# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE \& THE PRESS LATE AUGUST 1998 NEWS INTEREST INDEX <br> - FINAL TOPLINE - <br> August 21-24, 1998 <br> $\mathrm{N}=\mathbf{1 , 0 0 1}$ 

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]

|  | Approve | Disapprove | Don't Know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 | $12=100$ |
| December, 1994 | 41 | 47 | $12=100$ |
| November, 1994 | 48 | 40 | $12=100$ |
| October, 1994 | 41 | 47 | $12=100$ |

## Q. 1 CONTINUED ...

Early October, 1994

| Approve |
| :---: |
| 38 |
| 41 |


| Disapprove |  | Don't Know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 47 |  | $15=100$ |
| 52 |  | $7=100$ |
| 46 |  | $9=100$ |
| 44 |  | $14=100$ |
| 42 |  | $12=100$ |
| 42 |  | $13=100$ |
| 35 |  | $14=100$ |
| 35 |  | $17=100$ |
| 36 |  | $16=100$ |
| 42 |  | $14=100$ |
| 35 |  | $16=100$ |
| 43 |  | $14=100$ |
| 46 |  | $15=100$ |
| 43 |  | $18=100$ |
| 37 |  | $18=100$ |
| 29 |  | $22=100$ |
| 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]

|  | Approve | Disapprove | Don't Know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 | $15=100$ |
| 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 | $14=100$ |

## Q. 2 CONTINUED ...

April, 1995
Approve
March 1995
44
December, 1994
43
52

| Disapprove |
| :---: |
| 43 |
| 39 |
| 28 |


| Don’t Know |
| :---: |
| $13=100$ |
| $18=100$ |
| $20=100$ |

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [ $\mathrm{N}=503$ ]
Q.3F1 Now a different kind of question. Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of Bill Clinton. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes him. (OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=498]

Q.4F2 Now a different kind of question. Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of Hillary Clinton. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes her. (OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).
*This table shows the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.
Bill Clinton's "Top 20"

Frequency* $\quad$| Hillary Clinton's "Top 20" |
| :--- | :--- |
| Frequency* |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 5 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 investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton Mid-August, 1998
Early August, 1998 June, $1998^{1}$
April, 1998
March, 1998
February, 1998²
Early February, 1998
Gallup: 1/27/98
CBS: 1/26/98

| Very | Fairly | Not too | Not at all | (VOL) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Closely | Closely | Closely | Closely | DK |
| 33 | 39 | 19 | 8 | $1=100$ |
| 26 | 30 | 20 | 24 | *=100 |
| 29 | 34 | 22 | 14 | $1=100$ |
| 28 | 32 | 24 | 15 | $1=100$ |
| 27 | 39 | 20 | 14 | *=100 |
| 30 | 35 | 25 | 9 | $1=100$ |
| 21 | 44 | 25 | 10 | * $=100$ |
| 34 | 42 | 17 | 7 | $0=100$ |
| 37 | 43 | 15 | 4 | $1=100$ |
| 38 | 41 | 15 | 5 | $1=100$ |
| 8 | 22 | 29 | 41 | *=100 |

c. The explosion of a car bomb in Northern Ireland

17
30
d. U.S. military strikes against sites linked
to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan
44
35
,
27
e. The attempt by Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa to break Roger Maris' home run record

18
19
$44 \quad 1=100$

On another subject...
Q. 6 If the 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 RESPONDENT ANSWERED '3' OR '9' IN Q.5, ASK:
Q.6a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=781]

