.

OPINIONS ABOUT THE SENATE TRIAL

	<i>-- Clinton Getting Fair Trial --</i>			<i>-- Watched Live Coverage --</i>				<i>-- Trial Okay If --</i>		<i>N</i>
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>All/Most</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Hardly</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Closed</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	55	34	11	15	34	28	22	43	52	(1200)
Sex										
Male	55	37	8	15	33	28	23	38	58	(584)
Female	54	32	14	16	34	29	20	47	46	(616)
Race										
White	58	31	11	14	33	30	22	44	51	(976)
Hispanic*	53	43	5	17	42	27	14	34	56	(74)
Black	28	60	12	22	42	17	18	38	58	(110)
Age										
Under 30	51	43	5	12	34	28	24	40	58	(223)
30-49	55	36	9	11	33	30	25	44	52	(510)
50+	56	27	17	24	34	26	15	43	49	(451)
Education										
College Grad.	62	27	11	13	30	30	26	53	43	(384)
Some College	55	35	10	15	32	29	24	43	54	(313)
High School Grad.	53	36	12	17	35	28	19	36	58	(378)
<H.S. Grad	49	38	12	15	40	27	18	44	49	(118)
Region										
East	56	33	11	18	32	25	25	44	52	(238)
Midwest	58	33	9	15	35	31	19	47	48	(297)
South	53	34	13	16	36	30	18	42	53	(424)
West	52	37	12	14	30	27	28	40	54	(241)
Party ID										
Republican	75	17	8	18	37	32	12	45	48	(321)
Democrat	42	44	14	16	33	28	22	44	52	(406)
Independent	52	39	9	13	32	27	27	41	55	(411)
1996 Presidential Vote										
Clinton	44	42	15	17	30	27	25	42	52	(448)
Dole	80	16	4	19	34	31	16	49	46	(224)

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

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 1999 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
— FINAL TOPLINE —
January 14 - 17, 1999
N=1200

Hello, I am _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. **[IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]**

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, 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

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, 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

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=608]

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 Sept 1998	----- Reagan ----- May 1987	Newsweek Feb 1987
50	Accomplishments will outweigh failures	52	46	52
34	Failures will outweigh accomplishments	35	41	38
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=592]

Q.4F2 In the long run, do you think Bill Clinton will be a successful or unsuccessful President, or do you think it is too early to tell?

		Early Sept 1998	Feb 1995	Oct 1994	May 1994	Jan 1994	Oct 1993	Sept 1993	Aug 1993
44	Successful	38	18	14	21	21	18	22	13
24	Unsuccessful	24	34	35	26	19	25	22	25
29	Too early to tell	35	43	48	52	57	56	54	60
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NO QUESTION 5

ASK ALL:

Q.6 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'?

27	More important
16	Less important
51	Same
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.7 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? **[READ AND ROTATE LIST]**

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	(VOL) DK
a.	The impeachment trial of President Clinton in the Senate Late December, 1998 ¹	27 34	37 37	21 22	14 7	1=100 *=100
b.	Michael Jordan's decision to retire from basketball	18	28	26	28	*=100
c.	Cold winter weather and storms in the Midwest Early December, 1998 ²	37 39	34 35	17 13	12 12	*=100 1=100

¹ In Late December the story was listed as "The debate and vote in the House of Representatives to impeach Bill Clinton."

² In December 1998 question was worded "Unseasonable weather patterns."

Q.7 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL) DK
d.	Charges that Salt Lake City used illegal practices to win the 2002 Winter Olympic games	9	28	29	33	1=100
e.	Elizabeth Dole's decision to step down as president of the Red Cross and consider running for President in 2000	14	28	27	30	1=100
f.	Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market	24	28	19	28	1=100
	Early September, 1998	32	31	20	17	*=100
	Mid-August, 1998	17	23	21	39	*=100
	November, 1997 ³	25	36	18	20	1=100
	April, 1997	17	21	22	40	*=100
	February, 1996	12	20	25	42	1=100
g.	Recent military clashes between U.S. warplanes and Iraqi forces	37	42	14	7	*=100
h.	The adoption of the Euro as the official currency in much of Europe	9	21	26	43	1=100

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

K.1 Do you happen to know who is presiding over President Clinton's impeachment trial in the Senate?

