PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS JANUARY 1996 NEWS INTEREST INDEX

-- FINAL TOPLINE --January 11-14, 1996 N=1,200

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]

| | | | | | | | | | Early | | | | | | Early | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | Oct | Sept | Aug | June | April | Feb | Dec | Oct | Sept | July | May | Jan | Jan | Dec | Oct | Sept | Aug | June | May | April | Feb |
| | | <u>1995</u> | <u>1995</u> | 1995 | <u>1995</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1994</u> | 1994 | 1994 | <u>1994</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1993</u> | <u>1993</u> | <u>1993</u> | <u>1993</u> | <u>1993</u> | <u>1993</u> | <u>1993</u> |
| 50 | Approve | 48 | 45 | 44 | 50 | 47 | 44 | 41 | 38 | 41 | 45 | 46 | 51 | 48 | 48 | 44 | 49 | 39 | 39 | 45 | 49 | 56 |
| 43 | Disapprove | 42 | 42 | 44 | 40 | 43 | 44 | 47 | 47 | 52 | 46 | 42 | 35 | 35 | 36 | 42 | 35 | 46 | 43 | 37 | 29 | 25 |
| <u>7</u> 100 | Don't know | 10 100 | $\frac{13}{100}$ | $\frac{12}{100}$ | 10 100 | <u>10</u> 100 | 12 100 | 12 100 | 15 100 | $\frac{7}{100}$ | $\frac{9}{100}$ | $\frac{12}{100}$ | $\frac{14}{100}$ | $\frac{17}{100}$ | 16 100 | 14 100 | <u>16</u> 100 | 15 100 | $\frac{18}{100}$ | 18 100 | | <u>19</u> 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 1995 | Sept 1995 | Aug 1995 | June 1995 | April 1995 | March <u>1995</u> | Dec 1994 ¹ |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 36 | Approve | 36 | 36 | 38 | 41 | 44 | 43 | 52 |
| 54 | Disapprove | 51 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 39 | 28 |
| <u>10</u> 100 | Don't know/Refused | <u>13</u> 100 | <u>14</u> 100 | <u>17</u> 100 | <u>14</u> 100 | <u>13</u> 100 | <u>18</u> 100 | <u>20</u> 100 |

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?"

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

3

18 100 None

Don't know/Refused

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**)

| Internat | tional Stories International (NET) |
|----------|---|
| 28 | Deployment of U.S. troops to Bosnia |
| 8 | Bosnian peace accord |
| 1 | Death of Francois Mitterand |
| * | Situation in Chechnya |
| Domest | tic 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 | Other (SPECIFY) |

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]

| | | Very <u>Closely</u> | Fairly <u>Closely</u> | Not too Closely | Not at all <u>Closely</u> | (VOL) <u>DK</u> |
|----|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. | The deployment of US troops to Bosnia | 37 | 45 | 13 | 5 | *=100 |
| b. | News about the Republican | | | | | |
| | presidential candidates | 10 | 34 | 31 | 24 | 1=100 |
| | September, 1995 | 12 | 36 | 30 | 22 | *=100 |
| | August, 1995 ² | 13 | 34 | 28 | 25 | *=100 |
| | June, 1995 | 11 | 31 | 31 | 26 | 1=100 |
| | January, 1992 | 11 | 25 | 36 | 27 | 1=100 |
| | December, 1991 | 10 | 28 | 32 | 30 | *=100 |
| | October, 1991 | 12 | 26 | 31 | 29 | 2=100 |
| c. | News about the Whitewater | | | | | |
| | investigation | 11 | 28 | 33 | 28 | *=100 |
| | August, 1995 ³ | 11 | 26 | 32 | 30 | 1=100 |
| | May, 1994 ⁴ | 22 | 36 | 23 | 18 | *=100 |
| | March, 1994 ⁵ | 11 | 38 | 28 | 21 | 2=100 |
| | January, 1994 ⁶ | 14 | 25 | 28 | 32 | 1=100 |
| | Early January, 1994 | 13 | 29 | 31 | 26 | 1=100 |
| d. | The debate in Washington about | | | | | |
| | the federal budget | 32 | 42 | 17 | 9 | *=100 |
| | September, 1995 | 20 | 35 | 27 | 18 | *=100 |
| | August, 1995 ⁷ | 18 | 34 | 27 | 20 | 1=100 |

² 1991 and 1992 trends refer to Democratic candidates.

