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Most Foresee Embarrassment, Not Impeachment
AMERICANS UNMOVED BY PROSPECT OF CLINTON, LEWINSKY TESTIMONY

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AMERICANS UNMOVED BY PROSPECT OF CLINTON, LEWINSKY TESTIMONY

Public interest in the White House sex scandal has not increased at all with the news that President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky will soon give grand jury testimony. Only 29% of Americans are following news of the controversy very closely, despite a torrent of media coverage. News interest is nearly identical to that in previous months, when little was happening and the story was off the front pages. In June, 28% were highly attentive to the story; in April, 27%.

The Pew Research Center nationwide survey conducted July 29 to August 2 found that the big news out of Washington for the average American was the shooting in the Capitol — 45% followed the tragedy very closely. Reports about the nation's blistering heat wave also eclipsed interest in the Beltway's own sizzler, with 38% following the news very closely.

Clearly, the Clinton-Lewinsky case has lost its punch for most Americans. Half as many people judge the allegations to be of great importance to the country as felt that way when the story first broke (22% today, down from 40% in January). Even among Republicans, just 36% see the issue as very important and only 33% are following it very closely.

At the same time, the public seems in a more forgiving mood toward Bill Clinton than it was earlier in the year. Even though considerably more Americans now think that he had sex with Lewinsky and lied about it, the president's approval rating stands at 63%, up slightly from 59% in June. The percentage believing Clinton should be impeached and removed from office if he lied or encouraged Monica Lewinsky to lie has fallen, despite recent developments. Only 31% now say the president should go if he lied under oath about having a sexual relationship with Lewinsky, down from 40% in March and 50% in February. If it turns out Clinton encouraged Lewinsky to lie about the nature of their relationship, 41% of Americans say he should be impeached, down from 48% in March and February.¹

Flat Interest in Clinton Scandal

| | % Following "Very Closely" |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| August 1998 | 29 |
| June 1998 | 28 |
| April 1998 | 27 |
| March 1998 | 30 |
| February 1998 | 21 |
| February 1998 | 34 |
| January 1998 ♦ | 37 |
| January 1998 † | 38 |

† CBS trend

♦ Gallup trend

¹

Even the phrase "*conclusive proof*" of lying or suborning perjury does not produce majority support for impeachment. Just one-third of the public (36%) says if there were *proof* Clinton lied under oath he should be impeached; 44% say impeachment would be warranted if there were proof he encouraged Lewinsky to lie.

Republicans are more inclined toward impeachment than Democrats. However, even among the GOP faithful, strong support for impeachment only exists under the scenario that Clinton encouraged Lewinsky to lie. Even proof that Clinton lied about a sexual relationship would not move most Republicans.

Mea Culpa Would Satisfy Most

Few think the incident will lead to the end of the Clinton presidency. In the end, most Americans (55%) believe that Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr’s expected report to Congress will embarrass the president but not lead to impeachment hearings. Some 20% think the report will clear Clinton of wrongdoing; 13% think it will lead to impeachment hearings.

Fully 60% would be satisfied to end the matter if Clinton were to tell the American public that he had an affair with Lewinsky but lied about it to protect his family. Only 32% think Congress should still consider impeachment hearings in the wake of a public confession. Republicans are evenly divided on this issue: 47% say an admission of guilt should be enough to let the president off the hook. An equal percentage (45%) say Congress should still consider impeachment hearings. By a margin of 59%-to-34%, Independents favor putting the matter to rest.

Today, a congressional vote in favor of impeachment hearings would risk a public backlash. A majority (57%) says they would have an *unfavorable* opinion of members who voted for impeachment hearings. The crucial swing voters — registered voters who are undecided about how they will vote this fall — would not be impressed with members who pushed for hearings. By a margin of 54%-to-28% they say their opinion of those members would be unfavorable.

