PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS<br>JANUARY 1996 NEWS INTEREST INDEX<br>-- FINAL TOPLINE --<br>January 11-14, 1996<br>$\mathrm{N}=1,200$

Hello, I am $\qquad$ 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]

|  |  |  |  |  |  | Earl |  |  |  |  |  | Ea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ct | Sept | Aug | June | April Feb | Dec | Oct | Sept | July | May | Jan | Jan | Dec | Oct | Sept | Aug | June | May | April Feb |
| 1995 | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995} 1995$ | 1994 | $\underline{1994}$ | 1994 | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1993}$ | $\underline{1993}$ | $\underline{1993}$ | $\underline{1993}$ | $\underline{1993}$ | $\underline{1993} \underline{1993}$ |


| Approve | 48 | 45 | 44 | 50 | 47 | 44 | 41 | 38 | 41 | 45 | 46 | 51 | 48 | 48 | 44 | 49 | 39 | 39 | 45 | 49 | 56 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Disapprove | 42 | 42 | 44 | 40 | 43 | 44 | 47 | 47 | 52 | 46 | 42 | 35 | 35 | 36 | 42 | 35 | 46 | 43 | 37 | 29 | 25 |
| Don't know | $\frac{10}{100}$ | $\frac{13}{100}$ | $\frac{12}{100}$ | $\frac{10}{100}$ | $\frac{10}{100}$ | $\frac{12}{100}$ | $\frac{12}{100}$ | $\frac{15}{100}$ | $\frac{7}{100}$ | $\frac{9}{100}$ | $\frac{12}{100}$ | $\frac{14}{100}$ | $\frac{17}{100}$ | $\frac{16}{100}$ | $\frac{14}{100}$ | $\frac{16}{100}$ | $\frac{15}{100}$ | $\frac{18}{100}$ | $\frac{18}{100}$ | $\frac{22}{100}$ | $\frac{19}{100}$ |

Q.1a Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress? (IF "DON'T KNOW," ENTER AS CODE 9. IF "DEPENDS," PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the proposals and policies of the Republican leaders in Congress? IF STILL "DEPENDS," ENTER AS CODE 9.)

|  |  | Oct | Sept | Aug | June | April | March | Dec |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1994^{1}}$ |  |
| 36 | Approve | 36 | 36 | 38 | 41 | 44 | 43 | 52 |
| 54 | Disapprove | 51 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 39 | 28 |
| $\frac{10}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{13}$ | $\underline{14}$ | $\underline{17}$ | $\underline{14}$ | $\underline{13}$ | $\underline{18}$ | $\underline{20}$ |
|  |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[^0]ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...
INTERVIEWER NOTE: PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE RESPONSE CATEGORIES.
Q. 2 What do you think is the most important news event that happened in the nation or in the world in the past 4 weeks? (DO NOT READ)

International Stories
37 International (NET)
28 Deployment of U.S. troops to Bosnia
8 Bosnian peace accord

1 Death of Francois Mitterand

* Situation in Chechnya

Domestic Stories

## 36 Domestic (NET)

12 Budget negotiations between the President and Congressional leaders
11 Blizzard in Northeast states

10 Federal government shutdown
2 Whitewater investigation
1 Debate over future of Medicare

* Republican presidential campaign
$6 \quad$ Other (SPECIFY)
3 None

18 Don't know/Refused 100
Q. 3 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]
a. The deployment of US troops to Bosnia

| Very <br> Closely | Fairly <br> Closely | Not too <br> Closely | Not at all <br> Closely | (VOL) <br> DK |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 37 | 45 | 13 | 5 | $*=100$ |

b. News about the Republican presidential candidates September, 1995 August, 1995²

10
12

June, 1995
January, 1992
December, 1991
October, 1991
11
11
10
12
45
13
$5 \quad *=100$

| 34 | 31 | 24 | $1=100$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 36 | 30 | 22 | $*=100$ |
| 34 | 28 | 25 | $*=100$ |
| 31 | 31 | 26 | $1=100$ |
| 25 | 36 | 27 | $1=100$ |
| 28 | 32 | 30 | $*=100$ |
| 26 | 31 | 29 | $2=100$ |

c. News about the Whitewater investigation

August, 1995 ${ }^{3}$
May, $1994^{4}$
March, $1994^{5}$
January, 1994 ${ }^{6}$
Early January, 1994
11
11
22
11
14
13

| 28 | 33 | 28 | $*=100$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 26 | 32 | 30 | $1=100$ |
| 36 | 23 | 18 | $*=100$ |
| 38 | 28 | 21 | $2=100$ |
| 25 | 28 | 32 | $1=100$ |
| 29 | 31 | 26 | $1=100$ |

d. The debate in Washington about the federal budget

September, 1995
August, 19957
20
18

| 42 | 17 | 9 | $*=100$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 35 | 27 | 18 | $*=100$ |
| 34 | 27 | 20 | $1=100$ |

1991 and 1992 trends refer to Democratic candidates.
3 In previous month story was listed as "The Congressional hearings about Whitewater."
4 In previous month story was listed as "The Whitewater case and other issues about the personal finances of the Clinton's."

