

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MARCH 1998 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**-- FINAL TOPLINE --**  
**March 25-29, 1998**  
**N=1,206**

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>
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
May, 1994	46	42	12=100
March, 1994	45	42	13=100

**Q.1 CONTINUED ...**

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

**IF '1' OR '2' IN Q.1, ASK:**

Q.1a Do you (INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q.1) very strongly, or not so strongly?

		--- Gallup ---			
		Clinton	Reagan	Carter	
		<u>7/94</u>	<u>6/86</u>	<u>6/83</u>	<u>4/78</u>
65	Approve	45	64	47	48
	43 Very strongly	18	41	21	14
	21 Not so strongly	27	21	26	34
	1 Don't know	—	2	—	—
26	Disapprove	46	26	44	39
	6 Not so strongly	17	9	15	22
	19 Very strongly	29	17	29	17
	1 Don't know	—	*	—	—
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

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]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
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
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.3F1 Thinking ahead, what do you think Bill Clinton will be most remembered for after he has left office?  
**(ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES, PROBE FOR CLARITY)**

**56 SCANDALS (NET)**

- 41 Sex scandals (sub-net)
  - 20 Sex scandals/ sexual exploits/ sexual encounters
  - 8 Extra-marital affairs
  - 5 Monica Lewinsky incident/ case/ relationship
  - 4 Womanizing/ philandering
  - 3 Slandorous allegations/ allegations by women of an affair/ harassment
  - 3 His girlfriends/ all his girls/ women in his life
  - 2 His personal life/ publicity of his personal life
  - 2 Sexual harassment case/ scandal/ incident
  - 1 Problem with women
  - 1 Paula Jones Incident
- 18 Scandals (general/unspecified)
  - 1 Whitewater
  - 1 The attacks on him/ persecution
  - 1 The trial
  - 1 Avoiding impeachment/ staying in office/ ability to recover from scandal
  - 1 Corrupting/ disgracing/ cheapening the White House

**14 ECONOMY/ BUDGET/ DEFICIT (NET)**

- 9 Good management of the economy/ handling of the deficit
- 5 Balancing the budget/ handling the deficit
- 4 Economy (sub-net)
  - 3 Decrease in unemployment
  - 1 Stock Market

6 Good job he has done

**6 POLICY (NET)**

- 2 Welfare reform
- 2 Improving education
- 1 Improvements in foreign policy
- 1 Helping the elderly
- 3 Iraq Situation/ no loss of life/ ensuring peace
- 3 Lying/ lack of honesty
- 2 His concern for the common man/ working people/ poor/ less fortunate
- 1 Lack of integrity/ morals
- 1 Helping children
- 1 Nothing/ nothing in particular
- 10 Other
- 12 Don't know/ No answer

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.4F1 What do you think has been Bill Clinton's greatest accomplishment since he became President in 1993?  
**(ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES, PROBE FOR CLARITY)**

- 33 ECONOMY/ BUDGET/ DEFICIT (NET)**
  - 26 Economy (sub-net)
    - 18 Improving the economy
    - 12 Reducing unemployment
    - 1 Wage increase
    - 1 Reducing the inflation rate
  - 10 Balancing the budget/ Reducing the deficit
- 17 POLICY (NET)**
  - 5 Welfare reform
  - 4 Medicare/ healthcare
  - 4 Improving/ funding education
  - 2 Tax cuts
  - 2 Foreign affairs / policy
  - 2 Social Security
  - 1 Family Leave Act
- 6 SCANDALS (NET)**
  - 6 Sex scandals (sub-net)
    - 3 Sex scandals/ problem with women
  - 4 Staying in office/ avoiding impeachment/ dodging Ken Starr
  - 5 Handling the Gulf Crisis
  - 4 He's done a good job/ the best he can do
  - 3 His concern for the common man/ working people/ poor/ less fortunate
  - 1 Improving the business climate
  - 1 Working with Congress/ the Republicans
  - 1 Uniting the nation/ Improving nationalism/ Improving national morale
  - 1 Promotion of peace
  - 1 Fooling the public
  - 12 Other
  - 5 Nothing/ nothing in particular
  - 24 Don't know/ No answer