|  | Republican/ Lean Rep. | Democrat/ <br> Lean Dem. | Other/ <br> Undecided |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Late August, 1998 | 44 | 45 | 11=100 |
| Early August, 1998 | 42 | 49 | $9=100$ |
| June, 1998 | 44 | 46 | $10=100$ |
| March, 1998 | 40 | 52 | $8=100$ |
| February, 1998 | 41 | 50 | $9=100$ |
| January, 1998 | 41 | 51 | $8=100$ |
| August, 1997 | 45 | 48 | $7=100$ |
| Early November, 1996 ${ }^{3}$ | 44 | 48 | $8=100$ |
| October, 1996 | 42 | 49 | $9=100$ |
| Late September, 1996 | 43 | 49 | $8=100$ |
| Early September, 1996 | 43 | 51 | $6=100$ |
| July, 1996 | 46 | 47 | $7=100$ |
| June, 1996 | 44 | 50 | $6=100$ |
| March, 1996 | 44 | 49 | $7=100$ |
| January, 1996 | 46 | 47 | $7=100$ |
| October, 1995 | 48 | 48 | $4=100$ |
| August, 1995 | 50 | 43 | $7=100$ |
| November, 1994 | 45 | 43 | $12=100$ |
| October, 1994 | 47 | 44 | $9=100$ |
| Early October, 1994 | 52 | 40 | $8=100$ |
| September, 1994 | 48 | 46 | $6=100$ |
| July, 1994 | 45 | 47 | $8=100$ |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 7 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote for Bill Clinton, as a vote against Bill Clinton, or isn't Bill Clinton much of a factor in your vote?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=781]

Late August, 1998
Early August, 1998
June, 1998
March, 1998
September, 1996
November, 1994
October, 1994
Early October, 1994
CBS/NYT (BUSH): 10/28-31, 1990
CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 10/24-28, 1986

| $\frac{\text { For }}{20}$ | $\frac{\text { Against }}{}$ | Not a <br> Factor | DK/ <br> Ref. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 21 | 18 | 61 | $\underline{2}=100$ <br> 20 |
| 18 | 57 | $4=100$ |  |
| 21 | 15 | 59 | $5=100$ |
| 24 | 18 | 51 | $7=100$ |
| 17 | 21 | 55 | $7=100$ |
| 17 | 21 | 57 | $5=100$ |
| 17 | 23 | 54 | $6=100$ |
| 19 | 15 | 61 | $6=100$ |
| 26 | 12 | 55 | $7=100$ |
| 26 | 16 | 51 | $7=100$ |
| 23 | 21 | 51 | $5=100$ |

Q. 8 These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you been able to register so far?

## IF YES, ASK:

Q.8a Are you absolutely certain you are registered to vote, or is there a chance your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?


ASK ALL:
Q. 9 How often would you say you vote... always, nearly always, part of the time or seldom?

June Nov Sept June Feb Oct April Nov Oct July June May Nov May Feb Jan May


| 38 | Always | 40 | 33 | 51 | 41 | 32 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 43 | 40 | 47 | 41 | 38 | 33 | 45 | 39 | 34 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 30 | Nearly always | 29 | 38 | 23 | 30 | 34 | 32 | 29 | 24 | 28 | 30 | 26 | 32 | 37 | 35 | 30 | 33 | 37 |
| 16 | Part of the time | 15 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| 10 | Seldom | 12 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| * | (VOL) Other | 4 | * | * | 1 | 1 | * | * | 1 | 5 | * | 1 | * | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | (VOL) Never vote | 0 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 9 |
| * | Don't know | $\stackrel{*}{*}$ |  | * |  | 1 | 1 | * |  | * |  | * |  |  | 1 | * | 1 | 1 |
| 100 |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q. 10 Do you, yourself, plan to vote in the election this November?
Q.10a How certain are you that you will vote? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain or not certain?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=781]