5 In previous month story was listed "News stories about the Whitewater case and White House handling of it".
$6 \quad$ In previous months story was listed "Questions about Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed real estate investments in Arkansas".

7 In previous month story was listed as "The debate in Congress over the federal budget."
Q. 3 con't ...

| Very | Fairly | Not too | Not at all | (VOL) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Closely | Closely | Closely | Closely | $\underline{\text { DK }}$ |

e. The debate in Washington over the future of the Medicare system September, 1995

30
$30 \quad 36$

| 22 | 12 | $*=100$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 18 | 11 | $*=100$ |
| 14 | 6 | $*=100$ |
|  |  |  |
| 26 | 26 | $*=100$ |

h. The marital problems between Prince Charles and Princess Diana 3 14
29
$54 \quad *=100$
i. The blizzard on the East coast 48

34
12
6
*=100

## ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q. 4 Thinking about your own situation, compared to 4 years ago, would you say that you are better off financially today or worse off financially today?

| Jan | Nov | May |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1991}$ | $\underline{1987^{8}}$ |


| 56 | Better off | 45 | 389 | 47 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 29 | Worse off | 41 | 44 | 20 |
| 14 | Same (VOL.) | 13 | 16 | 32 |
| $\frac{1}{100}$ | Don't know | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ |

Q. 5 Now looking ahead, do you expect that at this time next year you will be financially better off than now, or worse off than now?

|  | Jan | Nov | May | Jan | May | Jan |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1991}$ | $\underline{1990}$ | $\underline{1989}$ | $\underline{1988}$ | $\underline{1988}$ |
| 59 | Better off | 53 | 49 | 44 | 54 | 54 | 46 |
| 19 | Worse off | 24 | 26 | 24 | 15 | 10 | 18 |
| 17 | Same (VOL.) | 16 | 17 | 27 | 28 | 31 | 30 |
| $\frac{5}{100}$ | Don't know | $\frac{7}{100}$ | $\frac{8}{100}$ | $\frac{5}{100}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\frac{5}{100}$ | $\underline{100}$ |
| $\underline{100}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Q. 6 How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues? From television, from newspapers, from radio or from magazines? (ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES)

|  |  |  | Early |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Sept <br> $1995^{9}$ | Jan <br> Sept | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1993}$ |
|  | Television | $\underline{1993}$ |  |  |  |
| 61 | Newspapers | 82 | 83 | 83 | 82 |
| 25 | Radio | 63 | 51 | 60 | 52 |
| 8 | Magazines | 20 | 15 | 17 | 17 |
| 2 | Other | 10 | 10 | 9 | 5 |
| $*$ | Don't know | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 |

In September 1995 question was asked as "How have you been getting most of you news about national issues?'
Q. 7 In your opinion, who has been doing the best job of covering the news lately -- (READ RESPONSES)?

| 14 | Newspapers, |
| :---: | :--- |
| 20 | Local TV news, |
| 50 | Network TV news, |
| 4 | News Magazines, OR |
| 8 | Radio |
| $\frac{4}{100}$ | None of above/Don't know (VOL.) |

Q. 8 In your opinion, which TV network has been doing the best job of covering the news lately -- ABC, CBS, NBC, or CNN?

| Oct | Jan | Dec | Aug Jan | Sept | May | Mar | Feb | Oct | July | May | Mar $^{10}$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1993}$ | $\underline{1993}$ | $\underline{1993}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1991}$ | $\underline{1991}$ | $\underline{1991}$ | $\underline{1991}$ |


| 18 | ABC | 16 | 20 | 17 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 12 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 12 | CBS | 13 | 17 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 18 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 8 |
| 16 | NBC | 14 | 15 | 17 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 10 |
| 41 | CNN | 41 | 34 | 35 | 34 | 41 | 43 | 40 | 36 | 37 | 42 | 41 | 41 | 58 |
| $\frac{13}{100}$ | DK | $\frac{16}{100}$ | $\frac{14}{100}$ | $\frac{17}{10}$ | $\frac{17}{100}$ | $\frac{13}{10}$ | $\frac{17}{100}$ | $\frac{12}{100}$ | $\frac{13}{100}$ | $\frac{12}{100}$ | $\frac{14}{100}$ | $\frac{14}{100}$ | $\frac{14}{100}$ | $\frac{12}{100}$ |

## ASK SATURDAY AND SUNDAY ONLY:

Q.8a Did you happen to see any news reports about President Clinton's trip to Bosnia?

