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Public's Good Mood and Optimism Undeterred by Latest Developments
SUPPORT FOR CLINTON UNCHANGED BY JUDICIARY VOTE

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SUPPORT FOR CLINTON UNCHANGED BY JUDICIARY VOTE

Public support for the continuance of the Clinton presidency is unchanged by the deliberations and decisions of the House Judiciary Committee, but Americans appear unrattled by news of the President's possible impeachment.

Majorities say that their opinions about whether Bill Clinton should be removed from office were not swayed either by the hearings or by the Committee votes in favor of four articles of impeachment. By a wide margin, people continue to feel that based on what they know now, Clinton should not be impeached and removed from office (67%-29%).

Judiciary Vote Had Little Impact				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Indep</u>
	%	%	%	%
<i>After committee vote...</i>				
Support impeachment more	15	31	5	15
Support impeachment less	23	11	36	22
No impact	58	55	56	61
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

However, the nationwide survey of 1,201 adults, conducted December 9-13 as the House Judiciary Committee cast historic votes for impeachment, found Americans in remarkably good spirits. Most of Pew's respondents said that 1998 has been a good year for them (72%), a good year for their community (78%), a good year for their state (74%), and even a good year for the country (59%). Further, there is little indication that the prospect of impeachment is dampening public optimism: 59% of Americans think 1999 will be an even better year for them.

At 61%, public approval of Clinton's job performance is in line with this rosy view of things. However, opinion is not all positive for him. A 53% majority of Americans disapprove of the way he has handled the investigation. Moreover, there is little indication that Clinton's talk to the nation last Friday gained him much public sympathy. In fact, respondents interviewed after his statement were marginally more critical than those interviewed before it (55% vs. 50%).

The President is not alone in getting a bad public review. All of the key players in the investigation are judged poorly by the American people. By a margin of 59%-33%, the public disapproves of Republicans in Congress for their handling of the inquiry. Chairman Henry Hyde also gets a negative rating: 37% approve, 43% disapprove. Democrats were judged only somewhat better: 44% approve, 46% disapprove.

Judging the Players			
	<i>Handling of Clinton Investigation</i>		
	<u>Appr</u>	<u>Disappr</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
Dems in Congress	44	46	10=100
Bill Clinton	40	53	7=100
Henry Hyde	37	43	20=100
Reps in Congress	33	59	8=100

Looking forward, the GOP can expect even more public condemnation should they impeach Bill Clinton: 33% of Pew’s respondents said they would have a worse opinion of Republicans in Congress, if they take this step, compared to 13% who said they would have a better opinion of them. Tellingly, only 27% of rank-and-file Republicans would have a better opinion of their party should they impeach the President, while 42% of Democrats and Independents would have a worse view of the GOP.

Also, looking ahead, the public thinks that similar scandals could best be avoided by making sure that a president’s private life remains private, rather than by electing a president with high moral character. Here partisanship makes a big difference as Republicans put an emphasis on a president of high moral character by a 64%-31% margin, while Democrats (14%-83%) and Independents (34%-60%) opt for more personal privacy for the country’s chief executive.

Moderate Attention Paid

Despite extensive media coverage of the impeachment debate and votes in the House Judiciary Committee, the public showed no more interest in the story this past weekend than it did all year. Just 32% of the country reported following the story very closely during the final Committee debate. This is consistent with the interest in the story throughout 1998. In fact, 64% of the public believes the media is giving too much attention to the story.

The muted interest is consistent with the low priority Americans place on impeachment. Just 28% of the public believes impeaching and removing President Clinton from office is very important to the nation. By contrast, three times as many Americans say that making Social Security financially sound is very important to the nation (87%).

Two-thirds of the public maintains that Congress is paying too much attention to the issue (65%), and they see politics motivating both Clinton’s critics and his defenders. By a margin of 71%-18%, the public says Republicans are pursuing impeachment for political reasons rather than because what Clinton did was serious enough to end his presidency. Democrats are seen with only slightly less jaundiced eyes: By 61%-26%, Americans say Democrats too are motivated by politics rather than the belief that Clinton’s actions are not that serious.

