PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS JANUARY 1998 RE-INTERVIEW SURVEY FINAL TOPLINE JAN 30 - FEB 2, 1998 N=844

Hello, I am _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. A few weeks ago we were conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country, and we spoke with a (INSERT SEX AND AGE) in your household. I'd like to ask (HIM/HER) a few additional questions to follow up on that previous interview. Is (HE/SHE) available?

IF PEW RESPONDENT DOES NOT ANSWER THE PHONE, USE THE FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION WHEN HE OR SHE DOES GET ON THE LINE:

Hello, I am _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. A few weeks ago you participated in a telephone opinion survey we were conducting for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask you a few additional questions to follow up on that previous interview.

MY FIRST QUESTION IS...

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
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

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know
October, 1994	41	47	12=100
Early October, 1994	38	47	15=100
September, 1994	41	52	7=100
July, 1994	45	46	9=100
June, 1994	42	44	14=100
May, 1994	46	42	12=100
March, 1994	45	42	13=100
January, 1994	51	35	14=100
Early January, 1994	48	35	17=100
December, 1993	48	36	16=100
October, 1993	44	42	14=100
September, 1993	49	35	16=100
Early September, 1993	3 43	43	14=100
August, 1993	39	46	15=100
May, 1993	39	43	18=100
Early May, 1993	45	37	18=100
April, 1993	49	29	22=100
February, 1993	56	25	19=100

IF RESPONDENT GIVES A DIFFERENT ANSWER THAN THEY DID IN JAN. NII, ASK:

Q.1a When we interviewed you earlier, you said you (INSERT RESPONSE FROM PREVIOUS SURVEY: approved/disapproved) of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job. What made you change your mind? (open-end)

BASED ON THOSE WHO "APPROVED" IN CURRENT POLL, BUT DID NOT IN PREVIOUS POLL: [N=109]

29 Domestic issues/Policy (Net)

- The State of the Union address
- 4 Economy is better
- 2 Education issues
- 2 Social Security issue
- 2 Rate of unemployment
- 1 Balanced budget
- Doing his job despite all the scandal/Good job handling scandal

11 News Coverage (Net)

- Paying more attention to what's going on/I'm thinking about him more
- 4 News on TV
- 2 All the media/Press coverage over past week
- 7 The way he's running the country/Doing his job as president

6 International issues/Policy (Net)

- 4 Policy toward Iraq
- 1 U.S. military presence in Middle East/UN
- 2 Other international issues/policy mentions

Q.1a CONTINUED

- 6 Doing his job as well as expected/Current ratings
- 5 Doesn't deserve attacks/Unfair attacks/Not to blame
- 4 Everything is going OK/Country is going well
- His policies/Don't like personal life but like policies (unspecified) 3 3 2 2
- Same as/No worse than any other politician
- All the stuff going on with him
- Good job handling country
- Trying to help people/His programs to help
- Need to know all the facts 1
- What is the truth/Telling the truth/ 1
- Mixed/Feel both ways 1
- 2 Other miscellaneous mentions
- 20 Don't know/Refused/No answer

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	No Opinion
Early February, 1998	59	37	4=100
January, 1998	46	50	4=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
January, 1992	28	68	4=100
November, 1991	34	61	5=100
Late February, 1991 (Gallup)	66	31	3=100
August, 1990	47	48	5=100
May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 1989	45	50	5=100
September, 1988	50	45	5=100
May, 1988	41	54	5=100
January, 1988	39	55	6=100

Q.3 What is the FIRST news story that comes to mind when you think about what's been in the news on television, radio or in the newspapers lately. (OPEN-END. ACCEPT MULTIPLES RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE. IF RESPONDENT OFFERS A GENERAL CATEGORY OF NEWS SUCH AS "CLINTON" OR "CRIME" OR "THE ECONOMY" PROBE: Can you name a SPECIFIC news story about that.)

75 Clinton Scandal (NET)

- 49 Bill Clinton/Monica Lewinsky sex scandal/White House intern
- Bill Clinton's personal affairs (unspecified)
- Bill Clinton/The President and all of his problems
- 1 Paula Jones/Sexual harassment suit against Bill Clinton
- 1 Clinton crisis/White House crisis/President's crisis
- 1 Washington scandal
- 10 Iraq/Situation in Iraq/Saddam Hussein/War with Iraq (unspecified)

5 Crime (NET)

- 2 Crime (unspecified)
- 1 Murders (unspecified)
- 1 Kidnapings/Missing children/Abductions
- 1 Ted Kaczynski/Unabomber/Unabomber trial
- 1 Other crime mentions
- 1 State of the Union address/Clinton speech
- 1 Other Washington mentions
- 1 Bad weather/Storms/Snow/Ice storms
- 1 El Nino/Effects of El Nino on weather
- 1 Iran
- 1 Other Middle East mentions
- 5 Don't know/Refused/No answer