65 Yes, saw reports
35 No, did not see reports
0 Don't know/Refused
100
( $\mathrm{N}=303$ )

In March, 1991 respondents were asked which network was doing the best job of covering the "crisis in the Gulf".

## ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q. 9 Suppose the 1996 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Clinton, the Democrat and Bob Dole, the Republican. Who would you vote for?
IF ANSWERED "DON'T KNOW" IN Q. 9 ASK:
Q.9b Do you LEAN most to Clinton, the Democrat or Dole, the Republican?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

53 Clinton/Lean Clinton
41 Dole/Lean Dole

6 Other/Don't know/Refused
100
( $\mathrm{N}=895$ )
Q.9a At this point, why would you vote for (INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q. 9 -- BILL CLINTON/BOB DOLE)? (OPEN-ENDED -- ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES)

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

| Clinton | Dole |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 17 | 18 | Party |
| 5 | 4 | Strong leader |
| 3 | 3 | Experience |
| 6 | 5 | Character |
| 4 | 0 | Compassionate |
| 13 | 15 | Policy positions |
| 2 | 6 | Want a change |
| 33 | 2 | Has done a good job so far |
| 5 | 1 | Will protect important programs |
| 1 | 4 | Will balance budget |
| 1 | 0 | Will create jobs |
| 0 | * | War hero |
| 0 | 51 | Anti-Clinton vote |
| 28 | 0 | Anti-Dole vote |
| 4 | 2 | Other (SPECIFY) |
| $\begin{gathered} 3 \\ (\mathrm{~N}=\mathbf{4 2 7}) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2 \\ (N=337) \end{gathered}$ | Don't know/Refused |

ASK ALL:
NOW I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SOME THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE NEWS. NOT EVERYONE WILL KNOW ABOUT THEM.
Q. 10 In the budget negotiations going on in Washington, do you happen to know who has proposed a BIGGER tax cut ...President Clinton or the Republican leaders in Congress?

15 Clinton

46 GOP leaders (correct answer)
39 Don't know/Refused
100
Q. 11 And do you happen to know who has proposed BIGGER cuts in the rate of growth in spending on Medicare...President Clinton or the Republican leaders in Congress?

## 18 Clinton

57 GOP leaders (correct answer)
25 Don't know/Refused
100
Q. 12 In Bosnia...do you happen to know whether U.S. troops will make up most of the NATO peace keeping forces there, about half of the peace keeping forces, or less than half of the peace keeping forces?

31 Most
29 About half
21 Less than half (correct answer)
19 Don't know/Refused
100

## ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q. 13 Suppose the 1996 elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican party's candidate or the Democratic party's candidate for Congress in your district?
IF ANSWERED "OTHER" OR "DON'T KNOW" IN Q. 13 ASK:
Q.13a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

|  |  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Oct } \\ \underline{1995} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aug } \\ & \underline{1995} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Early |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nov } \\ & 1994 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Oct } \\ \underline{1994} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Oct } \\ \underline{1994} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Sept } \\ 1994 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 1994 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| 46 | Republican/Lean Republican |  | 48 | 50 | 45 | 47 | 52 | 48 | 45 |
| 47 | Democrat/Lean Democrat | 48 | 43 | 43 | 44 | 40 | 46 | 47 |
| 7 | Other candidate/Undecided (VOL.) | 4 | 7 | 12 | $\underline{9}$ | $\underline{8}$ | $\underline{6}$ | $\underline{8}$ |
| 100 |  | $\begin{gathered} 100 \\ (\mathrm{~N}=\mathbf{1 5 0 5}) \end{gathered}$ | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK ALL:
ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...
Q. 14 Generally, are you happy or unhappy that the Republican party won control of the U.S. Congress in November 1994?