19 Correct Answer
 12 William Rehnquist (*correct answer*)
 7 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (*correct answer*)
 13 Some other answer
68 Don't know/Refused
 100

K.2 Do you happen to know the name of the magazine publisher who has offered money to encourage people to come forward with information about sexual affairs with members of Congress?

48 Correct Answer
 42 Larry Flynt (*correct answer*)
 6 Publisher of Hustler Magazine (*correct answer*)
 4 Some other answer
48 Don't know/Refused
 100

³ In November 1997, April 1997 and February 1996 the story was listed as "Recent major ups and downs in the stock market."

Q.8 How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from computer online sources? **(ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES)**

		Jan <u>1996</u>	Sept <u>1995</u>	Jan <u>1994</u>	Sept <u>1993</u>	Jan <u>1993</u>
82	Television	88	82	83	83	82
42	Newspapers	61	63	51	60	52
18	Radio	25	20	15	17	17
4	Magazines	8	10	10	9	5
6	Online sources	--	--	--	--	--
2	Other (VOL)	2	1	5	3	1
*	Don't know/Refused	*	1	1	*	1

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

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

On another subject...

Q.10 All in all, would you say that you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
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

Q.11 Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 years of age?

37	Yes
63	No
<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.12 Please tell me whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied, on the whole, with the following aspects of your life: (First/Next) **(INSERT --READ AND ROTATE -- DO NOT START WITH 12e)** (are you satisfied or dissatisfied?) **REQUIRED PROBE:** Would you say you are VERY (dis)satisfied or SOMEWHAT (dis)satisfied.

	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Doesn't Apply (VOL)</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Your standard of living						
-- what you can buy or do	45	38	12	4	--	1=100
November, 1996	35	40	14	10	--	1=100
Newsweek: October 1991		62		38		=100
Gallup: September 1988		85		15		=100
Gallup: Sept/Oct 1973		71		27		=100
b. Your household income	37	38	14	9	--	2=100
November, 1996	27	38	18	15	--	2=100
Newsweek: October 1991		54		46		=100
Gallup: September 1988		69		31		=100
Gallup: Sept/Oct 1973		61		39		=100
c. Your family life	71	20	4	3	--	2=100
November, 1996	69	21	6	3	--	1=100
Gallup: September 1988		94		6		=100
d. Your job -- the kind of work you do	45	25	5	4	20	1=100
November, 1996	41	28	8	6	17	*=100
Gallup: September 1988		76		24		=100
Gallup: Sept/Oct 1973		79		21		=100
e. (NON-PARENTS) The education children are getting today/ (PARENTS) Your children's education						
Total	26	29	18	17	--	10=100
November, 1996	26	28	20	20	--	6=100
Gallup: Sept/Oct 1973		61		39		=100
Non-Parents (N=763)	15	29	23	23	--	10=100
November, 1996	14	26	28	28	--	4=100
Parents (N=437)	46	27	8	7	--	12=100
November, 1996	44	30	9	10	--	7=100
f. Your housing situation	61	28	6	4	--	1=100
November, 1996	56	31	7	5	--	1=100
Newsweek: October 1991		80		20		=100
Gallup: September 1988		87		13		=100
Gallup: Sept/Oct 1973		74		23		=100
g. Your free time -- the time when you are not working	49	31	10	5	4	1=100
November, 1996	47	30	12	7	3	1=100
Gallup: September 1988		87		13		=100

Q.12h Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

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

On another subject...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

Q.13F1 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and Texas Governor George W. Bush, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

IF '3' OTHER, '8' DON'T KNOW, OR '9' REFUSED, ASK:

Q.14F1 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=472]

		Early Sept
		<u>1998</u>
44	Gore/Lean Gore	40
50	Bush/Lean Bush	53
<u>6</u>	Undecided/Other	<u>7</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

Q.15F2 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and Elizabeth Dole, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

IF '3' OTHER, '8' DON'T KNOW, OR '9' REFUSED, ASK:

Q.16F2 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat or Dole, the Republican?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=458]

43	Gore/Lean Gore
47	Dole/Lean Dole
<u>10</u>	Undecided/Other
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.17 Now a few 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**) be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about (**INSERT ITEM**)?)