Q.4 Now I'd like your opinion of some organizations. As I read from a list, please tell me which category best describes your overall opinion of 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")

	KAIL)						
		Very	•	Mostly	Very	Never	
		Favor-		Unfavor-U			Can't
		<u>able</u>	<u>able</u>	<u>able</u>	<u>able</u>	<u>Of</u>	Rate
a.	Network television news	16	60	17	5	*	2 = 100
	February, 1997	15	58	18	5	*	4=100
	April, 1996	21	58	13	4	0	4=100
	January, 1996	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=1	100
	February, 1989	21	61	12	3	3=1	100
	August ¹ , 1988	29	52	9	5	5=1	100
	May, 1988	20	58	14	4	4=1	100
	January 27, 1988	12	69	13	3	3=1	100
	January 7-18, 1988	18	60	14	4	4=1	100
	October, 1987	19	62	10	3	6=1	100
	May, 1987	21	63	11	3	2=1	100
	January, 1987	19	55	16	6	4=1	100
	July, 1986	30	53	10	4	3=1	100
	August, 1985	30	51	8	2	7=1	100
	June, 1985	25	59	8	2	6=1	100
b.	Local television news	19	62	12	4	0	3=100
	February, 1997	25	56	12	3	0	4=100
	April, 1996	26	58	10	3	*	3=100
	January, 1996	28	56	10	4	*	2=100
	March, 1991	37	52	6	2	*	3=100
	August, 1989	27	53	11	4	5=1	100
	July, 1985	27	57	9	2	5=1	100
c.	Large nationally influential newspapers such as the New York Times and the						
	Washington Post	9	38	12	6	1	34=100
	February, 1997	8	33	13	7	2	37=100
	January, 1992	16	37	9	4	0	34=100
	July, 1985	12	36	8	3	1	40=100
	• *						

Based on Registered Voters.

Q.4 CONTINUED ...

		Very	Mostly	Mostly	Very	Never	
		Favor-	Favor-	Unfavor-	Unfavor-	Heard	Can't
		<u>able</u>	<u>able</u>	<u>able</u>	<u>able</u>	<u>Of</u>	Rate
d.	The daily newspaper you						
	are most familiar with	18	56	13	5	*	8=100
	February, 1997	21	53	15	4	0	7=100
	April, 1996	24	56	12	4	0	4=100
	January, 1996	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	100
	February, 1989	22	56	13	4	5=1	100
	August ² , 1988	30	48	10	5	7=1	100
	May, 1988	19	59	13	4	5=1	100
	January 27, 1988	19	62	11	3	5=1	100
	January 7-18, 1988	21	59	12	4	4=1	100
	October, 1987	21	58	9	4	8=1	100
	May, 1987	22	59	12	3	4=1	100
	January, 1987	19	57	13	6	5=1	100
	July, 1986	28	51	11	6	4=1	100
	August, 1985	25	52	10	5	8=1	100
	June, 1985	25	56	8	3	8=1	100
e.	Cable news networks such						
	as CNN and MSNBC	26	45	9	3	1	16=100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

- Q.5 Which of these best describes you... (READ)
 - 39 I like Bill Clinton personally and I like his policies, OR
 - 30 I don't like Bill Clinton personally but I like his policies, OR
 - 23 I don't like Bill Clinton personally and I don't like his policies
 - 3 (DO NOT READ) I like Bill Clinton personally but I don't like his policies
 - $\frac{5}{100}$ DK/Refused

² Based on Registered Voters.

NOW A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEWS MEDIA...

Q.6 Which of the following two statements about the news media do you agree with more...(**READ**)

		Jan 1998		March 1995	July 1994
29	The news media helps society to solve its problems	31	36	33	25
	OR				
65	The news media gets in the way of society solving its problems	63	54	57	71
<u>6</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100

Q.7 Some people think that by criticizing leaders, news organizations keep political leaders from doing their job. Others think that such criticism is worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done. Which position is closer to your opinion?

	Criticism by the press keeps	Feb 1997	Late Jan <u>1994</u>	Early Jan <u>1994</u>	Aug 1989	Dec 1986	June 1985
39	political leaders from doing their job 32	24	18	23	26	17	
55	Criticism keeps leaders from doing things that shouldn't be done	56	66	69	68	60	67
<u>6</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	13 100	<u>9</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>16</u> 100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=410]

Q.8F1 Do you think that press coverage of the personal and ethical BEHAVIOR of political leaders is excessive or not?

		Feb 1997	Jan 1994	Aug 1989
66	Yes, coverage is excessive	65	59	52
29	No, it is not excessive	30	38	43
<u>5</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u> 100	<u>3</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=434]

Q.9F2 In general, do you think news organizations get the facts straight, or do you think that their stories and reports are often inaccurate?