In previous month story was listed as "The Congressional hearings about Whitewater."

In previous month story was listed as "The Whitewater case and other issues about the personal finances of the Clinton's."

In previous month story was listed "News stories about the Whitewater case and White House handling of it".

In previous months story was listed "Questions about Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed real estate investments in Arkansas".

In previous month story was listed as "The debate in Congress over the federal budget."

Q.3 con't ...

| | | Very <u>Closely</u> | Fairly <u>Closely</u> | Not too Closely | Not at all <u>Closely</u> | (VOL) <u>DK</u> |
|----|---|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| e. | The debate in Washington over | | | | | |
| | the future of the Medicare system | 30 | 36 | 22 | 12 | *=100 |
| | September, 1995 | 31 | 40 | 18 | 11 | *=100 |
| f. | The shutdown of the federal government | 42 | 38 | 14 | 6 | *=100 |
| g. | The announcement that AT&T will lay off up to 40,000 workers | 16 | 32 | 26 | 26 | *=100 |
| h. | The marital problems between Prince Charles and Princess Diana | 3 | 14 | 29 | 54 | *=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 <u>1992</u> | Nov <u>1991</u> | May 1987 ⁸ |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 56 | Better off | 45 | 389 | 47 |
| 29 | Worse off | 41 | 44 | 20 |
| 14 | Same (VOL.) | 13 | 16 | 32 |
| <u>1</u> 100 | Don't know | 100 | <u>1</u> 100 | <u>1</u> 100 |

In 1987 the question was asked, "Compared to five years ago, would you say you are better off financially, worse off financially or about the same?"

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 <u>1992</u> | Nov 1991 | May <u>1990</u> | Jan <u>1989</u> | May 1988 | Jan 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 |
| <u>5</u> 100 | Don't know | <u>7</u> 100 | <u>8</u> 100 | <u>5</u> 100 | <u>3</u> 100 | <u>5</u> 100 | <u>6</u> 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)

| | | Sept 1995 ⁹ | Jan <u>1994</u> | Sept 1993 | Early Jan <u>1993</u> |
|----|------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 88 | Television | 82 | 83 | 83 | 82 |
| 61 | Newspapers | 63 | 51 | 60 | 52 |
| 25 | Radio | 20 | 15 | 17 | 17 |
| 8 | Magazines | 10 | 10 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | Other | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| * | Don't know | 1 | 1 | * | 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,
 - Network TV news,
 - 4 News Magazines, OR
 - 8 Radio
 - $\underline{\underline{4}}$ 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?

| | | | | | _ | | - | • | Mar 1992 | | | - | - | Mar ¹⁰ 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 |
| 13 100 | DK | <u>16</u> 100 | 14 100 | 17 100 | 17 100 | 13 100 | 17 100 | 12 100 | 13 100 | 12 100 | 14 100 | 14 100 | 14 100 | 12 100 |

ASK SATURDAY AND SUNDAY ONLY:

- Q.8a Did you happen to see any news reports about President Clinton's trip to Bosnia?
 - Yes, saw reports
 - No, did not see reports
 - $\underline{0}$ Don't know/Refused 100

(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
- <u>6</u> Other/Don't know/Refused 100 (**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:

| <u>Clinton</u> 17 | <u>Dole</u> 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) |
| 3 (N=427) | 2 (N=337) | 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 |
|------|--|
| | cutPresident Clinton or the Republican leaders in Congress? |

- Clinton
 GOP leaders (correct answer)
 Don't know/Refused
- 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