		<u>Top Priority</u>	<u>Important But lower Priority</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Should Not be Done</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
ASK FORM 1: [N=608]						
a.F1	Improving the job situation	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	Reforming health care	69	21	4	4	2=100
	January, 1998	62	27	6	3	2=100
	January, 1997	56	32	7	4	1=100
	December, 1994	54	27	9	7	3=100
c.F1	Cutting the capital gains tax	24	40	18	5	13=100
	January, 1998	25	40	20	7	8=100
	January, 1997	29	38	17	8	8=100
	December, 1994	27	38	16	7	12=100
d.F1	Reducing crime	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
e.F1	Paying off the national debt	42	43	10	1	4=100
	January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2=100
f.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	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
g.F1	Reforming the campaign finance system	29	36	21	6	8=100
	January, 1998	32	34	24	5	5=100
	January, 1997	31	37	23	5	4=100
h.F1	Dealing with the problems of families with children	58	30	5	3	4=100
	January, 1998	55	30	9	4	2=100
ASK FORM 2: [N=592]						
i.F2	Improving the educational system	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
j.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100
k.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100

Q.17 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>
l.F2	Working to reduce racial tensions	49	35	11	3	2=100
	January, 1998	41	38	13	7	1=100
	January, 1997	50	34	9	5	2=100
m.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100
n.F2	Protecting the environment	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100
o.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100

Q.18 Now I'd like your views on some people and things in the news. As I read from a list, please tell me which category best describes your overall opinion of who or what I name. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... **(INSERT ITEM. ROTATE a-b; THEN ROTATE c-e)** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **(INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")**

NOTE: OCTOBER 1998 TRENDS ARE BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS.

		<u>Very</u> <u>Favor-</u> <u>able</u>	<u>Mostly</u> <u>Favor-</u> <u>able</u>	<u>Mostly</u> <u>Unfavor-</u> <u>able</u>	<u>Very</u> <u>Unfavor-</u> <u>able</u>	<u>Never</u> <u>Heard</u> <u>Of</u>	<u>Can't</u> <u>Rate</u>
a.	Trent Lott	4	23	19	11	27	16=100
	October, 1998	6	24	18	9	24	19=100
	Early September, 1998	5	22	17	6	34	16=100
	March, 1998	3	13	11	7	52	14=100
b.	Elizabeth Dole	21	45	13	7	3	11=100
	April, 1996	11	32	17	9	5	26=100
c.	Congress	7	41	30	15	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	11	41	29	12	0	7=100
	October, 1998	7	55	25	8	0	5=100
	Early September, 1998	7	59	22	5	0	7=100
d.	The Democratic Party	14	41	26	12	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	18	41	24	10	0	7=100
	October, 1998	11	45	29	9	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	13	47	25	8	*	7=100
	March, 1998	15	43	26	10	*	6=100
e.	The Republican Party	10	34	27	23	0	6=100
	Early December, 1998	11	35	27	20	*	7=100
	October, 1998	9	43	28	14	0	6=100
	Early September, 1998	9	47	26	11	*	7=100
	March, 1998	10	40	31	12	*	7=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=608]

W.1F1 Generally, do you think a woman president would be better than a man at improving honesty and ethics in Washington, or don't you think there would be any difference between a man and a woman president on this?

25 Woman would be better
 61 No difference
 5 Woman would be worse (VOL)
 5 Depends (VOL)
4 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=592]

W.2F2 Generally, do you think a woman president would be better than a man at getting things done in Washington, or don't you think there would be any difference between a man and a woman president on this?

17 Woman would be better
 62 No difference
 8 Woman would be worse (VOL)
 7 Depends (VOL)
6 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK ALL:

Q.19 As I read a list of issues, please tell me which party you think has the best ideas. (First), on the issue of (**READ AND ROTATE**) who has the best ideas... the Republican Party or the Democratic Party? **REPEAT FOR NEXT ITEM:** And who has the best ideas on...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL) <u>Neither</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a. Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	27	46	7	20=100
b. Cutting taxes for the middle class	32	45	6	17=100
c. Improving the educational system	26	46	7	21=100
d. Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	25	46	7	22=100
e. Dealing with the global economy	33	38	6	23=100
f. Improving morality in this country	37	29	17	17=100

On another subject...