		Feb <u>1997</u>	Jan <u>1992</u>	Aug <u>1989</u>	Aug <u>1988</u>	May <u>1988</u>	Jan <u>1988</u>	June <u>1985</u>
34	Get facts straight	37	49	54	40	48	44	55
63	Stories often inaccurate	56	44	44	50	43	48	34
<u>3</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>9</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>11</u> 100

ASK ALL:

Q.10 In your opinion, are the news organizations you are familiar with being fair or unfair to the Clinton administration?

		Sept 1994	May 1994	Aug 1993	June 1993	Feb 1993
49	Fair	67	52	66	51	72
44	Unfair	26	36	21	43	17
<u>7</u> 100	DK/Refused	<u>7</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100	<u>13</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>11</u> 100

Q.11 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 LIST DO NOT ROTATE]

		Very	Fairly	Not too	Not at all	(VOL)
		Closely	Closely	Closely	Closely	<u>DK</u>
a.	Clinton's proposal to deal with the					
	problem with Social Security	24	38	26	12	*=100
	January, 1998 ³	18	27	29	25	1=100
	February, 1997	23	26	22	28	1=100
	January, 1997 ⁴	29	35	22	13	1=100
b.	The conflict in Iraq over UN					
	weapons inspectors and U.S.					
	threats to retaliate with air strikes	36	40	16	8	*=100
	January, 1998 ⁵	32	35	18	15	*=100
	November, 1997 ⁶	44	32	10	13	1=100
c.	Allegations that President Clinton had an affair with former White					
	House intern, Monica Lewinsky	34	42	17	7	0=100

Q.12 Thinking specifically about these allegations against President Clinton, 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?

		CBS	S News
		Jan 26th <u>1998</u>	Jan 24-25 1998
25	Great importance	39	40
27	Some importance	28	21
45	Very little importance	28	35
1	None (VOL)	2	3
<u>2</u> 100	DK/Refused	3 100 (N=609)	$\frac{1}{100}$ (N=943)

This month and February 1997 the story was listed as "The debate about how to reform the Social Security system."

This month the story was listed as "Proposals to reform the Social Security System"

This month the story was listed as "The conflict in Iraq over UN weapons inspectors"

This month the story was listed as "Iraq's refusal to let Americans participate in weapons inspections."

- Q.13 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?
 - 10 Excellent
 - 36 Good
 - 32 Only fair
 - 19 Poor
 - <u>3</u> DK/Refused **GO TO Q.15**
- Q.14 Why do you think they are doing a (INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q.13) job? (Open-end)

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID "EXCELLENT/VERY GOOD" [N=376]

Positive responses

- Reporting the facts/Uncovering the facts
- 13 Additional/More information/They dig for information
- 13 Close coverage/Following case real close/Constant coverage
- 12 Up-to-date reporting/Keeping us up-to-date/On top of story
- 11 Keeping the public informed/Getting information out to public
- Non biased news reporting/Hearing both sides/Not taking sides/Being fair
- 9 Their job to dig/Investigate politicians/President
- 7 Trying to do their job/Report news as they see it
- We need to know this/Important/Otherwise we would not know
- 4 Are trying hard despite rumors/Doing a good job
- 3 Giving people what they want to hear/See
- 1 Makes us think/Voice opinions
- 1 Other positive mentions
- 1 Mixed/Some good and bad

Negative responses

- None of their business/Who cares what he does with his personal life/Leave his personal life alone/It's between Bill and Hillary Clinton/Nosy/Stay out of personal life
- 2 Too much coverage/Excessive/Over-reporting/24-hours a day
- 2 Lack of facts/Not verifying facts/Reporting without proof/Hearsay/Rumors/Accusations/Halftruths/Unsubstantiated
- 1 Trying to exploit Bill Clinton/Get him out of office/Impeach him
- Too much sensationalism/Blow out of proportion/Over-Emphasizing/Overkill
- 1 Biased reporting/Using personal opinions/One-sided reporting
- 10 Don't know/Refused/No answer

Q.14 CONTINUED ...

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID "FAIR/POOR" [N=440]

Negative responses

- Lack of facts/Not verifying facts/Reporting without proof/Hearsay/Rumors/Accusations/Halftruths/Unsubstantiated
- 17 Too much sensationalism/Blow out of proportion/Over-Emphasizing/Overkill
- Biased reporting/Using personal opinions/One-sided reporting 15
- None of their business/Who cares what he does with his personal life/Leave his personal life 14 alone/It's between Bill and Hillary Clinton/Nosy/Stay out of personal life
- 9 Too much coverage/Excessive/Over-reporting/24-hours a day
- 8 Quick to print/Broadcast
- 8 More important topics to cover/Not what people really care about
- 6 Trying to exploit Bill Clinton/Get him out of office/Impeach him
- Information is not complete/Not in-depth 6
- Trying to create news/Not report on it 5
- 3 Tired of story/It's tiresome
- 2 It's not important to country
- 2 Liberal biased
- 1 Mixed/some good and bad
- 6 Don't know/Refused/No answer
- Q.15 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...