What’s Important To Americans	
	<u>%</u>
<i>Percent rating “very important”...</i>	
Reforming Social Security	87
Weapons inspections in Iraq	79
Middle class tax cuts	67
Campaign finance reform	48
Regulating tobacco sales	41
Major corporate mergers	41
Impeaching President Clinton	28

1998 — A Banner Year

	<u>Good</u> <u>Year</u> %	<u>Bad</u> <u>Year</u> %	<u>(Vol)</u> <u>Mixed</u> %	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref.</u> %
<i>Has 1998 been...</i>				
Your community	78	11	8	3=100
Your state	74	12	8	6=100
Am. consumers	73	12	9	6=100
You	72	17	10	1=100
The country	59	25	12	4=100
News media	52	32	8	8=100
Wall Street	44	20	13	23=100
Democratic Party	34	43	10	13=100
Republican Party	32	42	13	13=100
National politics	20	58	11	11=100

Looking to the Future...

	<u>All</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
<i>How to avoid similar scandals</i>				
Elect president with high moral character		34	64	14
Make sure a president's private life stays private		60	31	83
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,201 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period December 9-13, 1998. 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=599) or Form 2 (N=602), the sampling error is plus or minus 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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
DECEMBER 1998 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
— FINAL TOPLINE —
December 9 - 13, 1998
N=1201

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>
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
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

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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>
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

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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

NO QUESTION 3 OR 4

Q.5 Looking ahead, so far as you are concerned, do you think that 1999 will be better or worse than 1998?

		----- Gallup End of Year -----									
		Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec
		1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1986	1985	1984	1982	1981
59	Better	59	64	61	61	48	53	64	61	50	41
25	Worse	28	20	11	31	42	25	20	20	32	44
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.6 Now looking back at 1998, do you think this has been a good year or a bad year for (INSERT ITEM; READ IN ORDER)? How about for...

		<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>(VOL)</u>	<u>DK/</u>
		<u>Year</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Mixed</u>	<u>Ref</u>
a.	You	72	17	10	1=100
b.	Your community	78	11	8	3=100
c.	Your state	74	12	8	6=100
d.	The country	59	25	12	4=100
e.	National politics	20	58	11	11=100
f.	Wall Street	44	20	13	23=100
g.	The Democratic Party	34	43	10	13=100
h.	The Republican Party	32	42	13	13=100
i.	The news media	52	32	8	8=100
j.	American consumers	73	12	9	6=100

Q.8 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; ALWAYS READ ITEM “I” LAST.]

INTERVIEWER: OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES: [FORM 1 N=599; FORM 2 N=602]

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	(VOL) DK
a.	The impeachment inquiry in Congress into allegations against President Clinton	32	38	19	10	1=100
	September 21-22, 1998	28	40	23	9	*=100 (N=352)
	September 19-20, 1998	33	37	22	7	1=100 (N=256)
	Early September, 1998	36	36	17	10	1=100
	Late August, 1998	33	39	19	8	1=100
	Mid-August, 1998	26	30	20	24	*=100
	Early August, 1998	29	34	22	14	1=100
	June, 1998 ¹	28	32	24	15	1=100
	April, 1998	27	39	20	14	*=100
	March, 1998	30	35	25	9	1=100
	February, 1998 ²	21	44	25	10	*=100
	Early February, 1998	34	42	17	7	0=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : 1/27/98	37	43	15	4	1=100
	<i>CBS</i> : 1/26/98	38	41	15	5	1=100
b.F1	The debate over whether former Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet (Pronounced: PEE- no-shay) should face trial in Spain	3	12	18	65	2=100
c.F2	Actor Michael J. Fox’s announcement that he has Parkinson’s disease	13	32	28	25	2=100
d.F1	The merger of Exxon and Mobil	8	26	27	38	1=100
e.F2	America Online’s purchase of Netscape Communications	6	19	23	50	2=100
f.F1	A settlement reached by four major tobacco companies and 46 states to restrict the sale and marketing of tobacco products	19	39	25	17	*=100

¹ In June, April and March 1998, story was listed as “Allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton.”

² In February 1998, story was listed as “Allegations that President Clinton had an affair with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky.”

Q.8 CONTINUED...

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL) DK
g.	The debate about whether or not to renew the law authorizing the independent counsel to look into possible wrongdoing by Presidents and senior members of their administrations	14	29	26	30	1=100
h.F2	Unseasonable weather patterns	39	35	13	12	1=100
i.	The airing of a videotape on 60 Minutes showing Dr. Jack Kevorkian ending the life of a terminally ill man	16	23	18	43	*=100

IF VERY OR FAIRLY CLOSELY IN Q.8g, ASK: [N=536]

Q.12 Earlier you said you had heard about the debate over whether or not to renew the independent counsel law. In your opinion, should this law be renewed or not?