Voters who plan to support the Republican Party in the upcoming congressional elections would see a vote for hearings as a definite plus — 57% say they would have a favorable opinion of members who support hearings. Democratic voters would react negatively toward members who voted to pursue impeachment — 78% unfavorable vs. 17% favorable.

| Partisanship and Support for Impeachment | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>Rep.</u> | <u>Dem.</u> | <u>Ind.</u> |
| | % | % | % |
| <i>Lied under oath</i> | | | |
| Impeach | 46 | 16 | 33 |
| Don't impeach | 48 | 76 | 63 |
| DK/Ref. | <u>6</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>4</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| <i>Encouraged Lewinsky to lie</i> | | | |
| Impeach | 60 | 25 | 42 |
| Don't impeach | 37 | 70 | 51 |
| DK/Ref. | <u>3</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>7</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| Impeachment Vote Won't Win Swing Voters | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| (Based on Registered Voters) | | | |
| | <i>Congressional Preference</i> | | |
| | <u>Rep.</u> | <u>Dem.</u> | <u>Undecided</u> |
| | % | % | % |
| <i>Opinion of members who vote for hearings</i> | | | |
| Favorable | 57 | 17 | 28 |
| Unfavorable | 35 | 78 | 54 |
| DK/Refused | <u>8</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>18</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Most Now Believe Clinton Probably Lied

Americans overwhelmingly (73%) believe the president will continue to deny any sexual relationship with Lewinsky when he testifies in the grand jury investigation this month, even as the public becomes increasingly convinced Clinton did have an affair with Lewinsky and lied about it under oath. Fully 70% said allegations that Clinton had sexual relations with Lewinsky are definitely or probably true in last week’s poll, up from 52% in February after the allegations first broke. Similarly, two-thirds (66%) now say it is likely Clinton lied about the affair in his previous testimony, an increase from 49% five months ago.

This growing skepticism about Clinton’s actions is broad-based, with even members of the president’s own party flip-flopping on several questions concerning Clinton’s guilt. When the scandal story broke earlier this year, barely one-third of Democrats (33%) said the president definitely or probably had an affair, and even fewer (30%) said it was likely he lied about it in his earlier testimony. Today, more than half of Democrats (56%) say Clinton definitely or probably had an affair and almost as many (50%) say he likely lied about it in his sworn testimony.

At the same time, most Democrats continue to have doubts about another allegation against the president — the charge that Clinton participated in an effort to get Lewinsky to lie about the affair. Just 29% of Democrats in last week’s poll said this allegation is definitely or probably true. This compares with majorities of Independents (51%) and Republicans (68%) who say it is likely the president participated in an attempt to influence Lewinsky’s testimony.

| Questions of Guilt | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | <i>Percent who think Clinton...</i> | | |
| | <u>February</u> | <u>July</u> | <u>Change</u> |
| <i>Had sex with Lewinsky</i> | | | |
| Definitely true | 9 | 19 | +10 |
| Probably true | 43 | 51 | +8 |
| Probably not true | 29 | 14 | -15 |
| Definitely not true | 10 | 7 | -3 |
| Don’t know | <u>9</u> | <u>9</u> | 0 |
| | 100 | 100 | |
| <i>Lied about affair with Lewinsky</i> | | | |
| Definitely true | 9 | 20 | +11 |
| Probably true | 40 | 46 | +6 |
| Probably not true | 31 | 16 | -15 |
| Definitely not true | 11 | 8 | -3 |
| Don’t know | <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> | +1 |
| | 100 | 100 | |
| <i>Participated in effort to get Lewinsky to lie</i> | | | |
| Definitely true | 8 | 14 | +6 |
| Probably true | 32 | 34 | +2 |
| Probably not true | 36 | 28 | -8 |
| Definitely not true | 16 | 14 | -2 |
| Don’t know | <u>8</u> | <u>10</u> | +2 |
| | 100 | 100 | |

The public divides sharply along partisan lines over who they believe *more* — Clinton or Lewinsky. Two-thirds of Republicans (66%) said they would believe Lewinsky if she and Clinton offer different accounts of their relationship, while 64% of Democrats said they would believe Clinton. Among those who believe Clinton more than Lewinsky, most (57%) would not be swayed

even if Lewinsky provided new evidence, such as tape recorded messages from her answering machine or personal gifts from Clinton.

While most Americans blame both Clinton and Starr for the length of the grand jury investigation, Starr gets a greater share of the criticism. Fully 70% say Starr has taken more time than necessary in his investigation, while 24% say he has not taken too much time. In contrast, 56% say Clinton has delayed the inquiry by not saying more about his relationship with Lewinsky, while 38% say the president is not to blame.