Q.20 Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Bill Clinton should or should not be removed from office?

		Late Dec 1998	Early Dec 1998 ⁴	Nov 1998	<i>Based on Registered Voters</i>	
					Late Oct 1998	Early Oct 1998
32	Should be removed	31	29	23	28	32
64	Should not be removed	65	67	70	66	62
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.21 If Bill Clinton is NOT removed from office, what do you think would be better for the country... if Clinton were officially reprimanded or censured by Congress, OR if the matter was dropped altogether?

		Early Dec 1998 ⁵
50	Censure	50
45	Drop the matter	47
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

Q.22F1 If you had to choose, which do you think would be better for the country — if Clinton were to remain in office until the end of his term, OR if Clinton were to resign now, and turn the presidency over to Al Gore?

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

Q.23F2 If you had to choose, which do you think would be better for the country — if Clinton were to resign now, and turn the presidency over to Al Gore, OR if Clinton were to remain in office until the end of his term?

		Late Dec 1998	Early Sept 1998	Late Aug 1998	----- Gallup -----			
					8/17 1998	1/25-26 1998	1/24-25 1998	1/23-24 1998
69	Remain in office	68	76	75	72	68	67	71
28	Resign	30	20	21	23	26	25	23
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

⁴ For Early December 1998, November 1998 and October 1998 trend figures based on slightly different question, "Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Bill Clinton should or should not be impeached and removed from office?"

⁵ In December 1998 the question was "If Bill Clinton is NOT impeached, what do you think would be better for the country... if Clinton were officially reprimanded or censured by Congress, OR if the matter was dropped altogether?"

ASK ALL:

Q.24 Do you approve or disapprove of the way each of the following is handling the current investigation into the charges against Bill Clinton? First (**READ AND ROTATE; ALWAYS READ ITEM "d" LAST**)...

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a.	Republicans in Congress	32	60	8=100
	Early December, 1998	33	59	8=100
b.	Democrats in Congress	44	44	12=100
	Early December, 1998	44	46	10=100
c.	Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist	50	24	26=100
d.	Bill Clinton	45	49	6=100
	Early December, 1998	40	53	7=100
e.	The news media	35	59	6=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=608]

Q.25F1 Now that the Clinton impeachment inquiry has moved to the Senate, do you think that members of both parties are working together more to deal with the issue than members of the House did, or are the parties bickering more, or are they acting about the same as members of the House did?

24	Working together more
23	Bickering more
43	About the same
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=592]

Q.25a

F2 Now that the Clinton impeachment inquiry has moved to the Senate, do you think that members of both parties are mostly working together to deal with the issue, or are the parties mostly bickering with each other?

19	Mostly working together
76	Mostly bickering
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.26 How much of the live coverage of the Senate impeachment trial have you watched (**READ**)?

5	Almost all of it
10	A lot of it
34	Some of it
28	Hardly any of it
22	None of it
<u>1</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.26a Do you think Clinton will or will not receive a fair trial in the Senate?

55	Yes, will receive a fair trial
34	No, will not
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=608]

Q.27F1 So far, has the Senate trial itself made you more likely to support Clinton's removal from office, less likely to support his removal from office, or hasn't it affected your opinion either way?

12	More likely to support removal
15	Less likely to support removal
69	No effect
1	Haven't paid attention to trial (VOL)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=592]

Q.28F2 So far, has the Senate trial itself made you more likely to think Clinton should resign from office, less likely to think Clinton should resign from office, or hasn't it affected your opinion either way?

14	More likely to support resignation
12	Less likely to support resignation
69	No effect
1	Haven't paid attention to trial (VOL)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.29 Do you think it is okay if some parts of the Senate trial are conducted in closed session, or do you think that the entire trial should be open to the press and the public?

43	Okay if some parts are closed
52	Entire trial should be open
1	Depends (VOL)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	