Q.5 Now I'm going to read a list of names of people who have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard of them. For each one, please tell me if you happen to know who that person is. First... **(INSERT NAME; ROTATE)** (IF NECESSARY: Do you happen to know who **(NAME)** is?) **INTERVIEWER NOTE: FOR EACH ITEM, IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "YES", FOLLOW UP WITH: Who is (INSERT NAME)?**

		<u>Correct</u>	<u>Any Other Answer</u>	<u>No/DK/ Refused</u>
a.	Vernon Jordan	41	11	48=100
b.	Kathleen Willey	52	6	42=100
c.	Bill Gates	59	11	30=100
	June, 1997	46	7	47=100

Q.6 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]**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK (VOL)</u>
a. Allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton	30	35	25	9	1=100
February, 1998 <sup>1</sup>	21	44	25	10	*=100
Early February, 1998	34	42	17	7	0=100
b. The NCAA basketball tournament	20	13	19	47	1=100
April, 1990	24	16	14	46	*=100
c. The expansion of NATO to include Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic	5	16	29	49	1=100
August, 1997	6	16	31	46	1=100
April, 1997 <sup>2</sup>	6	16	27	50	1=100
January, 1997	5	15	32	47	1=100
d. The trial of Army Sergeant Major Gene McKinney on charges of sexual misconduct and obstruction of justice	10	27	36	27	*=100
e. Bill Gates's testimony before Congress and the debate over the growing power of Microsoft	8	19	31	41	1=100
f. Ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia	5	12	26	55	2=100
g. President Clinton's trip to Africa	12	31	33	23	1=100
h. Gasoline prices hitting new lows	27	29	25	18	1=100
i. The shooting at a middle school in Jonesboro, Arkansas	49	33	12	5	1=100

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<sup>1</sup> In February 1998, story was listed as "Allegations that President Clinton had an affair with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky."

<sup>2</sup> In April and January 1997, story was listed as "The discussion and debate about expanding NATO into Eastern Europe."

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT,**

Q.7 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.7, ASK:**

Q.7a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=908]**

		Feb 1998	Jan 1998	Aug 1997	Early Nov 1996 <sup>3</sup>	Late Oct 1996	Sept 1996	Early Sept 1996	July 1996	June 1996	March 1996	Jan 1996	Oct 1995	Aug 1995	Nov 1994	Oct 1994	Early Oct 1994	Sept 1994	July 1994
40	Rep/Lean Rep	41	41	45	44	42	43	43	46	44	44	46	48	50	45	47	52	48	45
52	Dem/Lean Dem	50	51	48	48	49	49	51	47	50	49	47	48	43	43	44	40	46	47
<u>8</u> 100	Other/Undecided	<u>9</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>9</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100	<u>9</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100

Q.8 What will make the biggest difference in how you vote for Congress in your district — national issues, local or state issues, the candidate's political party, or the candidate's character or experience? **(IF MORE THAN ONE, PROBE WITH: Well, which is most important?)**

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=908]**

--- CBS/NYT ---

		Oct 1994	Early Oct 1994	Oct 24-28 1986	Sept 28-Oct 1 1986
18	National issue	22	22	22	20
37	State/local issue	38	27	25	23
6	Political party	3	5	6	9
35	Character/Experience	29	39	40	41
1	Other (VOL)	3	2	1	3
1	None (VOL)	1	1	1	*
<u>2</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100

<sup>3</sup> Based on likely voters.

Q.9 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=908]**

				<b>Bush</b>	<b>----- Reagan -----</b>		
		Oct	Early Oct	Oct 28-31	Oct 24-28	Sept 28-Oct 1	Oct 23-28
		<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1982</u>
21	For	17	17	19	26	26	23
15	Against	21	23	15	12	16	21
59	Not a factor	57	54	61	55	51	51
<u>5</u>	Don't know/refused	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.10 Generally, do you approve or disapprove of expanding NATO to include Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary?