48 Yes, should be renewed
 35 No, should not be renewed
17 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.17 Now as I read a list, please tell me how important each of these items is for the country... First, how important for the country is (**INSERT ITEM; ROTATE**)? Is this very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important?

NOTE: OCTOBER 1998 TRENDS ARE BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS.

		<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Fairly Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a.	Government efforts to regulate the sale of tobacco products	41	23	14	19	3=100
	October, 1998	37	21	25	16	1=100
	June, 1998	40	28	17	13	2=100
b.	Reforming the campaign finance laws	48	30	9	7	6=100
	October, 1998	48	35	12	2	3=100
	June, 1998	47	34	12	5	2=100
c.	Impeaching and removing President Clinton from office	28	12	15	42	3=100
	October, 1998 ³	19	13	22	44	2=100
	June, 1998 ⁴	18	14	19	48	1=100

³ In October 1998 question was worded "The investigation into the relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky."

⁴ In June 1998 question was worded "Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation into the relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky."

Q.17 CONTINUED ...

		Very <u>Important</u>	Fairly <u>Important</u>	Not too <u>Important</u>	Not at all <u>Important</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
d.	Major corporate mergers involving banks, oil companies and computer companies	41	30	13	9	7=100
	June, 1998 ⁵	42	34	13	6	5=100
e.	Efforts by UN weapons inspectors to determine whether or not Iraq is producing chemical or biological weapons	79	13	3	3	2=100
f.	Taking steps to make sure the Social Security system is financially sound	87	10	1	1	1=100
g.	Proposals in Congress to cut taxes for middle class Americans	67	20	5	5	3=100
	October, 1998	63	27	7	2	1=100

ASK ALL:

Q.20 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-c; THEN ROTATE d-f)** 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.

		Very Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Very Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Never Heard <u>Of</u>	Can't <u>Rate</u>
a.	Bill Clinton	23	32	19	24	0	2=100
	October, 1998	15	37	20	24	0	4=100
	Early September, 1998	18	39	18	23	0	2=100
	Late August, 1998	18	36	20	24	0	2=100
	March, 1998	22	40	19	16	*	3=100
	November, 1997	19	44	21	14	0	2=100
	October, 1997	15	47	20	16	*	2=100
	September, 1997	18	44	21	14	0	3=100
	August, 1997	16	45	21	17	0	1=100
	April, 1997	17	44	21	16	*	2=100
	January, 1997	17	49	18	14	*	2=100
	October, 1996 ⁶	12	45	22	19	0	2=100
	June, 1996	16	45	23	14	*	2=100
	April, 1996	16	41	24	16	0	3=100
	February, 1996	20	35	22	21	0	2=100
	January, 1996	13	43	27	15	0	2=100
	August, 1995	13	36	29	20	0	2=100
	February, 1995	14	41	25	17	0	3=100
	December, 1994	17	34	24	22	0	3=100
	July, 1994	15	43	25	16	*	1=100

⁵ In June 1998 question was worded "Major corporate mergers involving banks, automobile companies and airlines."

⁶ October 1996 trend based on registered voters.