|  | Yes, Plan To Vote | Absolutely Certain | Fairly Certain | Not Certain | No, Don't Plan To | $\begin{gathered} \text { Can't } \\ \text { Say/DK } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Late August, 1998† | 93 | 75 | 17 | 1 | 3 | 4=100 |
| June, 1998† | 95 | 74 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 2=100 |
| November, 1996 ${ }^{4}$ | 96 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | $2=100$ |
| October, 1996 | 98 | 87 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1=100 |
| September, 1996 | 98 | 89 | 8 | 1 | 1 | $1=100$ |
| September, 1996 | 96 | 83 | 11 | 2 | 2 | $2=100$ |
| July, 1996 | 95 | 82 | 12 | 1 | 3 | $2=100$ |
| June, 1996 | 96 | 84 | 11 | 1 | 2 | $2=100$ |
| November, 1994 $\dagger$ | 71 | -- | -- | -- | 26 | $3=100$ |
| October, 1994† | 95 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | $2=100$ |
| October, 1992 | 98 | 91 | 6 | 1 | 1 | $1=100$ |
| September, 1992 | 98 | 85 | 11 | 2 | 1 | $1=100$ |
| August, 1992 | 97 | 89 | 8 | * | 1 | $2=100$ |
| June, 1992 | 97 | 88 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2=100 |
| Gallup: November, 1988 | 97 | 87 | 9 | 1 | 2 | $1=100$ |
| Gallup: October, 1988 | 98 | -- | -- | -- | 1 | $1=100$ |

$\dagger$ Non-Presidential elections
Q. 11 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

|  | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | No Opinion |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 | $4=100$ |
| March, 1996 | 28 | 70 | $2=100$ |
| October, 1995 | 23 | 73 | $4=100$ |
| June, 1995 | 25 | 73 | $2=100$ |
| April, 1995 | 23 | 74 | $3=100$ |
| July, 1994 | 24 | 73 | $3=100$ |
| March, 1994 | 24 | 71 | $5=100$ |
| October, 1993 | 22 | 73 | $5=100$ |
| September, 1993 | 20 | 75 | $4=100$ |
| May, 1993 | 22 | 71 | $7=100$ |
| January, 1993 | 39 | 50 | $11=100$ |

## Q. 11 CONTINUED...

January, 1992

| Satisfied | Dissatisfied | No Opinion |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 28 | 68 | $4=100$ |
| 34 | 61 | $5=100$ |
| 66 | 31 | $3=100$ |
| 47 | 48 | $5=100$ |
| 41 | 54 | $5=100$ |
| 45 | 50 | $5=100$ |
| 50 | 45 | $5=100$ |
| 41 | 54 | $5=100$ |
| 39 | 55 | $6=100$ |

Q. 12 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) is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? (INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")

|  |  | Very Favorable | Mostly Favorable | Mostly <br> Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable | Never <br> Heard <br> Of | Can't <br> Rate |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. | Bill Clinton | 18 | 36 | 20 | 24 | 0 | $2=100$ |
|  | March, 1998 | 22 | 40 | 19 | 16 | * | $3=100$ |
|  | November, 1997 | 19 | 44 | 21 | 14 | 0 | $2=100$ |
|  | 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 ${ }^{5}$ | 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 | * | $1=100$ |
|  | 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 | $21=100$ |

## Q. 12 CONTINUED ...


Q. 13 Which of these best describes you... (READ)

|  |  | Early Feb |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| 33 | I like Bill Clinton personally and I like his policies, OR | $\frac{1998}{39}$ |
| 35 | I don't like Bill Clinton personally but I like his policies, OR | 30 |
| 27 | I don't like Bill Clinton personally and I don't like his policies | 23 |
| 2 | (DO NOT READ) I like Bill Clinton personally but I don't like his policies | 3 |
| $\frac{3}{100}$ | Don't Know/Refused | $\underline{5}$ |

IF ANSWERED 1 "APPROVE" IN Q. 1 AND 2 or 3 IN Q.13, ASK: [N=302]
Q. 14 I notice you disapprove of Bill Clinton as a person. What makes you approve of the way he is handling his job as president? (OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).