|  |  | Aug | June | April | March | Dec |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1994}$ |
| 47 | Happy | 50 | 46 | 52 | 55 | 57 |
| 43 | Unhappy | 39 | 41 | 36 | 31 | 31 |
| $\frac{10}{100}$ | Don't know/refused | $\underline{11}$ | $\underline{13}$ | $\underline{12}$ | $\underline{14}$ | $\underline{12}$ |
|  |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q. 15 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling the economy? ${ }^{11}$

|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 1995 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Oct } \\ 1994 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 1994 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 50 | Approve | 46 | 45 | 38 |
| 42 | Disapprove | 46 | 46 | 56 |
| $\frac{8}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\frac{8}{100}$ | $\frac{9}{100}$ | $\frac{6}{100}$ |

Q. 16 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling foreign policy?
Newsweek
Q. 17 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-d; THEN ROTATE e-i) is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? (INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")

| a. | Bill Clinton | 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 | * | $1=100$ |
|  | 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 | 10 | 32 | 28 | 26 | 0 | $4=100$ |
|  | October, 1995 | 14 | 44 | 24 | 14 | - | $4=100$ |
|  | August, 1995 | 16 | 33 | 25 | 22 | * | $4=100$ |
|  | July, 1994 | 19 | 38 | 22 | 18 | 1 | $2=100$ |
|  | May, 1993 | 19 | 41 | 18 | 11 | 1 | $10=100$ |
| c. | Bob Dole | 8 | 44 | 28 | 15 | * | $5=100$ |
|  | August, 1995 | 12 | 37 | 26 | 12 | 2 | $11=100$ |
|  | February, 1995 | 17 | 41 | 18 | 10 | 4 | $10=100$ |
|  | December, 1994 | 17 | 41 | 18 | 10 | 5 | $9=100$ |
|  | July, 1994 | 14 | 45 | 19 | 9 | 6 | $7=100$ |
|  | May, 1993 | 11 | 37 | 20 | 8 | 11 | $13=100$ |
|  | May, 1990 | 7 | 45 | 15 | 5 | 13 | $15=100$ |
|  | May, 1987 | 9 | 51 | 11 | 3 | 9 | $17=100$ |

d. Publisher and Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes

5
25
$18 \quad 21=100$
Q. 17 con't ...

|  |  | Very Favorable | Mostly Favorable | Mostly <br> Unfavor- <br> able | Very Unfavorable | Never Heard Of | Can't <br> Rate |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| e. | Congress | 4 | 38 | 38 | 16 | * | $4=100$ |
|  | October, 1995 | 4 | 38 | 42 | 13 | - | $3=100$ |
|  | 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 | $6=100$ |
|  | 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 | * | $7=100$ |
| f. | The court system in this country | 4 | 31 | 37 | 25 | 0 | $3=100$ |
|  | January, 1994 | 2 | 41 | 35 | 18 | 0 | $4=100$ |
| g. | Network TV news | 25 | 58 | 11 | 4 | * | $2=100$ |
|  | June, 1995 | 16 | 51 | 21 | 9 | * | $3=100$ |
|  | July, 1994 | 17 | 52 | 22 | 7 | * | $2=100$ |
|  | May, 1993 | 23 | 58 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 4=100 |
|  | January, 1992 | 27 | 55 | 11 | 2 | 0 | $5=100$ |
|  | November, 1991 | 24 | 51 | 16 | 5 | 0 | $4=100$ |
|  | March, 1991 | 40 | 51 | 5 | 2 | 0 | $2=100$ |
|  | May, 1990 | 22 | 60 | 12 | 3 | * | $3=100$ |
|  | August, 1989 | 28 | 54 | 11 | 3 |  | $4=100$ |
|  | February, 1989 | 21 | 61 | 12 | 3 |  | $3=100$ |
|  | August ${ }^{12}$, 1988 | 29 | 52 | 9 | 5 |  | $5=100$ |
|  | May, 1988 | 20 | 58 | 14 | 4 |  | $4=100$ |
|  | January 27, 1988 | 12 | 69 | 13 | 3 |  | $3=100$ |
|  | January 7-18, 1988 | 18 | 60 | 14 | 4 |  | $4=100$ |
|  | October, 1987 | 19 | 62 | 10 | 3 |  | $6=100$ |
|  | May, 1987 | 21 | 63 | 11 | 3 |  | $2=100$ |
|  | January, 1987 | 19 | 55 | 16 | 6 |  | $4=100$ |
|  | July, 1986 | 30 | 53 | 10 | 4 |  | $3=100$ |
|  | August, 1985 | 30 | 51 | 8 | 2 |  | $7=100$ |
|  | June, 1985 | 25 | 59 | 8 | 2 |  | $6=100$ |

