

FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1996, A.M.

More of the Public's Soundbites

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL PROSPECTS IMPROVE

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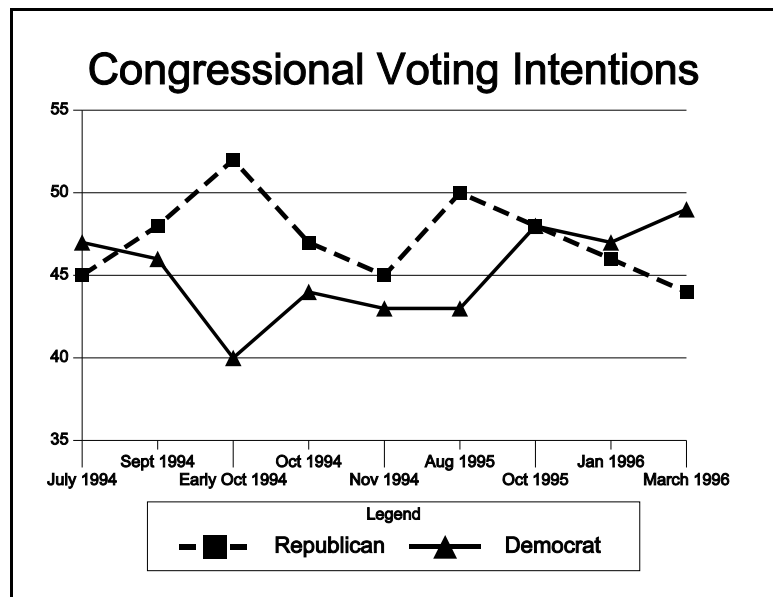
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More of the Public's Soundbites

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Criticism of the GOP legislative agenda and the President's improved standing in the polls now threaten prospects for continued Republican control of the House. Generic support for GOP Congressional candidates has significantly eroded over the past six months. While things are looking up for the Democrats, there may be worrisome parallels to 1992 in Bill Clinton's current (53% to 41%) lead over Bob Dole. It is almost identical in size and character to George Bush's lead over Clinton four years ago at this time. Now, as then, members of the challenger's party have yet to rally around their candidate, and the challenger's personal strengths are not apparent in voter preferences.

A nationwide Pew Research Center poll of 1116 voters conducted this past weekend found 49% inclined to vote for Democratic Congressional candidates, 44% for Republican candidates and 7% undecided. While this *lead* is of marginal statistical significance, support for Republican candidates has declined in three successive nationwide surveys. Growing support for Democratic candidates among women, older voters and middle to lower income groups accounts for much of the change observed in Congressional voting intentions. (See table, page 12.)



These same groups have contributed substantially to Clinton's personal comeback. And the fortunes of Congressional Democrats are very much tied to Bill Clinton's standing in the Presidential race. Fully 80% of those who support Clinton against Dole say they would vote for a Democratic House candidate, if the election were being held today. A slightly larger percentage of Dole supporters (83%) say they would vote Republican.

The President is on an upswing with the public. His approval ratings are at a three year high in our survey series. There are even some signs that people are less critical of the “way things are going in the country.” The percentage satisfied with conditions rose to 28% in the current survey, from the 23% level where it has been for most of Clinton’s term.

While Clinton is doing better, there is little indication that voters have given Dole as good a look as they will in the coming months. Republicans, uncharacteristically, are less supportive of their party’s candidate (83%) than are Democrats (91%). The poll results also indicate that most of the challenger's current support is anti-Clinton, rather than pro-Dole. This was exactly the profile of Clinton’s support four years ago at this time, when he trailed Bush by about the same margin as Dole now trails him. But four years ago, challenger Clinton was a largely unknown Governor, not the Senate Majority leader.