34 ECONOMY (NET)
$\begin{array}{ll}28 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Economy is doing well/Country in good economic shape/Doing good job handling } \\ \text { economic issues }\end{array} \\ 6 & \text { Employment is up/Lower unemployment rates } \\ 1 & \text { Inflation is down/low } \\ 1 & \text { All other economy mentions } \\ \text { JOB PERFORMANCE (NET) } \\ 18 & \text { He’s doing a good job/fair job/Handles the position well } \\ 7 & \text { Good policies/Ideas in tune with those of the nation } \\ * & \text { All other job performance mentions }\end{array}$
FOREIGN POLICY (NET)
10 Doing a good job handling threat of terrorism/terrorists
$7 \quad$ Good job with foreign policy/Handles foreign affairs well
1 Peace/Not at war
14 PUBLIC, PRIVATE LIFE UNRELATED (NET)
12 Private conduct doesn't affect ability to lead/Does a good job despite personal/moral flaws/sexual conduct
$4 \quad \mathrm{He} /$ Clinton is able to separate his private life from his public life
PERSONALITY TRAITS (NET)
6 Decisive/Has clear ideas/Follow up on decisions
5 Clinton has best interests of country in mind
2 Sharp/Intelligent
1 Charismatic/Knows how to appeal to people
11
DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)
3 Social Security/Medicare
2 Health care policies/Reform
2 Family/Child care
1 Education
1 Welfare reform
1 Drugs/Crime
4 All other domestic policy mentions
6 Country is in good shape/Things are going well

* Other Miscellaneous mentions

4 Don’t know/Refused
1 Nothing
6 MISCELLANEOUS NEGATIVE TRAITS

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=503]

Q.15F1 Now a few questions about the allegations of sexual misconduct against President Clinton. Thinking specifically about these allegations, how important an issue do you think this whole situation is to the nation — of great importance, of some importance, or of very little importance?

|  |  | Mid | Early |  |  | --- CBS News --- |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Aug | Aug | March | Feb | Early Feb | Jan 26th | Jan $24-25$ |
|  |  | $\underline{1998}$ | $\underline{1998}$ | $\frac{1998}{22}$ | $\frac{1998}{22}$ | $\frac{1998}{25}$ | $\frac{1998}{39}$ | $\frac{1998}{40}$ |
| 26 | Great importance | 24 | 22 | 26 |  | 28 | 21 |  |
| 25 | Some importance | 21 | 22 | 24 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 35 |
| 48 | Very little importance | 49 | 51 | 46 | 50 | 45 | 28 | 3 |
| 1 | None (VOL) | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| $\frac{*}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{2}$ | $\underline{2}$ | $*$ | $\underline{2}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{1}$ |
|  |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{6 0 9 )}$ | $\mathbf{( N = 9 4 3 )}$ |

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=498]

Q.16F2 Now, a few questions about the allegation that President Clinton lied under oath about a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Thinking specifically about this allegation, how important an issue do you think this whole situation is to the nation - of great importance, of some importance, or of very little importance?

|  |  | Early Aug 1998 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 33 | Great importance | 27 |
| 23 | Some importance | 21 |
| 42 | Very little importance | 46 |
| 2 | None (VOL) | 3 |
| * | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{3}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 17 How good a job are news organizations doing at reporting about the allegations against President Clinton an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

|  |  | March | Feb | Early Feb |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{1998}$ | $\frac{1998}{13}$ | $\frac{1998}{10}$ |
| 19 | Excellent | 29 | 27 | 36 |
| 36 | Good | 27 | 31 | 32 |
| 23 | Only fair | 28 | 26 | 19 |
| 19 | Poor | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{4}$ | $\underline{3}$ |
| $\underline{3}$ | Don't Know/Refused | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q. 18 How would rate the job the press is doing (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)... would you say they are doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job? How about...

a. Being objective about whether or not the investigation of President Clinton is

| important for the country | 9 | 31 | 34 | 24 | $2=100$ |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Early February, $1998^{7}$ | 7 | 29 | 37 | 23 | $4=100$ |

b. Providing you with the information you need to make up your own mind about this issue
$14 \quad 37 \quad 28 \quad 19 \quad 2=100$ Early February, $1998{ }^{8}$