One Cloud for White House

One potentially troubling pattern for the White House in the Pew Research Center data is that people who believe that Clinton *definitely* lied about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky favor impeachment while those who think that he *probably* lied oppose impeachment. This raises the possibility that if more Americans become convinced that Clinton committed perjury, they may take a graver view of this charge. However, over the past six months, the public has become more certain of Clinton’s guilt while at the same time less in favor of impeachment.

**Definitely True? Probably True?
Differing Perspectives on Impeachment***

Percent who say allegation that Clinton lied under oath is...

| <i>If Clinton lied under oath, should he be impeached?</i> | <i>Percent who say allegation that Clinton lied under oath is...</i> | | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>Definitely True</u> | <u>Probably True</u> | <u>Def./Prob. Not true</u> |
| Yes, should | 63 | 27 | 21 |
| No, should not | 36 | 68 | 75 |
| Don't know | <u>1</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>4</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | (N=101) | (N=398) | (N=208) |

* In order to take partisanship into account, results are based on responses from Democrats and Independents only.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,189 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period July 29 - August 2, 1998. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=595) or Form 2 (N=594), the sampling error is plus or minus 5 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

PROBABLE OUTCOME OF STARR'S REPORT TO CONGRESS

| | Lead to Impeachment <u>Hearings</u> % | Embarrass the <u>president</u> % | Clear the president <u>of wrongdoing</u> % | Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u> % | <u>(N)</u> |
|----------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Total | 13 | 55 | 20 | 12=100 | (1189) |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 15 | 55 | 21 | 9 | (588) |
| Female | 12 | 55 | 19 | 14 | (601) |
| Race | | | | | |
| White | 14 | 57 | 17 | 12 | (955) |
| Non-white | 9 | 48 | 31 | 12 | (210) |
| Black | 7 | 46 | 38 | 9 | (127) |
| Race and Sex | | | | | |
| White Men | 16 | 57 | 18 | 9 | (468) |
| White Women | 12 | 57 | 17 | 14 | (487) |
| Age | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 15 | 57 | 21 | 7 | (263) |
| 30-49 | 12 | 61 | 19 | 8 | (501) |
| 50-64 | 11 | 54 | 16 | 19 | (237) |
| 65+ | 17 | 40 | 23 | 20 | (176) |
| Education | | | | | |
| College Grad. | 15 | 65 | 7 | 13 | (424) |
| Some College | 12 | 59 | 19 | 10 | (276) |
| High School Grad. | 12 | 54 | 22 | 12 | (386) |
| <H.S. Grad | 15 | 40 | 31 | 14 | (95) |
| Family Income | | | | | |
| \$75,000+ | 18 | 64 | 8 | 10 | (192) |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 13 | 67 | 10 | 10 | (189) |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 12 | 58 | 18 | 12 | (298) |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 12 | 51 | 27 | 10 | (164) |
| <\$20,000 | 11 | 48 | 31 | 10 | (198) |

Question: What do you think is most likely to happen when Kenneth Starr reports to Congress on his investigation? Will the report lead to impeachment hearings, OR will it simply embarrass the president but not lead to impeachment hearings, OR will it clear the president of any wrongdoing?

CONTINUED ...

| | Lead to Impeachment <u>Hearings</u> % | Embarrass the president % | Clear the president of wrongdoing % | Don't Know/ Refused % | (N) |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------|
| Total | 13 | 55 | 20 | 12=100 | (1189) |
| Region | | | | | |
| East | 16 | 54 | 18 | 12 | (208) |
| Midwest | 14 | 55 | 18 | 13 | (295) |
| South | 12 | 53 | 24 | 11 | (426) |
| West | 12 | 61 | 15 | 12 | (260) |
| Community Size | | | | | |
| Large City | 14 | 51 | 23 | 12 | (269) |
| Suburb | 15 | 68 | 9 | 8 | (321) |
| Small City/Town | 10 | 50 | 26 | 14 | (394) |
| Rural Area | 15 | 56 | 15 | 14 | (183) |
| Party ID | | | | | |
| Republican | 15 | 61 | 13 | 11 | (320) |
| Democrat | 9 | 53 | 29 | 9 | (390) |
| Independent | 16 | 58 | 15 | 11 | (403) |
| 1996 Presidential Vote | | | | | |
| Clinton | 9 | 56 | 24 | 11 | (439) |
| Dole | 23 | 62 | 6 | 9 | (174) |
| 1996 Congressional Vote | | | | | |
| Republican | 21 | 60 | 7 | 12 | (265) |
| Democrat | 10 | 56 | 24 | 10 | (299) |