Q. 17 con't ...
h. The daily newspaper (you are most familiar with)

| Very | Mostly | Mostly | Very | Never |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor- | Favor- | Unfavor- | Unfavor- | Heard | Can't |
| able | $\underline{\text { able }}$ | able | $\underline{\text { able }}$ | $\underline{\text { Of }}$ | $\underline{\text { Rate }}$ |

r

| familiar with) | 27 | 52 | 11 | 5 |  | $5=100$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| June, 1995 | 22 | 52 | 14 | 7 | 1 | $4=100$ |
| July, 1994 | 23 | 57 | 13 | 5 | * | $2=100$ |
| May, 1993 | 26 | 55 | 10 | 4 | 0 | $5=100$ |
| January, 1992 | 27 | 51 | 13 | 5 | 0 | $4=100$ |
| November, 1991 | 24 | 56 | 11 | 5 | 0 | $4=100$ |
| March, 1991 | 30 | 55 | 7 | 3 | * | $5=100$ |
| May, 1990 | 22 | 56 | 12 | 5 | * | $5=100$ |
| August, 1989 | 25 | 52 | 12 | 5 |  |  |
| February, 1989 | 22 | 56 | 13 | 4 |  |  |
| August ${ }^{13}$, 1988 | 30 | 48 | 10 | 5 |  |  |
| May, 1988 | 19 | 59 | 13 | 4 |  |  |
| January 27, 1988 | 19 | 62 | 11 | 3 |  |  |
| January 7-18, 1988 | 21 | 59 | 12 | 4 |  |  |
| October, 1987 | 21 | 58 | 9 | 4 |  |  |
| May, 1987 | 22 | 59 | 12 | 3 |  |  |
| January, 1987 | 19 | 57 | 13 | 6 |  |  |
| July, 1986 | 28 | 51 | 11 | 6 |  |  |
| August, 1985 | 25 | 52 | 10 | 5 |  |  |
| June, 1985 | 25 | 56 | 8 | 3 |  |  |
| V news | 28 | 56 | 10 | 4 | * | $2=100$ |
| March, 1991 | 37 | 52 | 6 | 2 | * | $3=100$ |
| August, 1989 | 27 | 53 | 11 | 4 |  |  |
| July, 1985 | 27 | 57 | 9 | 2 |  |  |

## NOW A QUESTION ABOUT WHITEWATER...

Q. 18 Do you think the Clinton Administration is knowingly covering up information about Whitewater that could be damaging to the President or Hillary Clinton?

|  | March <br> $\underline{1994}$ | Newsweek <br> March |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 61 | Yes, cover-up | 52 | 52 |
| 23 | No cover-up | 28 | 29 |
| $\frac{1994}{100}$ | Don't know | $\underline{20}$ | $\underline{19}$ |
| 100 | 100 |  |  |

[^1]Q.18a A number of questions have been raised about Hillary Clinton's ethical conduct in the White House and before that in Arkansas. Why do you think these questions have been raised... because Bill Clinton's political opponents are trying to make her look bad, OR because she may have really done something wrong?

48 Trying to make her look bad
43 May have really done something wrong
$\underline{9}$ Don't know/Refused 100

## ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q. 19 From what you know about it, whose position on the budget issue comes closer to your own... Bill Clinton's or the Republicans' in Congress?

48 Clinton

42 Republicans
3 Neither (VOL.)
$\frac{7}{100} \quad$ No opinion/DK/Ref 100
Q. 20 How important is it to you that Congress balance the federal budget... is it very important to you, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all? ${ }^{14}$

## Gallup

July 1995

62 Very important 62
28 Somewhat important 26
6 Not too important 7
3 Not important at all 2
$\frac{1}{100}$ Don't know/Refused $\frac{3}{100}$

The question was worded as "Next, I'm going to read you some issues that are facing Congress. For each one, please tell me whether it is very important to you, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all ... That Congress balance the federal budget deficit."
Q. 21 Recently leaders in Washington have been saying that Medicare faces serious financial problems in the future. Do you think this is true, or do you think leaders in Washington are only saying this because they want to cut Medicare benefits as a way of balancing the budget?