10
$3531 \quad 21 \quad 3=100$
Q. 19 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 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | May | Aug | March | Newsweek |
|  |  | $\underline{1997}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{\text { March 1994 }}$ |
| 69 | Too much | 43 | 45 | 55 | 44 |
| 4 | Too little | 14 | 15 | 7 | 10 |
| 26 | About the right amount | 39 | 37 | 33 | 36 |
| $\frac{1}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{4}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{10}$ |
|  |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | $\underline{100}$ |
| $\mathbf{( N = 7 3 5 )}$ |  |  |  |  |  |

Q. 20 Do you think this controversy is so great that it is interfering with Bill Clinton's ability to run the country, or don't you think so?

| 55 | Yes, interfering |
| :--- | :--- |
| 42 | No, not interfering |
| $\frac{3}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

Question worded: "Being objective about whether or not President Clinton is guilty of any of these allegations."
8
Question worded: "Providing you with the information you need to make up your own mind about these allegations."

9
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?"

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=503]

Q.21a

F1 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: [N=498]
Q.21bF2

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?

|  |  | ------------------- Gallup --------------------- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Aug 17 | Jan 25-26 | Jan 24-25 Jan 23-24 |  |
|  |  | 1998 | 1998 | 1998 | 1998 |
| 75 | Remain in office | 72 | 68 | 67 | 71 |
| 21 | Resign | 23 | 26 | 25 | 23 |
| 4 | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{6}$ | 8 | $\underline{6}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 22 If Congress decides to begin impeachment hearings against President Clinton, how would you feel about the members who voted in FAVOR of beginning these hearings? Would your opinion of them be very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?

|  |  | Early <br> Aug 1998 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 12 | Very favorable | 12 |
| 24 | Mostly favorable | 22 |
| 25 | Mostly unfavorable | 25 |
| 32 | Very unfavorable | 32 |
| $\frac{7}{100}$ | Don’t know/Refused | $\underline{9}$ |
| 100 |  |  |

Q. 23 Now I'm going to describe some of the allegations being made in this matter. As I read each one, please say whether you think it is definitely true, probably true, probably not true, or definitely not true. (First,...) (Next,...) (DO NOT ROTATE)
a. The allegation that Bill Clinton had

| sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky? | 49 | 43 | 3 | 2 | $3=100$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mid-August, 1998 | 22 | 50 | 13 | 6 | $9=100$ |
| Early August, 1998 | 19 | 51 | 14 | 7 | $9=100$ |
| Late February, 1998 | 13 | 48 | 23 | 7 | $9=100$ |
| Early February, 1998 | 9 | 43 | 29 | 10 | $9=100$ |

b. The allegation that Bill Clinton lied under oath

| about having an affair with Monica Lewinsky? | 44 | 39 | 10 | 3 | $4=100$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mid-August, 1998 | 21 | 45 | 18 | 5 | $11=100$ |
| Early August, 1998 | 20 | 46 | 16 | 8 | $10=100$ |
| Late February, 1998 | 14 | 42 | 25 | 10 | $9=100$ |
| Early February, 1998 | 9 | 40 | 31 | 11 | $9=100$ |
| Gallup: Jan 28, 1998 | 9 | 37 | 31 | 13 | $10=100$ |
| Gallup: Jan 25-26, 1998 | 18 | 38 | 23 | 13 | $8=100$ |
| Gallup: Jan 23-24, 1998 | 15 | 40 | 26 | 10 | $9=100$ |
| Gallup: Jan 21, 1998 | 8 | 41 | 28 | 15 | $8=100$ |

c. The allegation that Bill Clinton participated in an effort to obstruct justice by getting Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath about the affair?

| 17 | 32 | 31 | 13 | $7=100$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 13 | 34 | 30 | 12 | $11=100$ |
| 14 | 34 | 28 | 14 | $10=100$ |
| 8 | 32 | 36 | 16 | $8=100$ |
| 6 | 30 | 36 | 16 | $12=100$ |
| 14 | 34 | 28 | 16 | $8=100$ |
| 11 | 35 | 31 | 14 | $9=100$ |
| 6 | 33 | 33 | 18 | $10=100$ |