		Sept
		<u>1997</u>
49	Approve	63
18	Disapprove	18
<u>33</u>	Don't know	<u>19</u>
100		100

Q.11 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")

**ALWAYS ASK PEOPLE (items e - r) SECOND; ROTATE ITEMS WITHIN GROUPS**

		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.	The Democratic Party	15	43	26	10	*	6=100
	August, 1997	11	41	32	10	0	6=100
	June, 1997	10	51	25	8	*	6=100
	January, 1997	13	47	28	7	*	5=100
	October, 1995	9	40	37	11	-	3=100
	July, 1994	13	49	27	7	*	4=100
	May, 1993	14	43	25	9	0	9=100
	July, 1992	17	44	24	9	*	6=100
b.	The Republican Party	10	40	31	12	*	7=100
	August, 1997	9	38	36	11	*	6=100
	June, 1997	8	43	31	11	1	6=100
	January, 1997	8	44	33	10	*	5=100
	October, 1995	10	42	28	16	*	4=100
	July, 1994	12	51	25	8	*	4=100
	May, 1993	12	42	25	10	0	11=100
	July, 1992	9	37	31	17	*	6=100
c.	The women's movement	16	51	15	9	1	8=100
	July, 1994	20	48	19	9	*	4=100
	November, 1991	19	52	16	6	0	7=100
	June, 1985	19	44	19	11	1	6=100
d.	The news media	9	39	34	16	*	2=100
	September, 1997	7	43	34	14	*	2=100

**Q.11 CONTINUED ...**

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
e.	Bill Clinton	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 <sup>4</sup>	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
f.	Al Gore	17	42	19	11	2	9=100
	November, 1997	12	43	26	12	1	6=100
	September, 1997	11	35	28	15	1	10=100
	August, 1997	15	39	22	15	1	8=100
	April, 1997	12	45	24	12	1	6=100
	January, 1997	18	47	21	8	1	5=100
	July, 1994	18	49	19	7	2	5=100
	August, 1992	22	44	15	5	2	12=100
	July, 1992 <sup>5</sup>	15	32	14	5	6	28=100
	September, 1987	6	23	11	3	23	34=100

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<sup>4</sup> October 1996 trend based on registered voters.

<sup>5</sup> July 1992 trend based on 461 respondents asked on July 9, 1992 only.

**Q.11 CONTINUED ...**

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
g.	Newt Gingrich	6	30	29	20	6	9=100
	November, 1997	6	24	35	24	4	7=100
	August, 1997	6	24	35	27	2	6=100
	April, 1997	5	23	36	28	3	5=100
	January, 1997	4	24	39	26	2	5=100
	August, 1995	9	21	29	25	4	12=100
	February, 1995	12	29	22	15	10	12=100
	December, 1994	7	18	15	13	30	17=100
July, 1994	2	12	8	4	65	9=100	
h.	Hillary Clinton	26	39	17	14	*	4=100
	January, 1997	17	40	23	17	*	3=100
	June, 1996	13	40	26	17	*	4=100
	April, 1996	12	37	27	19	0	5=100
	February, 1996	14	28	27	27	0	4=100
	January, 1996	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	
i.	Trent Lott	3	13	11	7	52	14=100
	November, 1997	3	16	14	5	51	11=100
	April, 1997	4	19	13	5	48	11=100
j.	Kenneth Starr	6	16	24	25	19	10=100
	<i>Gallup</i> , January 1998		24		24	29	23=100
k.	Vernon Jordan	8	26	15	6	23	22=100
l.	Monica Lewinsky	3	14	37	30	4	12=100
	<i>Gallup</i> , February, 1998		13		63	4	20=100
	<i>Gallup</i> , January 1998		30		50	1	19=100
m.	Betty Currie	5	16	8	4	53	14=100
n.	Kathleen Willey	3	15	27	18	23	14=100
	<i>Gallup</i> , March 1998		23		29	25	23=100

**Q.11 CONTINUED ...**

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
o.	Linda Tripp <i>Time/CNN</i> , March 1998	2	11	26	44	26	11=100 7=100
p.	Bill Gates <i>ABC/WP</i> , January 1998	15	49	13	16	10	17=100 35=100
q.	Anita Hill	10	31	23	9	13	14=100
r.	Paula Jones	3	14	37	28	7	11=100

Q.12 Generally, what's the better situation: that a president's political party also have a controlling majority in Congress, OR is it better that one party controls the White House while the other party controls the Congress...or don't you think it matters too much one way or the other?