State of the Race			
Nature of Support			
	March '92		March '96
	<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>
Bush		Clinton	
Total	50	Total	53
Positive	33	Positive	30
Negative	15	Negative	20
Undecided	2	Undecided	3
Clinton		Dole	
Total	43	Total	41
Positive	13	Positive	15
Negative	28	Negative	25
Undecided	2	Undecided	1
Don't know	<u>7</u>	Don't know	<u>6</u>
	100		100

Reflecting the public’s lack of focus on Dole, it does not find him more attractive than the President in his supposedly strong areas, or even on any of Clinton’s personal weak points. By a modest margin the Pew sample picked Dole over Clinton for being “honest and truthful” and “keeping his promises.” But respondents were evenly divided as to which candidate is best described by the phrase “can get things done,” and more of them selected Clinton for “sharing my values.” In contrast, Clinton was chosen over Dole by a wide margin for “caring about people like me,” “having new ideas” and being “personally likable.” Even 44% of Dole's supporters picked Clinton as more likeable than Dole.

But if Dole has yet to capitalize on his strengths, he is not being hurt by his presumed chief weakness, his age. Only 26% of voters say that they are concerned that the veteran Kansas Senator may be too old to serve as President. Interestingly, voters from Dole’s generation are much more dubious on this score. Fully 41% of those 65 years and older are concerned about Dole's age. People worried about Dole’s age most often question his stamina (42%) and

	Phrase Better Describes?		
	Bill <u>Clinton</u> %	Bob <u>Dole</u> %	Both/ Neither/ <u>DK</u> %
Personally likeable	67	22	11
Cares about me	54	28	18
Has new ideas	49	34	17
Shares my values	47	37	16
Good judgement	47	38	15
Intelligent	42	35	23
Get things done	40	41	19
Typical politician	35	45	20
Honest & Truthful	34	39	27
Keeps promises	32	35	33

his understanding of the younger generations (41%). Few worry that the Republican candidate has old fashioned ideas. Seniors who worry about Dole's age were more concerned about the physical demands of the job than about his being out of touch with younger people.

The "None of the Above" Voter

The Pew Center survey found substantial early support for possible third party candidate Ross Perot and even more of a voter base for an "unnamed independent candidate" when matched against Clinton and Dole. At this stage, Perot seems to take away as many votes from Clinton as from Dole. However, a stronger independent candidate would hurt Dole more than Clinton, the survey indicates. Perot polls 16%, compared to 44% for Clinton and 35% for Dole in a three-way race. An unnamed independent attracts the support of 20%, with Dole slipping to 30% and Clinton maintaining the support of 45% of respondents.

Perot's current backers are quite different in character from his 1992 supporters. In fact, only 54% of those who voted for him four years ago would back him if he were on the ballot now. The new Perot voters are less affluent and have less of a Republican pedigree than those who cast a ballot for him in '92. As a group they are more critical of *both* Clinton and the GOP leadership than the public at large. The new Perot voters are more dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country. They are especially critical of the political system, displeased with economic conditions, and anxious about the future.

Governance Not Politics

More Americans want President Clinton to take the lead in solving national problems today than was the case in late 1994, just after the GOP's midterm win. But by and large the public wants a bipartisan approach. Few Democrats (36%) want the President to challenge the GOP leadership more, and similarly few Republicans want Dole to take a tougher stand with the White House. Accordingly the public is prepared to credit the President and the Congress about equally if progress is made on important issues. It is also disposed to blame both about equally if no progress is made.

If Progress, Credit ...	%	If No Progress, Blame ...	%
President Clinton	35	President Clinton	36
Republican Leaders	40	Republican Leaders	41
Both	14	Both	15
Neither	3	Neither	2
Don't know/Refused	8	Don't know/Refused	6
	100		100

Call in the Government?

At least six-in-ten voters give high priority to Washington agenda items such as balancing the budget (72%), welfare reform (70%), assuring the portability of health insurance (66%) and tax reform (59%). Fewer (46%) rate immigration law reform as a high priority and much fewer (23%) feel that way about limiting awards in lawsuits that involve defective products. Republicans give higher priority to balancing the budget and immigration, while Democrats are more interested in health insurance reform.