		Excellent	Good	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a.	Carefully checking facts before reporting stories	6	25	36	29	4=100
b.	Being objective about whether or not President Clinton is guilty of any of these allegations	7	29	37	23	4=100
c.	Providing you with the information you need to make up your own mind about these allegations	10	35	31	21	3=100
d.	Providing the right amount of coverage about this story	12	31	30	25	2=100

- Q.16 Besides the news coverage, do you think there has been too much, too little or the right amount of DISCUSSION about this issue by commentators and analysts on television and radio?
 - 80 Too much
 - 4 Too little
 - 14 Right amount
 - $\frac{2}{100}$ DK/Refused

Q.17	In your opinion, is it the job of the news media to provide the public with information about whether or not President Clinton has engaged in extra-marital affairs, or not?				
	44	Yes, it's their job			
	52	No, it's not their job			
	2	Depends (VOL)			
	<u>2</u> 100	DK/Refused			
Q.18	the Pres	opinion, is it the job of the news media to provide the public with information about whether or not ident has lied under oath about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky or encouraged others to lie is, or not?			
	68	Yes, it's their job			
	27	No, it's not their job			
	2	Depends (VOL)			
	<u>3</u> 100	DK/Refused			
		ONLY: [N=410] ese allegations against Bill Clinton reduced your confidence in his leadership abilities, or not?			
	27	Yes			
	70	No			
	<u>3</u> 100	DK/Refused			
		ONLY: [N=434] ese allegations against Bill Clinton reduced your respect for him as a person, or not?			
	35	Yes			
	61	No			
	<u>4</u> 100	DK/Refused			

ASK ALL:

Q.21 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,...)

		Definitely	Probably	Probably	Definitely	DK/	
		<u>True</u>	<u>True</u>	Not True	Not True	<u>Ref</u>	
a.	The allegation that Bill Clinton had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky	9	43	29	10	9=100	
b.	The allegation that Bill Clinton lied under oath about having an						
	affair with Monica Lewinsky	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	8	32	36	16	8=100	
	Gallup: Jan 28, 1998	6	30	36	16	12=100	
	Gallup: Jan 25-26, 1998	14	34	28	16	8=100	
	Gallup: Jan 23-24, 1998	11	35	31	14	9=100	
	Gallup: Jan 21, 1998	6	33	33	18	10=100	

- Q.22 If it turns out that President Clinton had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office, or not?
 - 21 Yes, should be impeached
 - 76 No, should not
 - $\frac{3}{100}$ DK/Refused

- Q.23 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?
 - 50 Yes, should be impeached
 - 46 No, should not
 - $\frac{4}{100}$ DK/Refused

Q.24		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?				
	48	Yes, should be impeached				
	47	No, should not				
	<u>5</u> 100	DK/Refused				
Q.25	think most REPORTERS believe Bill Clinton had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, or					
	73	Yes				
	16	No				
	11 100	DK/Refused				
Q.26	Do you think most reporters believe Bill Clinton is guilty of lying under oath about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, or not?					
	69	Yes				
	19	No				
	12 100	DK/Refused				

Q.27 Now I'm going to read a list of details that have been reported about this controversy. Please tell me whether you consider each to be a FACT which has been proven... OR an ACCUSATION which may or may not be true. First, reports that (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE, ALWAYS READING ITEM "a" FIRST)... is this a fact or simply an accusation? How about reports that...

a.	President Clinton personally knew Monica Lewinsky	<u>Fact</u> 78	Accusation 19	<u>DK</u> 3=100
b.	President Clinton had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky	14	82	4=100
c.	President Clinton encouraged Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath about the affair	11	85	4=100
d.	President Clinton gave Monica Lewinsky gifts	35	59	6=100
e.	There are tape recordings of Monica Lewinsky talking to her friend Linda Tripp about her relationship with the President	49	45	6=100
f.	There is at least one eyewitness who saw the President and Monica Lewinsky in a compromising position	17	78	5=100
g.	President Clinton recently admitted that he HAD an affair with a woman named Gennifer Flowers when he was Governor of Arkansas	61	28	11=100
h.	There are tape recordings of President Clinton leaving messages on Monica Lewinsky's answering machine	23	70	7=100

- Q.28 Finally, looking forward, what do you think would be the best thing for the nation... (**READ**)?
 - To carry on the investigation into the allegations about President Clinton we have been discussing OR
 - To drop the matter
 - 2 DK/Refused (**VOL**)