		Aug 1997	May 1992
19	President's party also control	18	26
34	One party control each	32	23
40	Doesn't matter	42	40
<u>7</u> 100	Don't know	<u>8</u> 100	<u>11</u> 100

Q.13 Thinking about the Democratic and Republican parties, would you say there is a great deal of difference in what they stand for, a fair amount of difference, or hardly any difference at all?

		June 1997	Oct 1995	July 1994	May 1990	May 1987
28	A great deal	25	34	23	24	25
45	A fair amount	48	46	51	45	45
23	Hardly any	25	18	24	27	25
<u>4</u> 100	DK/Refused	<u>2</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100

Q.14 Now, I'm going to read you some phrases. Please tell me if you think each one better describes the REPUBLICAN Party and its leaders or the DEMOCRATIC Party and its leaders. (First,) which party do you think is better described by the phrase . . . (INSERT ITEM. ROTATE)?

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	Both <u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
a. Can bring about the kinds of changes the country needs	32	45	7	8	8=100
August, 1997	38	40	4	11	7=100
July, 1996	39	46	2	7	6=100
April, 1995	51	34	4	7	4=100
July, 1994	39	42	4	10	5=100
May, 1990	27	31	13	18	11=100
May, 1988	27	43	9	11	10=100
January, 1988	28	37	14	11	10=100
May, 1987	26	36	14	14	10=100
b. Is concerned with the needs of people like me	30	51	4	8	7=100
August, 1997	31	49	3	10	7=100
July, 1996	35	50	2	7	6=100
April, 1995	39	49	2	7	3=100
July, 1994	35	49	4	8	4=100
May, 1990	21	42	12	18	7=100
May, 1988	23	51	8	11	7=100
January, 1988	22	47	11	13	7=100
c. Governs in an honest and ethical way	28	32	7	24	9=100
August, 1997	28	33	5	26	8=100
July, 1996	38	37	2	18	5=100
April, 1995	35	36	4	19	6=100
July, 1994	32	35	6	21	6=100
d. Is concerned with the needs and interests of the disadvantaged	16	64	6	6	8=100
July, 1994	21	65	4	5	5=100
May, 1990	14	56	12	10	8=100
May, 1987	11	61	14	7	7=100
e. Is concerned with the needs and interests of business and other powerful groups	63	20	7	2	8=100
July, 1994	66	23	5	1	5=100
May, 1990	57	15	15	5	8=100
May, 1987	58	15	16	3	8=100
f. Selects good candidates for office	32	33	12	12	11=100
July, 1994	40	36	6	13	5=100
May, 1990	32	22	21	17	8=100
May, 1988	28	30	13	19	10=100
January, 1988	31	24	18	18	9=100
May, 1987	27	26	25	13	9=100

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.15 How often, if ever, do you YOURSELF use a computer to go online to get information about current events, public issues, or politics? Regularly, sometimes, hardly ever, or never?