100

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

| | | | | Early | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Oct | Aug | Nov | Oct | Oct | Sept | July |
| | | <u>1995</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1994</u> |
| 46 | Republican/Lean Republican | 48 | 50 | 45 | 47 | 52 | 48 | 45 |
| 47 | Democrat/Lean Democrat | 48 | 43 | 43 | 44 | 40 | 46 | 47 |
| <u>7</u> 100 | Other candidate/Undecided (VOL.) | <u>4</u> 100 (N=1505) | <u>7</u> 100 | <u>12</u> 100 | <u>9</u> 100 | <u>8</u> 100 | <u>6</u> 100 | <u>8</u> 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 1995 | June 1995 | April 1995 | March <u>1995</u> | Dec 1994 |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 47 | Нарру | 50 | 46 | 52 | 55 | 57 |
| 43 | Unhappy | 39 | 41 | 36 | 31 | 31 |
| <u>10</u> 100 | Don't know/refused | <u>11</u> 100 | <u>13</u> 100 | <u>12</u> 100 | <u>14</u> 100 | <u>12</u> 100 |

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

| | | June 1995 | Oct <u>1994</u> | July 1994 |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 50 | Approve | 46 | 45 | 38 |
| 42 | Disapprove | 46 | 46 | 56 |
| <u>8</u> 100 | Don't know/Refused | <u>8</u> 100 | <u>9</u> 100 | <u>6</u> 100 |

Q.16 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling foreign policy?

| | | June 1995 | Oct 1994 | July 1994 | Oct 1993 | Sept 1993 | Aug 1993 | Newsweek June 30-July 1 1993 |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 52 | Approve | 39 | 50 | 38 | 39 | 47 | 52 | 49 |
| 39 | Disapprove | 52 | 42 | 53 | 46 | 33 | 25 | 35 |
| <u>9</u> 100 | Don't know/Refused | <u>9</u> 100 | <u>8</u> 100 | <u>9</u> 100 | 15 100 | <u>20</u> 100 | <u>23</u> 100 | <u>16</u> 100 |

In 1994 question was stated as, "the way Bill Clinton is handling economic conditions in this country."

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 UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? (INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")

| | | 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 | 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 | _ | 25 | 21 | 10 | 10 | 21 100 |
| | Forbes | 5 | 25 | 21 | 10 | 18 | 21 = 100 |

Q.17 con't ...

| | | Very Favor- | Mostly Favor- | Mostly Unfavor- | Very Unfavor- | Never Heard | Can't |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|---------|
| | | <u>able</u> | <u>able</u> | <u>able</u> | <u>able</u> | Of | 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 | | =100 |
| | February, 1989 | 21 | 61 | 12 | 3 | | =100 |
| | August ¹² , 1988 | 29 | 52 | 9 | 5 | | =100 |
| | May, 1988 | 20 | 58 | 14 | 4 | | =100 |
| | January 27, 1988 | 12 | 69 | 13 | 3 | | =100 |
| | January 7-18, 1988 | 18 | 60 | 14 | 4 | | =100 |
| | October, 1987 | 19 | 62 | 10 | 3 | | =100 |
| | May, 1987 | 21 | 63 | 11 | 3 | | =100 |
| | January, 1987 | 19 | 55 | 16 | 6 | | =100 |
| | July, 1986 | 30 | 53 | 10 | 4 | | =100 |
| | August, 1985 | 30 | 51 | 8 | 2 | | =100 |
| | June, 1985 | 25 | 59 | 8 | 2 | 6= | =100 |

Based on Registered Voters

Q.17 con't ...