Although the public gives high priority to largely Republican agenda items, it favors a classic Democratic approach to dealing with peoples' financial anxieties. By a margin of 54% to 43%, Pew's respondents favored an approach that included such things as a minimum wage hike, government job training programs and incentives for corporations to treat their employees better, rather than an approach that cuts taxes, reduces regulations and cuts government. Even one-third of Republicans preferred the more "progressive" approach.

Making Things Better for People				
	-----Party ID-----			
Which Approach?	<u>Total</u>	<u>Repub.</u>	<u>Democ.</u>	<u>Indep.</u>
Cut taxes, reduce regulations, cut government	43	61	30	42
Increase minimum wage, job training/education, corporate incentives	54	35	68	54
Neither	1	1	1	2
Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

Fewer Health Care Complaints

Americans were marginally more satisfied with "the way things are going in the country today" than six months ago, 28% compared to 23%. The percentage of satisfied respondents is the highest since January 1993, amid the inauguration of the new president. In early March 1996 the Gallup poll found an even greater rise in general satisfaction (41%), with a small fall back from that level (to 36%) in mid-month. The malaise that has marked the mood of the country for a decade may be finally bottoming out. Nonetheless, the latest Pew poll also finds that anxiety about future personal financial conditions continues to rise significantly among Americans.

The increased level of satisfaction coincides with reduced concern over health care. Only 10% of dissatisfied respondents said health care (or its lack) was the main reason for their dissatisfaction now, half of the 21% who complained about it in October 1995 at a time when limits on Medicare and other similar programs were being debated in Congress. Democrats and those 65 years old and older showed the greatest decrease in concern on this issue (from 30% to 14%, and from 26% to 8%, respectively). The only significant rise among reasons for dissatisfaction was economic conditions (25%, up from 21%), which was wholly due to complaints about lack of jobs (12%, up from 8% in October 1995). Among other important causes for disaffection were crime (cited by 18%), the political system (16%), and the moral crisis in the country (12%).

Men were more satisfied than women (32% vs. 25%) with the overall conditions in the country, whites more than blacks (29% vs. 22%), and younger people, the college educated, and the wealthier groups in society more than the older, less educated and poorer Americans. Democrats were much more satisfied than Republicans or Independents (35% vs. 25% each, respectively), and the Midwest much more than other regions (36% vs. 25% or 26% for the three other regions).

Among the dissatisfied, women were more likely than men to complain about education, health care, welfare and crime, while men more often cited the Washington political system, the budget deficit and taxes. Blacks were much more likely than whites to complain about the economy overall (33% vs. 23%), as well as about jobs (20% vs. 10%). Also noteworthy was that respondents 65 years old and older were significantly less likely to complain about economic factors than younger Americans (14% vs. 27%).

A Cloudy Future

But belying the small rise in satisfaction about the general state of the nation, the level of anxiety among Americans continues to rise on four personal financial indicators and quite rapidly on three of the four. Two out of three respondents (67%) said they are "very concerned" about their children not having good job opportunities, up from 57% in October 1995 and from 51% in March 1994. Similarly, 59% were "very concerned" about not having enough money for retirement, up from 48% six months ago and from 34% in May 1988. And 47% were "very concerned"

	Increasing Anxiety (% Very Concerned)			
	May <u>1988</u> %	March <u>1994</u> %	Oct <u>1995</u> %	March <u>1996</u> %
Affording health care	n/a	50	66	68
Your children's job opportunities	n/a	51	57	67
Not having enough money for retirement	34	42	48	59
Losing job/Taking a cut in pay	18	28	34	47

about losing their jobs or taking a pay cut, up from 34% six months ago and 18% in May 1988 before corporate "downsizing" became a household word. Finally, a very large majority (68%) remains "very concerned" about being unable to afford necessary health care when a family member becomes ill, about the same as the 66% six months ago but up from 50% in March 1994.