Q.20 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Very Favorable</u>	<u>Mostly Favorable</u>	<u>Mostly Unfavorable</u>	<u>Very Unfavorable</u>	<u>Never Heard Of</u>	<u>Can't Rate</u>
a. Bill Clinton continued ...						
May, 1993	18	42	23	12	0	5=100
July, 1992	17	42	25	9	0	7=100
June, 1992	10	36	33	14	1	6=100
May, 1992	11	42	32	10	*	5=100
March, 1992	10	43	29	11	1	6=100
February, 1992	15	44	24	7	2	8=100
January, 1992	9	28	11	4	27	21=100
November, 1991	5	25	8	2	39	21=100
b. Hillary Clinton	32	34	16	15	*	3=100
October, 1998	24	34	18	18	*	6=100
Early September, 1998	24	40	18	13	0	5=100
Late August, 1998	25	38	21	13	*	3=100
March, 1998	26	39	17	14	*	4=100
January, 1997	17	40	23	17	*	3=100
June, 1996	13	40	26	17	*	4=100
April, 1996	12	37	27	19	0	5=100
February, 1996	14	28	27	27	0	4=100
January, 1996	10	32	28	26	0	4=100
October, 1995	14	44	24	14	—	4=100
August, 1995	16	33	25	22	*	4=100
December, 1994	17	33	25	20	1	4=100
July, 1994	19	38	22	18	1	2=100
May, 1993	19	41	18	11	1	10=100
c. Al Gore	18	40	22	11	1	8=100
October, 1998	16	37	25	13	1	8=100
Early September, 1998	13	44	22	13	1	7=100
Late August, 1998	11	44	23	14	1	7=100
March, 1998	17	42	19	11	2	9=100
November, 1997	12	43	26	12	1	6=100
September, 1997	11	35	28	15	1	10=100
August, 1997	15	39	22	15	1	8=100
April, 1997	12	45	24	12	1	6=100
January, 1997	18	47	21	8	1	5=100
July, 1994	18	49	19	7	2	5=100
August, 1992	22	44	15	5	2	12=100
July, 1992 ⁷	15	32	14	5	6	28=100
September, 1987	6	23	11	3	23	34=100

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July 1992 trend based on 461 respondents asked on July 9, 1992 only.

Q.20 CONTINUED ...

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
d.	Congress	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
	October, 1997	5	48	33	11	0	3=100
	August 1997	6	44	33	11	0	6=100
	June, 1997	4	48	34	8	0	6=100
	May, 1997	5	44	32	10	*	9=100
	February, 1997	6	46	31	9	*	8=100
	January, 1997	6	50	32	8	*	4=100
	June, 1996	6	39	38	12	*	5=100
	April, 1996	6	39	37	13	0	5=100
	January, 1996	4	38	38	16	*	4=100
	October, 1995	4	38	42	13	0	3=100
	August, 1995	5	40	34	13	*	7=100
	June, 1995	8	45	31	11	*	5=100
	February, 1995	10	44	27	10	0	9=100
	July, 1994	7	46	34	9	*	4=100
	May, 1993	8	35	35	13	0	9=100
	November, 1991	7	44	34	9	0	6=100
	March, 1991	16	50	19	7	0	8=100
	May, 1990	6	53	25	9	1	6=100
	May, 1988	8	56	23	5	0	8=100
	January, 1988	6	58	25	4	0	7=100
	May, 1987	10	64	16	4	*	6=100
	January, 1987	7	52	23	8	0	10=100
	June, 1985	9	58	21	5	*	7=100
e.	The Democratic Party	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
	August, 1997	11	41	32	10	0	6=100
	June, 1997	10	51	25	8	*	6=100
	January, 1997	13	47	28	7	*	5=100
	October, 1995	9	40	37	11	—	3=100
	December, 1994	13	37	31	13	*	6=100
	July, 1994	13	49	27	7	*	4=100
	May, 1993	14	43	25	9	0	9=100
	July, 1992	17	44	24	9	*	6=100

Q.20 CONTINUED ...

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
f.	The Republican Party	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
	August, 1997	9	38	36	11	*	6=100
	June, 1997	8	43	31	11	1	6=100
	January, 1997	8	44	33	10	*	5=100
	October, 1995	10	42	28	16	*	4=100
	December, 1994	21	46	19	8	*	6=100
	July, 1994	12	51	25	8	*	4=100
	May, 1993	12	42	25	10	0	11=100
	July, 1992	9	37	31	17	*	6=100

NO QUESTION 22

On another subject...

Q.23 Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Bill Clinton should or should not be impeached and removed from office?

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

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=599]

Q.24F1 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?

50	Censure
47	Drop the matter
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=602]

Q.25F2 Some people feel that at a minimum Bill Clinton should be officially censured, if he is not impeached, to punish him for his behavior. Other people feel this is not necessary, because he has been punished enough since the details of his private life became public. Which comes closer to your view?