16	Regularly
12	Sometimes
13	Hardly ever
59	Never
<u>*</u>	Don't know
100	

Q.16 Would you like to see your Representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=908]**

		Aug 1997	Early Nov 1996	Oct 1996	Late Sept 1996	Early Sept 1996	Nov 1994	Oct 1994	Early Oct 1994	---Gallup--- Oct 25-28 1990
63	Yes	66	60	62	55	62	58	55	49	62
21	No	22	16	19	17	19	25	30	29	22
1	Congressman is not running (VOL)	0	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
<u>15</u>	No opinion	<u>12</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>14</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.17 Regardless of how you feel about your own Representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=908]**

		Aug 1997	Early Sept 1996	Nov 1994	Late Oct 1994	Early Oct 1994
45	Yes	45	43	31	31	28
41	No	42	43	51	56	56
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.18 Next, please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of...(READ AND ROTATE)

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	Both <u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
<b>FORM 1: [N=603]</b>						
a.	Improving the job situation	30	51	7	5	7=100
	October, 1994	37	42	6	7	8=100
<b>FORM 2: [N=603]</b>						
b.	Keeping the country prosperous	40	40	12	3	5=100
	October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10=100
	October, 1992 <sup>6</sup>	36	45	10	0	9=100
	October, 1990 <sup>7</sup>	37	35	0	0	28=100
<b>ASK ALL:</b>						
c.	Reducing crime	35	34	11	10	10=100
	October, 1994	38	34	7	10	11=100
d.	Reforming the U.S. health care system	25	53	6	8	8=100
	October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10=100
	July, 1994	34	48	2	8	8=100
e.	Making wise decisions about foreign policy	41	33	12	4	10=100
	October, 1994	47	30	7	5	11=100
	July, 1994 <sup>8</sup>	51	31	4	6	8=100
	May, 1990	39	28	NA	17	16=100
f.	Dealing with taxes	39	40	6	7	8=100
	October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9=100
g.	Promoting morality and personal responsibility	43	29	9	11	8=100
	October, 1994	40	35	6	8	11=100
	July 1994	46	34	4	8	8=100
h.	Improving our educational system	29	49	10	5	7=100
	October, 1994	37	46	4	5	8=100
	May, 1990	30	42	NA	14	14=100

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<sup>6</sup> Gallup poll conducted Oct. 23-25, 1992 based on registered voters.

<sup>7</sup> Gallup poll Oct 25-28, 1990.

<sup>8</sup> In July 1994 and May 1990, question was stated as "Making wise decisions about the country's defense policies."

**Q.18 CONTINUED ...**

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	Both <u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
i.	Protecting the environment	22	56	8	5	9=100
	July, 1994	28	56	4	4	8=100
	May, 1990	24	40	NA	19	17=100
j.	Making America competitive in the world economy	44	34	11	3	8=100
	July, 1994	48	35	4	5	8=100
	May, 1990	41	25	NA	17	17=100
k.	Reforming government	37	35	8	10	10=100
	July, 1994	39	40	3	11	7=100

Q.19 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 ---			
		Feb <u>1998</u>	Early Feb <u>1998</u>	Jan 26th <u>1998</u>	Jan 24-25 <u>1998</u>
26	Great importance	22	25	39	40
24	Some importance	25	27	28	21
46	Very little importance	50	45	28	35
2	None (VOL)	3	1	2	3
<u>2</u> 100	DK/Refused	<u>*</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100	<u>3</u> 100	<u>1</u> 100
				(N=609)	(N=943)

Q.20 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?

		Feb <u>1998</u>	Early Feb <u>1998</u>
13	Excellent	12	10
29	Good	27	36
27	Only fair	31	32
28	Poor	26	19
<u>3</u> 100	DK/Refused — <b>GO TO Q.15</b>	<u>4</u> 100	<u>3</u> 100

Q.21 Why do you think they are doing a (INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q.20) job?

**BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID “EXCELLENT/GOOD” JOB [N=511]**

Early Feb  
1998

Positive Responses

28	Close coverage / following case real close / constant coverage / close attention	13
22	Keeping the public informed / getting information out to public	11
12	Non biased news reporting / hearing both sides / not taking sides / being fair / responsible journalism	11
12	Up-to-date reporting / keeping us up-to-date / on top of story	12
6	“Mixed-some good, some bad”	1
5	Reporting the facts / uncovering the facts	15
4	We need to know this / important / otherwise we would not know	6
3	Are trying hard despite rumors / doing a good job	4
3	Trying to do their job / report news as they see it	7
2	Additional / more information / they dig for information	13
2	They are trying to get to the truth	--
2	Their job to dig / investigate politicians / President	9
1	Makes us think / voice opinions	1
9	All other positive mentions	--