On each of these issues, more women were found in the "very concerned" category than men; more blacks and hispanics than whites; the poor and less educated more than the wealthier and better schooled; Democrats and Independents more than Republicans; and likely Clinton voters and the Undecided more than Dole voters.

Blame It On Congress

The public mainly faults Congress for its dissatisfaction. One-in-three (35%) held it most responsible, the same level as six months earlier. Democrats blamed the GOP-controlled Congress more than Republicans (42% vs. 29%) with Independents in between (34%). Somewhat more blame is being laid on President Clinton than previously, 11%, up from 7% in October 1995.

Despite widespread criticism of corporate "downsizing," only 6% of Americans blamed business corporations for their dissatisfaction, and another 3% blamed Wall Street banks and investment companies. In fact, even among respondents who cited the economy for their discontent, only about one-in-five blamed corporations (10%) or Wall Street (9%). In comparison, 31% of those distressed by the economy blamed Congress.

Primary Election Qualms

Following one of the most compressed series of early presidential primary contests, most Americans (58%) said the current primary system was *not* a good way to determine the best qualified nominees of political parties. This is essentially the same level as disapproved of the process four years earlier (59% in March 1992). Somewhat more respondents approved of the primaries now than four years ago, 35% vs. 31%. Public opinion on the value of primaries has been up and down over the years. A 1988 Gallup poll found 48% believing that the primary system was a good way to choose nominees, while a 1980 Newsweek poll found only 40% approving the method.

In the current survey, the most focused reason for disapproving of the primary process was money: 18% complained that "the most money gets elected" or "only those with money get involved." But candidate quality, expressed in a variety of phrases, was cited by 27%; among the phrases were "none qualified," "the best people don't run," "too few choices," and "they make false promises." Another 18% cited lack of information on issues, positions, even facts. A fourth topic of complaint was negative campaigning and mud-slinging, mentioned by 12%. Democrats and Independents were more concerned with negative campaigning, Independents were more concerned with money matters, and all three political groupings were concerned equally about candidate quality and information/issues.

Demographically, young people were likely to be more satisfied with the process, as were Republicans compared to Democrats and Independents (41% vs. 35% and 30%, respectively).

But More Follow Election

Despite complaints about the primary system, however, the number of Americans who followed news about the Republican presidential candidates more than doubled compared to earlier in this election cycle as well as four years ago. Fully 67% of respondents said they followed the GOP hopefuls closely (26% "very closely" and another 41% "fairly closely"); in comparison, these figures were 10% and 34% , respectively, in January 1996, and 11% and 25%, respectively, in January 1992. News of these candidates was the most followed story of the period, in fact, with Republicans understandably more tuned in than Democrats or Independents (38% followed "very closely" vs. 22% and 19%, respectively).

This is the second successive measure of heightened interest in the political process this year. A Pew Research Center survey found that Americans were more attentive to the New Hampshire primary campaign in February than they were four years earlier. A total of 57% respondents said they followed the contest closely (22% very closely, 35% fairly closely), compared to 50% in February 1992 (19% and 31%, respectively).

In the current survey, the story next highest in attentiveness was the continuing debate in Washington about the federal budget, 24%, down from 32% two months ago but still higher than last September (20%) and August (18%). News about investigations and lawsuits against the tobacco industry was followed very closely by 20%.

Interest In Bosnia Wanes

Several foreign affairs stories also drew significant audiences. The situation in Bosnia was followed very closely by 18% of respondents, half the level of attentiveness of 37% just two months earlier when American troops were spending their first Christmas in the Balkans. Interest in this story appears to have returned to levels found before deployment of U.S. forces (15% in September 1995, 16% in August 1995). Even young men 18-29 years old who might identify with the troops and college educated Americans who traditionally follow foreign news more closely were not significantly more interested in Bosnia (20% and 19%, respectively) than the overall public.