**OPINION OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
WHO VOTE IN FAVOR OF IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS**

| | <u>Very Favorable</u> % | <u>Mostly Favorable</u> % | <u>Mostly Unfavorable</u> % | <u>Very Unfavorable</u> % | <u>Don't Know/ Refused</u> % |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total | 12 | 22 | 25 | 32 | 9=100 |
| Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 14 | 22 | 25 | 31 | 8 |
| Female | 11 | 21 | 25 | 33 | 10 |
| Race | | | | | |
| White | 13 | 23 | 25 | 30 | 9 |
| Non-white | 10 | 11 | 27 | 44 | 8 |
| Black | 10 | 9 | 26 | 47 | 8 |
| Race and Sex | | | | | |
| White Men | 15 | 24 | 25 | 29 | 7 |
| White Women | 12 | 23 | 24 | 30 | 11 |
| Age | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 14 | 24 | 25 | 29 | 8 |
| 30-49 | 13 | 19 | 27 | 33 | 7 |
| 50-64 | 10 | 25 | 22 | 34 | 9 |
| 65+ | 13 | 20 | 23 | 32 | 12 |
| Education | | | | | |
| College Grad. | 14 | 22 | 24 | 31 | 9 |
| Some College | 17 | 20 | 24 | 32 | 7 |
| High School Grad. | 9 | 23 | 25 | 34 | 9 |
| <H.S. Grad | 12 | 19 | 27 | 30 | 12 |
| Family Income | | | | | |
| \$75,000+ | 15 | 20 | 25 | 34 | 6 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 14 | 21 | 27 | 28 | 10 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 11 | 26 | 30 | 28 | 5 |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 17 | 16 | 20 | 38 | 9 |
| <\$20,000 | 10 | 24 | 21 | 36 | 9 |

Question: 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?

CONTINUED ...

| | <u>Very Favorable</u> % | <u>Mostly Favorable</u> % | <u>Mostly Unfavorable</u> % | <u>Very Unfavorable</u> % | <u>Don't Know/ Refused</u> % |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Total</i> | 12 | 22 | 25 | 32 | 9=100 |
| <i>Region</i> | | | | | |
| East | 8 | 25 | 27 | 29 | 11 |
| Midwest | 11 | 26 | 19 | 33 | 11 |
| South | 14 | 19 | 29 | 30 | 8 |
| West | 16 | 18 | 23 | 37 | 6 |
| <i>Community Size</i> | | | | | |
| Large City | 9 | 20 | 25 | 37 | 9 |
| Suburb | 15 | 23 | 25 | 28 | 9 |
| Small City/Town | 12 | 19 | 27 | 33 | 9 |
| Rural Area | 15 | 26 | 21 | 29 | 9 |
| <i>Party ID</i> | | | | | |
| Republican | 24 | 33 | 22 | 13 | 8 |
| Democrat | 5 | 13 | 27 | 50 | 5 |
| Independent | 12 | 22 | 26 | 30 | 10 |
| <i>1996 Presidential Vote</i> | | | | | |
| Clinton | 3 | 14 | 28 | 48 | 7 |
| Dole | 36 | 33 | 13 | 10 | 8 |
| <i>1996 Congressional Vote</i> | | | | | |
| Republican | 29 | 33 | 18 | 10 | 10 |
| Democrat | 5 | 11 | 27 | 51 | 6 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AUGUST 1998 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
— FINAL TOPLINE —
July 29 - August 2, 1998
N = 1,189

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]**

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |
| 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 |

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 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 | 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 |

