PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS MARCH OMNIBUS STUDY: NATIONAL PROGRESS FINAL TOPLINE March 14-19, 2002 N=1048

Q.1 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

												June 1993				
24	Terrorism	1	*	*	*	*	*	_	_		 	-	<u> </u>	<u>-</u>	1707	<u> </u>
10	War in Afghanistan/War	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
8	Economy (general)	7	7	2	3	4	4	4	5	4	6	17	43	5	4	7
8	Morality/Ethics/Family values	6	12	13	11	10	9	13	12	10	6	7	3	5	2	3
	Defense issues/National security/															
5	Military buildup	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
4	Drugs/Alcohol	4	6	6	5	7	7	8	5	10	8	5	4	37	23	6
4	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	4	8	12	11	13	12	19	22	31	25	7	3	7	8	3
4	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	5	6	3	4	6	6	7	10	12	15	19	22	7	9	13
4	Education	8	11	8	7	9 5	5	6	6	5	5	5	2 2	4	4	0
4	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	2	4	3	3	5	4	8	6	5	2	5	2	2	1	0
2	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	3	1	3	4	6
	Youth/Teenage kids															
2	not acting responsibly	3	2	2	3	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
_	Health care/Cost/		_		_		_		_				_	_		
2	availability of health care	4	6	6	3	4	5	4	7	14	14	11	3	3	1	*
2	Other domestic	*	1	4	1	1	-	2	5	1	3	5	-	-	-	-
1	Peace in the world/Peace	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-
1	Immigration 72.11	1	2	1	- *	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	_
1	Environment/Pollution	3	1	*		2	1	1	1	2	1	*	1	8	2	0
1	Other International issues	2	2 2	2	4	3	_	*	4	1	2	3	4	6	10	22 *
1	Homelessness	1	2	2 2	4	2	3	2	4	3	5	5	6	8	10	
1	Race relations/Racism/Racial profiling	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	0	0
1	Middle East situation	_ 1	_ 1	3	_ 1	- 6	5	_ 7	_ 9	5	- 6	13	$\frac{-}{4}$	- 11	_ 19	12
1	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	1	1	3	1	O	3	/	9	3	O	13	4	11	19	12
1	Energy crisis/Rising gas/	22	1													
1 1	heating prices Other social issues	1	4	4	4	3	_	$\frac{-}{2}$	0	*	3	- *	*	*	*	*
1	Inflation/Difference	1	3	4	4	3	_	2	U	•	3	•			•	·
1	between wages/costs	1	3	1	*	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
1	Other economic issues	2	1	3	_	_	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	<i>-</i>
1	Taxes	3	3	3	2	4	3	3	3	3	2	4	1	3	2	0
1	Issues related to elderly	2	2	1	3	3	1	2	*	1	1	2	1	2	2	0
6	Other	3	5	1	6	5	6	2 2	2	2	*	$\frac{2}{4}$	1	2 5	9	1
1	None	*	2	*	1	*	1	*	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
8	Don't know/No answer	8	7	11	11	12	7	6	3	4	6	2	3	1	3	3
9		9	•				•	3	5	•	9	-		•	5	-
39	DEFENSE/INTERNATIONAL(NET)	3	5	7	11	5	10	1	9	2	_	_	_	_	_	_
16	ECONOMIC (NET)	40	26	15	8	16	18	18	28	26	33	53	76	26	28	35
3	POVERTY/HOMELESS (NET)	4	5	6	6	6	6	5	8	6	_	_	_	_	_	_

IF "NONE" OR "DON'T KNOW/REFUSED" IN Q.1, GO TO Q.3 [N=978]:
Q.2 Which political party do you think can do a better job of handling the problem you just mentioned – the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

		Ga	llup									
		Jan	Ápril	July	April	July	June	Jan	May	May	Jan	May
		1999 ¹	<u> 1998</u>	1996	<u> 1995</u>	1994	1993	1992^{2}	1990	1988	1988	<u> 1987</u>
38	Republican Party	33	40	36	42	36	28	32	29	26	30	28
27	Democratic Party	43	42	35	32	33	35	41	30	38	35	38
21	No difference (VOL)	n/a	10	18	17	16	23	12	31	22	24	24
14	Don't know	24	8	<u>11</u>	9	<u>15</u>	14	<u>15</u>	10	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	10
100		100	$1\overline{00}$	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Next, as I read you some problem areas, please tell me how you think each is affecting this country today. (First,) do you think the problem of [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE] is ABOUT THE SAME as it has been, that the country is MAKING PROGRESS in this area, or that the country is LOSING GROUND? Q.3

		Making Progress	About The Same	Losing Ground	Don't Know
a.	Crime	27	34	35	4=100
	February, 2001	29	31	38	2=100
	November, 1997	24	30	44	2=100
	December, 1996	15	23	61	1=100
	April, 1995	9 7	13	77	1=100
	March, 1994		15	77	1=100
	March, 1989	15	19	64	2=100
b.	AIDS	37	25	23	15=100
	November, 1997	48	22	22	8=100
	April, 1995	25	22	48	5=100
	March, 1994	23	22	49	6=100
	March, 1989	38	17	40	5=100
c.	The way the health care system is working	16	25	54	5=100
	February, 2001	13	29	53	5=100
	November, 1997	16	26	54	4 = 100
	December, 1996	20	25	52	3=100
	April, 1995	14	30	53	3=100
	March, 1994	16	31	49	4=100
d.	Conflict among racial, religious or ethnic group	s 40	35	21	4=100
	February, 2001	29	38	29	4 = 100
	November, 1997	31	39	27	3=100
	December, 1996 ³	27	31	39	3=100
	April, 1995	27	36	35	2 = 100
	March, 1994	21	32	41	3=100
e.	Political corruption	15	43	34	8=100
	November, 1997	9	38	47	6=100
	December, 1996	12	36	49	3=100
	April, 1995	12	41	44	3=100
	March, 1994	12	39	46	3=100

¹ In January 1999, the "no difference" and "don't' know" categories are combined.

² Based on registered voters.

³ In December 1996, the item was worded: "Conflict among racial groups."

Q.3 CONTINUED		Making	About	Losing	Don't
		Progress	The Same	Ground	<u>Know</u>
f.	Low moral and ethical standards November, 1997 December, 1996 April, 1995 March, 1994	14 9 12 7 6	28 28 28 24 20 29	53 56 62 70 63	5=100 7=100 2=100 3=100 2=100
g.	International terrorism	40	14	40	6=100
	April, 1995	19	40	36	5=100
	March, 1994	18	24	53	5=100
h.	Poverty, hunger, and homelessness	20	33	42	5=100
	November, 1997	18	40	37	5=100
	December, 1996	14	30	54	2=100
	April, 1995	11	30	57	2=100
	March, 1994	9	32	56	3=100
	March, 1989	22	23	53	2=100
i.	The availability of good-paying jobs February, 2001 November, 1997 December, 1996 April, 1995 March, 1994	21 33 31 19 17 10	22 26 28 26 24 23	51 36 37 51 55 63	6=100 5=100 4=100 4=100 4=100 4=100
j.	The quality of public education	27	22	45	6=100
	February, 2001	23	20	53	4=100
	November, 1997	26	26	46	2=100
	December, 1996	24	22	52	2=100
	April, 1995	18	20	60	2=100
	March, 1994	17	19	61	3=100