Q. 24 If it turns out that President Clinton lied under oath about having a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office, or not?

|  | Mid-Aug | Early Aug | March | Early Feb |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{1998}$ | $\underline{1998}$ | $\frac{1998}{40}$ | $\underline{1998}$ |
| 30 | Yes, should be impeached | 65 | 63 | 55 | 46 |
| 66 | No, should not | $\underline{6}$ | $\underline{6}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{4}$ |
| $\frac{4}{100}$ | Don't know | 100 | $\underline{100}$ | 100 | 100 |

Q. 25 If it turns out that President Clinton encouraged Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath about the nature of their relationship, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office, or not?

|  | Mid-Aug | Early Aug | March | Early Feb |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{1998}$ | $\underline{1998}$ | $\underline{1998}$ | $\underline{1998}$ |
| 41 | Yes, should be impeached | 39 | 41 | 48 | 48 |
| 55 | No, should not | 55 | 53 | 47 | 47 |
| $\frac{4}{100}$ | Don't know | $\underline{6}$ | $\underline{6}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{5}$ |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |  |  |

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=503]

Q.26F1 Some people think that because of this scandal, President Clinton does not have the respect he needs from officials in Washington and world leaders to give direction to the country. Other people think this scandal has not hurt President Clinton's ability to lead at home and abroad. Which comes closer to your own view?

43 Does not have respect he needs
50 Scandal has not hurt ability to lead
7 Don't know/Refused
100

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=498]

Q. 27

F2 Some people think that because of this scandal, President Clinton does not have the moral standing to lead the country. Other people think President Clinton still has the moral standing to lead. Which comes closer to your own view?

37 Does not have moral standing
57 Still has moral standing
2 He never had moral standing (VOL)
1 Not important for President to have (VOL)
3 Don't know/Refused
100

## ASK ALL:

Q. 28 Do you think this investigation has been mostly about possible sexual misconduct, or mostly about whether the president lied under oath?

| 37 | Sexual misconduct |
| :--- | :--- |
| 48 | Lied under oath |
| 12 | Both/neither (VOL) |
| $\underline{3}$ | Don't know/Refused |

Q. 29 What do you think caused this controversy in the first place -- the president's political enemies were trying to hurt him, or the president's behavior was wrong?

| 42 | Political enemies |
| :---: | :--- |
| 47 | Behavior was wrong |
| 9 | Both/neither (VOL) |
| $\frac{2}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

Q. 30 If President Clinton lied about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, do you think this is more serious than if he lied about a government POLICY matter, less serious, or is there no difference?

| 7 | More serious |
| :---: | :--- |
| 52 | Less serious |
| 39 | No difference |
| $\frac{2}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

Q. 31 In his statement to the American public, do you think Bill Clinton accepted enough of the blame in this matter, or do you think he tried to blame others too much?

45 Accepted enough
46 Blamed others too much
9 Don't know/Refused 100
Q. 32 Bill Clinton has told the American people that he had an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky but misled the public earlier to protect his family. In your opinion, should Clinton's statement be enough to end the matter OR do you think Congress should still consider impeachment hearings?

|  |  | Early Aug |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 61 | Enough to end the matter | $\underline{1998}^{10}$ |
| 32 | Congress should still consider impeachment hearings | 32 |
| $\frac{7}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{8}$ |
|  |  | 100 |

Q. 33 In his statement, President Clinton admitted he had an inappropriate relationship with an intern in his office. In your opinion, how wrong was this relationship -- very wrong, somewhat wrong, not too wrong, or not at all wrong?

| 70 | Very wrong |
| :---: | :--- |
| 18 | Somewhat wrong |
| 5 | Not too wrong |
| 3 | Not at all wrong |
| $\frac{4}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