> Aug $\underline{1995}^{15}$

56
39 Leaders only saying this as a way to balance budget 52

5 Don't know/Refused 100

True, Medicare faces financial difficulties
3711

100
( $\mathrm{N}=1293$ )

## -- NO QUESTION 22 --

Q. 23 What's your opinion...if the federal budget is balanced in seven years, do you think this will help you and your family financially, hurt you and your family financially, or not affect you and your family too much?

| 40 | Help |
| :--- | :--- |
| 20 | Hurt |
| 35 | Not Much affect |
| $\frac{5}{100}$ | (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused |

Q. 24 What about Medicare...if the proposed changes to Medicare that are being discussed in Washington are enacted, do you think this will help you and your family financially, hurt you and your family financially, or not affect you and your family too much?
$\begin{array}{ll}15 & \text { Help } \\ 40 & \text { Hurt } \\ 40 & \text { Not Much affect } \\ \frac{5}{100} & \text { (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused }\end{array}$

15 Based on those who had heard about financial problems faced by Medicare.
Q. 25 If the President and Republican leaders in Congress are able to agree on a plan to balance the federal budget in 7 years, who will deserve the most CREDIT for making this happen...(READ RESPONSES)?

31 President Clinton OR
47 Republican leaders in Congress
$9 \quad$ Both equally (VOL.)
3 Neither (VOL.)
10 Don't know/Refused
100
Q.25a If the President and Republican leaders in Congress are NOT able to agree on a plan to balance the federal budget in 7 years, who will deserve the most BLAME for this... (READ RESPONSES)?

39 President Clinton OR
40 Republican leaders in Congress
14 Both equally (VOL.)
$2 \quad$ Neither (VOL.)
5 Don't know/Refused
100
Q. 26 Do you think leaders in Washington should put off deciding how to balance the budget until after the Presidential election in November, OR do you think it is important that the President and Republican leaders find a way to do this now?

13 Should put off balancing budget
85 Should find a way to balance budget now
2 Don't know/Refused
100
Q.26a Thinking about the country as a whole, do you think we spend too much, too little or the right amount on health care?

|  |  | June <br> $\underline{1994}$ | April <br> $\underline{1993}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 33 | Too much | 38 | 36 |
| 44 | Too little | 40 | 49 |
| 20 | Right amount | 13 | 8 |
| $\frac{3}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{9}$ | $\frac{7}{100}$ |

Q. 27 Were you or a member of your family personally inconvenienced by the recent partial shutdown of the federal government or not? IF YES: Was it a major inconvenience or a minor inconvenience? ${ }^{16}$

| --- | ABC |
| :---: | :---: |
| News --- |  |
| Jan | Nov |
| $\underline{1996}$ | $\underline{1995}$ |


| 7 | Yes, major | 5 | 6 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 9 | Yes, minor/not sure | 6 | 6 |
| 84 | No, hasn't has any impact | 88 | 88 |
| $\frac{*}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{*}{100}$ |

## ASK ALL:

## NOW I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA

Q. 28 Do you approve or disapprove of President Clinton's decision to send 20,000 U.S. troops to Bosnia as part of an international peacekeeping force?

| 48 | Approve |
| :--- | :--- |
| 49 | Disapprove |
| $\frac{3}{100}$ | Don't know |

The question was worded as "Have you personally been inconvenienced by the partial shutdown of the federal government or not? If yes: Is it a major inconvenience or a minor inconvenience?
Q. 29 Do you think that U.S. forces will become involved in a major shooting war in Bosnia, or do you think the peace will hold in Bosnia?

38 Shooting war likely

52 Peace will hold

10 No opinion
100

## ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q. 30 How often if ever do you listen to radio shows that invite listeners to call in to discuss current events, public issues and politics -- regularly, sometimes, rarely or never?
17 Regularly

22 Sometimes
28 Rarely

33 Never
$\frac{*}{100}$ Don't Know/Refused
Q. 31 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school or at home on at least an occasional basis?

59 Yes
41 No (GO TO D.1)
$\underline{0} \quad$ Don't know/Refused (GO TO D.1)
100

## IF YES:

Q. 32 Do you ever use a computer at work, school or home to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?

36 Yes
64 No (GO TO D.1)
$\underline{0} \quad$ Don't know/Refused (GO TO D.1)
100
( $\mathrm{N}=736$ )

IF YES:
Q. 33 Do you ever go on-line to get information on current events, public issues and politics? IF YES: How often do you go on-line for this type of information... every day, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, less often, or never?
$7 \quad$ Everyday
$9 \quad$ 3-5 days per week
17 1-2 day per week
14 Once every few weeks
6 Less often
$47 \quad$ No/Never
$\frac{*}{100} \quad$ Don't know/Refused
( $\mathrm{N}=272$ )


[^0]:    1 In December the question asked "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

[^1]:    13 Based on Registered Voters