Q.4 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]**

NOTE: ALWAYS ASK "C" IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING "B"; ALWAYS ASK "C2" IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING "C". ROTATE ALL OTHER ITEMS

| | <u>Very Closely</u> | <u>Fairly Closely</u> | <u>Not too Closely</u> | <u>Not at all Closely</u> | (VOL) <u>DK</u> |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district | 13 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 1=100 |
| June, 1998 | 9 | 27 | 33 | 30 | 1=100 |
| April, 1998 ² | 16 | 33 | 24 | 27 | *=100 |
| November, 1994 | 18 | 42 | 25 | 15 | *=100 |
| October, 1994 | 14 | 38 | 31 | 16 | 1=100 |
| Early October, 1994 | 23 | 34 | 23 | 19 | 1=100 |
| September, 1994 | 19 | 34 | 29 | 18 | *=100 |
| November, 1990 ³ | 38 | 34 | 17 | 11 | *=100 |
| October, 1990 | 18 | 32 | 28 | 22 | *=100 |
| b. The investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton | 29 | 34 | 22 | 14 | 1=100 |
| June, 1998 ⁴ | 28 | 32 | 24 | 15 | 1=100 |
| April, 1998 | 27 | 39 | 20 | 14 | *=100 |
| March, 1998 | 30 | 35 | 25 | 9 | 1=100 |
| February, 1998 ⁵ | 21 | 44 | 25 | 10 | *=100 |
| Early February, 1998 | 34 | 42 | 17 | 7 | 0=100 |
| c. Monica Lewinsky's agreement to testify in this matter in return for immunity from prosecution | 24 | 33 | 22 | 19 | 2=100 |

² In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state."

³ In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

⁴ In June, April and March 1998 story was listed as "Allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton."

⁵ In February 1998, story was listed as "Allegations that President Clinton had an affair with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky."

Q.4 CONTINUED ...

| | | <u>Very Closely</u> | <u>Fairly Closely</u> | <u>Not too Closely</u> | <u>Not at all Closely</u> | (VOL) <u>DK</u> |
|--|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| [ITEM ASKED JULY 30 TO AUGUST 2; N=877] | | | | | | |
| c.2 | Bill Clinton's decision to testify by videotape in the Lewinsky investigation | 25 | 28 | 23 | 22 | 2=100 |
| d. | The heat wave and its impact throughout the country | 38 | 39 | 14 | 8 | 1=100 |
| e. | The cloning of mice by scientists in Hawaii April, 1997 ⁶ | 6 17 | 15 33 | 24 26 | 52 23 | 3=100 1=100 |
| f. | The shooting of two police officers at the United States Capitol | 45 | 37 | 13 | 4 | 1=100 |
| g. | President Clinton's trip to China | 14 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 1=100 |
| h. | The end of the United Auto Workers strike against General Motors | 20 | 34 | 26 | 19 | 1=100 |

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT....

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=751]

Q.24F1 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?

| | | --- CBS News --- | | | | |
|----------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | March | Feb | Early Feb | Jan 26th | Jan 24-25 |
| | | <u>1998</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1998</u> |
| 22 | Great importance | 26 | 22 | 25 | 39 | 40 |
| 22 | Some importance | 24 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 21 |
| 51 | Very little importance | 46 | 50 | 45 | 28 | 35 |
| 3 | None (VOL) | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>2</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>1</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | | | | | (N=609) | (N=943) |

QUESTION ASKED JULY 30 TO AUGUST 2:

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:[N=438]

Q.24a2

F2 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?

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 27 | Great importance |
| 21 | Some importance |
| 46 | Very little importance |
| 3 | None (VOL) |
| <u>3</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100 | |

⁶

In April 1997, story was listed as "The cloning of a sheep by a Scottish biologist."

ASK ALL:

Q.25 Do you think Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr has taken MORE time than necessary in his investigation of possible sexual misconduct by President Clinton, or don't you think this is the case?

70 More time than necessary
 24 Not the case
6 Don't know
 100

Q.25a Do you think President Clinton has delayed this investigation more than necessary by not saying more about the nature of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, or don't you think this is the case?

56 Delayed investigation
 38 Not the case
6 Don't know
 100

Q.26 What do you think is most likely to happen when Kenneth Starr reports to Congress on his investigation? Will the report lead to impeachment hearings, OR will it simply embarrass the president but not lead to impeachment hearings, OR will it clear the president of any wrongdoing?

13 Lead to impeachment hearings
 55 Embarrass the president
 20 Clear the president of any wrongdoing
12 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.27 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?