## IF 1 "VERY WRONG" OR 2 "SOMEWHAT WRONG" IN Q.33, ASK: [N=896]

Q. 34 Do you think it was wrong because (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE) , or is that not an important factor to you?
a. Bill Clinton is President of the United States, not an ordinary citizen
36 Yes

63 Not a factor
$\frac{1}{100}$ Don't know/Refused
100
b. Monica Lewinsky was a 21-year old INTERN at the White House

22 Yes
77 Not a factor
1 Don't know/Refused
100

## ASK ALL:

Q. 36 Do you think Bill Clinton should have told the public about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky sooner than he did, or do you think it was right for him to wait?

| 68 | Sooner |
| :--- | :--- |
| 24 | Right to wait |
| $\frac{8}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

IF 1 "SOONER", ASK: [N=684]
Q.36a Are you angry with Bill Clinton about this, or not?

| 47 | Yes |
| :--- | :--- |
| 52 | No |
| $\frac{1}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 37 Do you think Bill Clinton admitted that he had a relationship with Monica Lewinsky because of the evidence gathered against him, or do you think he admitted having the relationship because he thought coming forward was the right thing to do?

| 70 | Evidence |
| :--- | :--- |
| 24 | Right thing to do |
| $\frac{6}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

## IF 1 "EVIDENCE", ASK: [N=723]

Q.37a. Are you angry with Bill Clinton about this, or not?

| 45 | Yes |
| :--- | :--- |
| 54 | No |
| $\frac{1}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 38 How do you feel about Hillary Clinton's decision to stand by her husband - do you admire her, or do you think poorly of her?

| 66 | Admire |
| :---: | :--- |
| 20 | Think poorly |
| 9 | Neither/Both (VOL) |
| $\frac{5}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

Now a question about the military action taken (FRIDAY: "YESTERDAY"/SATURDAY-MONDAY: "A FEW DAYS AGO")...

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=503]

T. 1 Do you approve or disapprove of U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan?

|  | --- Gallup $^{11}----$ |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Aug 21-23 | Aug 20 |
| 79 | Approve | $\underline{1998}$ | $\underline{1998}$ |
| 11 | Disapprove | 18 | 66 |
| $\frac{10}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{7}$ | 19 |
|  |  | 100 | $\underline{15}$ |
|  |  |  | 100 |

[^0]
## ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=498]

T. 2 Do you think President Clinton ordered the attack on sites in Afghanistan and Sudan mainly to fight terrorism, or mainly because he wanted to turn public attention away from the Monica Lewinsky affair?

|  |  | ABC News <br> Aug 20, 1998 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 69 | Fight terrorism | 64 |
| 23 | Turn attention away from affair | 30 |
| $\frac{8}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\frac{7}{100}$ |
|  |  | $(\mathrm{~N}=510)$ |

Q. 39 How much, if at all, do you worry about terrorism when you're in public places here in the United States?

|  |  | April March <br>  <br>  <br> 17 | A great deal |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 30 | Somewhat | $\frac{1997}{11}$ | $\frac{1996}{13}$ |
| 24 | Not much, OR | 24 | 21 |
| 28 | Not at all | 29 | 27 |
| $\frac{1}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | 35 | 39 |
| 10 | $\underline{1}$ | $*$ |  |

FINALLY, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.
Q. 40 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, or at home on at least an occasional basis?


## IF YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q. 40 AND FORM 1, ASK: [N=503]

Q.41aF1 Do you ever use a computer at work, school or home to connect with computers over the Internet, the World Wide Web, or with information services such as America Online or Prodigy?
IF YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q. 40 AND FORM 2, ASK: [N=498]
Q.41bF2 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

NOTE: Trend numbers are for Q.41aF1 only.


[^1]
[^0]:    Question worded: "As you may know, the United States recently launched military attacks against terrorist facilities in the countries of Afghanistan and Sudan. Do you approve or disapprove of those attacks?"

[^1]:    13
    Based on registered voters only.
    14
    The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:
    (1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)
    (2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?