| | | 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> |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| h. | The daily newspaper (you | | | | | | |
| | are most 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 | 6=1 | 00 |
| | February, 1989 | 22 | 56 | 13 | 4 | 5=1 | 00 |
| | August ¹³ , 1988 | 30 | 48 | 10 | 5 | 7=1 | 00 |
| | May, 1988 | 19 | 59 | 13 | 4 | 5=1 | 00 |
| | January 27, 1988 | 19 | 62 | 11 | 3 | 5=1 | 00 |
| | January 7-18, 1988 | 21 | 59 | 12 | 4 | 4=1 | 00 |
| | October, 1987 | 21 | 58 | 9 | 4 | 8=1 | 00 |
| | May, 1987 | 22 | 59 | 12 | 3 | 4=1 | 00 |
| | January, 1987 | 19 | 57 | 13 | 6 | 5=1 | 00 |
| | July, 1986 | 28 | 51 | 11 | 6 | 4=1 | 00 |
| | August, 1985 | 25 | 52 | 10 | 5 | 8=1 | 00 |
| | June, 1985 | 25 | 56 | 8 | 3 | 8=1 | 00 |
| i. | Local TV news | 28 | 56 | 10 | 4 | * | 2=100 |
| | March, 1991 | 37 | 52 | 6 | 2 | * | 3=100 |
| | August, 1989 | 27 | 53 | 11 | 4 | 5=1 | .00 |
| | July, 1985 | 27 | 57 | 9 | 2 | 5=1 | 00 |

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 <u>1994</u> | Newsweek March 1994 |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 61 | Yes, cover-up | 52 | 52 |
| 23 | No cover-up | 28 | 29 |
| 16 100 | Don't know | <u>20</u> 100 | <u>19</u> 100 |

Based on Registered Voters

- 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
 - 9 Don't know/Refused

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.**)
 - 7 No opinion/DK/Ref
- 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 <u>1995</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 62 | Very important | 62 |
| 28 | Somewhat important | 26 |
| 6 | Not too important | 7 |
| 3 | Not important at all | 2 |
| <u>1</u> 100 | Don't know/Refused | <u>3</u> 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 1995 ¹⁵ |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 56 | True, Medicare faces financial difficulties | 52 |
| 39 | Leaders only saying this as a way to balance budget | 37 |
| <u>5</u> 100 | Don't know/Refused | 11 100 (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
 - Not Much affect
 - 5 (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?
 - 15 Help
 - 40 Hurt
 - 40 Not Much affect
 - $\underline{5}$ (**DO NOT READ**) Don't know/Refused 100

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 | Both equally (VOL.) | | | | | |
| | 3 | Neither (VOL.) | | | | | |
| | 10 100 | Don't know/Refused | | | | | |
| 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 | Neither (VOL.) | | | | | |
| | <u>5</u> 100 | Don't know/Refused | | | | | |
| Q.26 | Preside | think leaders in Washington should put off deciding how to balance the budget until after the ntial election in November, OR do you think it is important that the President and Republican leaders vay to do this now? | | | | | |
| | 13 | Should put off balancing budget | | | | | |
| | 85 | Should find a way to balance budget now | | | | | |
| | <u>2</u> 100 | Don't know/Refused | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

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 <u>1994</u> | April <u>1993</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 33 | Too much | 38 | 36 |
| 44 | Too little | 40 | 49 |
| 20 | Right amount | 13 | 8 |
| <u>3</u> 100 | Don't know/Refused | <u>9</u> 100 | <u>7</u> 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 <u>1996</u> | Nov 1995 |
| 7 | Yes, major | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | Yes, minor/not sure | 6 | 6 |
| 84 | No, hasn't has any impact | 88 | 88 |
| * 100 | Don't know/Refused | 100 | * 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 |
| | 10 100 | No opinion |
| ON A 3 Q.30 | DIFFERENT SUBJECT 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 |
| | * 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) |
| | <u>0</u> 100 | Don't know/Refused (GO TO D.1) |
| | | |

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**)
 - $\underline{0}$ Don't know/Refused (**GO TO D.1**)

(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 Everyday
 - 9 3-5 days per week
 - 17 1-2 day per week
 - 14 Once every few weeks
 - 6 Less often
 - 47 No/Never
 - * Don't know/Refused

100

(N=272)