12 Very favorable
 22 Mostly favorable
 25 Mostly Unfavorable
 32 Very Unfavorable
9 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.28 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)**

| | Definitely True | Probably True | Probably Not True | Definitely Not True | DK/Ref |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| a. The allegation that Bill Clinton had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky February, 1998 | 19 9 | 51 43 | 14 29 | 7 10 | 9=100 9=100 |
| b. The allegation that Bill Clinton lied under oath about having an affair with Monica Lewinsky February, 1998 | 20 9 | 46 40 | 16 31 | 8 11 | 10=100 9=100 |
| <i>Gallup: Jan 28, 1998</i> | 9 | 37 | 31 | 13 | 10=100 |
| <i>Gallup: Jan 25-26, 1998</i> | 18 | 38 | 23 | 13 | 8=100 |
| <i>Gallup: Jan 23-24, 1998</i> | 15 | 40 | 26 | 10 | 9=100 |
| <i>Gallup: Jan 21, 1998</i> | 8 | 41 | 28 | 15 | 8=100 |

Q.28 CONTINUED ...

| | Definitely <u>True</u> | Probably <u>True</u> | Probably <u>Not True</u> | Definitely <u>Not True</u> | DK/ <u>Ref</u> |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| c. The allegation that Bill Clinton participated in an effort to obstruct justice by getting Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath about the affair | 14 | 34 | 28 | 14 | 10=100 |
| February, 1998 | 8 | 32 | 36 | 16 | 8=100 |
| <i>Gallup</i> : Jan 28, 1998 | 6 | 30 | 36 | 16 | 12=100 |
| <i>Gallup</i> : Jan 25-26, 1998 | 14 | 34 | 28 | 16 | 8=100 |
| <i>Gallup</i> : Jan 23-24, 1998 | 11 | 35 | 31 | 14 | 9=100 |
| <i>Gallup</i> : Jan 21, 1998 | 6 | 33 | 33 | 18 | 10=100 |

Q.28a1 Still thinking about these allegations, if Monica Lewinsky claims that she and Bill Clinton had a sexual relationship and he claims that they did not, who would you believe more — Monica Lewinsky or Bill Clinton?

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| 43 | Lewinsky |
| 41 | Clinton |
| 7 | Neither (VOL) |
| <u>9</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100 | |

QUESTION ASKED JULY 30 TO AUGUST 2: [N=877]

Q.28b1 When Bill Clinton testifies, what do think he will say? Will he continue to deny any sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, OR do you think he will say he did have a sexual relationship with her?

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 73 | Will continue to deny sexual relationship |
| 13 | Will say he did have sex |
| <u>14</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100 | |

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=595]

Q.29 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?

| | March <u>1998</u> | Early Feb <u>1998</u> |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 31 | Yes, should be impeached | 40 |
| 63 | No, should not | 55 |
| <u>6</u> | Don't know | <u>5</u> |
| 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=595]

Q.30 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?

| | March <u>1998</u> | Early Feb <u>1998</u> |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 41 | Yes, should be impeached | 48 |
| 53 | No, should not | 47 |
| <u>6</u> | Don't know | <u>5</u> |
| 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=594]

Q.31 If there were conclusive proof 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?

| | | March <u>1998</u> |
|----------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 36 | Yes, should be impeached | 45 |
| 58 | No, should not | 48 |
| <u>6</u> | Don't know | <u>7</u> |
| 100 | | 100 |

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=594]

Q.32 If there were conclusive proof 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?

| | | March <u>1998</u> |
|----------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 44 | Yes, should be impeached | 54 |
| 49 | No, should not | 38 |
| <u>7</u> | Don't know | <u>8</u> |
| 100 | | 100 |

QUESTION ASKED JULY 30 TO AUGUST 2:

IF "2" IN Q.28a, ASK: [N=335]

Q.32a If Monica Lewinsky were to provide physical evidence to the grand jury, such as tape recorded messages Bill Clinton left on her answering machine or personal gifts that he gave her, would you still believe Clinton more than Lewinsky?

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 57 | Yes, would still believe Clinton |
| 32 | No, would not |
| <u>11</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100 | |

QUESTION ASKED JULY 30 TO AUGUST 2: [N=877]

ASK ALL:

Q.32b If Bill Clinton were to tell the American public that he had an affair with Monica Lewinsky but lied about it under oath to protect his family, in your opinion should this be enough to end the matter, OR do think Congress should still consider impeachment hearings?

| | |
|----------|---|
| 60 | Enough to end the matter |
| 32 | Congress should still consider impeachment hearings |
| <u>8</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100 | |