Negative responses

6	Too much coverage / excessive / over-reporting / 24-hours a day	2
4	None of their business / who cares what he does with his personal life / leave his personal life alone	2
4	Tired of story / it's tiresome / they are dwelling on it	--
3	Information is not complete / not in-depth / they are not getting to the truth	--
2	Lack of facts / not verifying facts / reporting without proof / hearsay / rumors / accusations / half truths / unnamed sources	2
2	Too much sensationalism / blow out of proportion / over-emphasizing / overkill / tabloid element	1
2	More concerned with making money / selling newspapers / ratings	--
2	More important topics to cover / not what people really care about	--
1	Biased reporting / using personal opinions / one-sided reporting	1
1	Trying to exploit Bill Clinton / get him out of office / impeach him	1
4	All other negative mentions	--
6	Other	--
2	Don't know/No answer	10

**Q.21 CONTINUED ...**

**BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID “FAIR/POOR” JOB [N=664]**

		Early Feb <u>1998</u>
Negative responses		
24	Too much sensationalism / blow out of proportion / over-emphasizing / overkill / tabloid element	17
20	Lack of facts / not verifying facts / reporting without proof / hearsay / rumors / accusations / half truths / unnamed sources	33
17	Too much coverage / excessive / over-reporting / 24-hours a day	9
14	Biased reporting / using personal opinions / one-sided reporting	15
12	More important topics to cover / not what people really care about	8
12	None of their business / who cares what he does with his personal life / leave his personal life alone	14
9	Tired of story / it's tiresome / they are dwelling on it	3
7	Information is not complete / not in-depth / they are not getting to the truth	--
4	More concerned with making money / selling newspapers / ratings	--
4	It's not relevant to the presidency / nothing to do with his job / he's still able to do his job	--
2	Trying to exploit Bill Clinton / get him out of office / impeach him	6
2	Liberal bias	2
1	Quick to print / broadcast	8
1	Trying to create news / not report on it	5
15	All other negative mentions	--
Positive responses		
1	Reporting the facts / uncovering the facts	--
1	Close coverage / following case real close / constant coverage / close attention	--
2	All other positive mentions	--
8	Other	--
3	Don't know/No answer	6

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.22F1 Have these allegations against Bill Clinton reduced your confidence in his leadership abilities, or not?

		Early Feb <u>1998</u>
27	Yes	<u>27</u>
70	No	70
<u>3</u>	DK/Refused	<u>3</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.23F2 Have these allegations against Bill Clinton reduced your respect for him as a person, or not?

		Early Feb <u>1998</u>
43	Yes	35
54	No	61
<u>3</u> 100	DK/Refused	<u>4</u> 100

Q.24 What effect do you think these allegations are having on the federal government's efforts in major areas such as crime, health care reform, and economic policy? Are the allegations disrupting efforts a lot, disrupting efforts a little, or not disrupting efforts?

		March <sup>9</sup> <u>1994</u>	--- <i>Newsweek</i> --- March 11 <u>1994</u>
30	A lot	44	39
35	A little	37	34
32	Not disrupting	10	17
<u>3</u> 100	Don't know	<u>9</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.25 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?

		Early Feb <u>1998</u>
40	Yes, should be impeached	50
55	No, should not	46
<u>5</u> 100	Don't know	<u>4</u> 100

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<sup>9</sup>

In March 1994, this question was asked about the Whitewater allegations.

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.26 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?

		Early Feb <u>1998</u>
48	Yes, should be impeached	48
47	No, should not	47
<u>5</u> 100	Don't know	<u>5</u> 100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.27 If there was 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?

45	Yes, should be impeached
48	No, should not
<u>7</u> 100	Don't know

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.28 If there was 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?

54	Yes, should be impeached
38	No, should not
<u>8</u> 100	Don't know