45	Clinton should be censured
47	Already been punished enough
6	Neither (VOL)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.26 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. The Republicans in Congress	33	59	8=100
<i>Gallup: 12/4-6/98</i>	32	61	7=100
<i>Gallup: 11/20-22/98</i>	34	58	8=100
<i>Gallup: 11/13-15/98</i>	31	62	7=100
<i>Gallup: 10/9-12/98</i>	38	55	7=100
<i>Gallup: 10/6-7/98</i>	34	58	8=100
<i>Gallup: 9/23-24/98†</i>	32	59	9=100
<i>Gallup: 9/11-12/98†</i>	43	48	9=100
<i>Gallup: 8/10-12/98†</i>	33	52	15=100
<i>Gallup: 2/13-15/98†</i>	44	44	12=100
b. Democrats in Congress	44	46	10=100
<i>Gallup: 12/4-6/98</i>	47	44	9=100
<i>Gallup: 11/20-22/98</i>	44	46	10=100
<i>Gallup: 11/13-15/98</i>	44	46	10=100
<i>Gallup: 10/9-12/98</i>	44	46	10=100
<i>Gallup: 10/6-7/98</i>	44	46	10=100
<i>Gallup: 9/23-24/98†</i>	45	41	14=100
<i>Gallup: 9/11-12/98†</i>	43	44	13=100
<i>Gallup: 8/10-12/98†</i>	44	39	17=100
c. House Judiciary Committee Chairman, Henry Hyde	37	43	20=100
d. Bill Clinton	40	53	7=100

† Question wording: “Do you approve or disapprove of the way each of the following has handled the controversy over Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky?”

ASK H.1 STARTING WEDNESDAY; SUBSTITUTE H.2 AFTER THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE VOTES ON ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT.

[H.1 N=483; H.2 N=718]

H.1 So far, have the House Judiciary Committee hearings on impeaching President Clinton made you more likely to support Clinton’s impeachment, less likely to support impeachment, or haven’t they affected your opinion either way?

18 More likely to support impeachment
 25 Less likely to support impeachment
 54 No effect
 1 Haven’t paid attention to hearings (VOL)
 2 Don’t know/Refused
 100
 (N=483)

H.2 Has the House Judiciary Committee's vote in favor of impeaching President Clinton made you more likely to support Clinton's impeachment, less likely to support impeachment, or hasn't this affected your opinion either way?

15 More likely to support impeachment
23 Less likely to support impeachment
58 No effect
* Not aware of the vote/Haven't paid attention (VOL)
4 Don't know/Refused
100
(N=718)

ROTATE Q.27 AND Q.28

Q.27 If the House of Representatives decides to impeach President Clinton, will your opinion of Clinton be changed for the better, for the worse, or won't impeachment have an effect on your opinion of him?

7 Opinion changed for the better
5 Opinion changed for the worse
85 Impeachment won't have an effect
3 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.28 If the House of Representatives decides to impeach President Clinton, will your opinion of the Republicans in Congress be changed for the better, for the worse, or won't impeachment have an effect on your opinion of them?

13 Opinion changed for the better
33 Opinion changed for the worse
50 Impeachment won't have an effect
4 Don't know/Refused
100

ROTATE Q.29 AND Q.30

Q.29 Why do you think most Republicans are pursuing the impeachment of President Clinton — because they think what he has done is serious enough to end his presidency OR for political reasons?

18 Serious enough to end presidency
71 For political reasons
8 Both (VOL)
3 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.30 Why do you think most Democrats are against impeaching President Clinton — because they don't think what he has done is serious enough to end his presidency OR for political reasons?

26 Don't think what he's done is serious enough
61 Political reasons
8 Both (VOL)
5 Don't know/Refused
100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=599]

Q.31F1 Do you think Congress is giving TOO MUCH attention to the allegations against President Clinton, TOO LITTLE attention, or about the right amount?

65 Too much
 3 Too little
 29 Right amount
3 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=602]

Q.32F2 Do you think the media is giving TOO MUCH attention to the investigation of President Clinton, TOO LITTLE attention, or about the right amount?

		---- Whitewater Investigation ⁸ ----				
		Aug	May	Aug	March	<i>Newsweek</i>
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>March 1994</u>
64	Too much	69	43	45	55	44
2	Too little	4	14	15	7	10
31	About the right amount	26	39	37	33	36
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.32a In your opinion, how can we best avoid things like the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal in the future — by electing a president with high moral character, or by making sure that a president's private life remains private?

34 Electing a president with high moral character
 60 Making sure a president's private life remains private
6 Don't know/Refused
 100

8

Question worded: "Do you think the media is giving too much attention to the Whitewater case and White House handling of it, too little attention or about the right amount?"