Among the other international news, the potential for military conflict between China and Taiwan was followed very closely by 19%, and the terrorist bombings in Israel were followed very closely by 18%. Other domestic stories attracting attention were the conviction of the Menendez brothers for murdering their parents (14% followed very closely) and news about the Whitewater investigation (11%).

More of the Public's Sound Bites

Asked what one word best describes Hillary Rodham Clinton, Americans mixed mildly positive with strongly negative answers. Only 14% of respondents were at a loss for words about her, fewer than the 20% who could not find a word for President Clinton in a similar Pew exercise conducted a month ago. For Ross Perot, the primary emphasis was on his substantial net worth and quixotic personality. Only 15% failed to contribute a word about the billionaire.

<i>HILLARY CLINTON "Top 20"</i>		<i>ROSS PEROT "Top 20"</i>	
	<u>Frequency*</u>		<u>Frequency*</u>
1. Intelligent	34	1. Rich	39
2. Smart	26	2. Crazy	18
3. "Rhymes with rich"	22	3. Idiot	18
4. Good	21	4. Egotistical	15
5. Bossy	21	5. Nuts	11
6. Aggressive	20	6. Money	10
7. Domineering	18	7. Arrogant	10
8. O.K.	17	8. Intelligent	9
9. Strong	16	9. Independent	9
10. Nice	13	10. Short	8
11. Liar	13	11. O.K.	8
12. Powerful	11	12. Wealthy	8
13. Distrustful	10	13. Annoying	8
14. Dishonest	9	14. Smart	8
15. Pushy	9	15. Funny	7
16. Snob	8	16. Goofy	7
17. Ambitious	7	17. Outspoken	6
18. Fair	7	18. Interesting	6
19. Great	7	19. Radical	6
20. Independent	6	20. Millionaire	5

* This table shows the number of respondents out of 750 who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

**PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH
NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"**

	News About Republican Candidates	Debate About the Federal Budget	Lawsuits Against Tobacco Companies	Conflict Between China and Taiwan	(N)
<i>Total</i>	26	24	20	19	1500
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	29	26	18	25	750
Female	22	21	22	12	750
<i>Race</i>					
White	26	24	20	19	1215
*Hispanic	19	18	20	15	98
Black	22	24	18	10	135
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	21	16	12	14	323
30-49	24	20	18	17	638
50+	30	31	28	24	528
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	30	27	24	25	393
Other College	28	27	18	20	422
High School Grad	24	21	18	16	519
< H. S. Grad.	22	19	22	15	162
<i>Region</i>					
East	28	24	21	20	309
Midwest	20	21	17	16	369
South	28	24	23	19	512
West	27	25	17	18	310
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	38	27	18	21	443
Democrat	22	24	24	17	504
Independent	19	20	18	18	485

Question: *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.*

*The designation, Hispanic, is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

CONTINUED...

**PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH
NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"**

	Situation In Bosnia	Terrorist Bombings In Israel	Conviction Of the Menendez Brothers	Whitewater Investigation	(N)
Total	18	18	14	11	1500
Sex					
Male	20	19	12	14	750
Female	16	17	15	9	750
Race					
White	18	17	12	12	1215
*Hispanic	14	22	20	6	98
Black	18	20	21	8	135
Age					
Under 30	16	13	12	8	323
30-49	15	16	12	10	638
50+	22	23	16	16	528
Education					
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West	18	19	13	10	310
Party ID					
Republican	17	16	13	18	443
Democrat	20	21	16	7	504
Independent	16	17	11	9	485

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*The designation, Hispanic, is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

TABLES

Congressional Trial Heat: 1994 vs. 1996
(Based on Registered Voters)*

	November 1994		March 1996		Change In
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Democratic Support</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	45	43	44	49	+6
Sex					
Male	48	40	48	43	+3
Female	42	46	40	55	+9
Race					
White	49	40	48	45	+5
Non-white	17	72	16	79	+7
Black	8	83	5	89	+6
White Males	52	37	52	39	+2
White Females	46	42	44	50	+8
Age					
Under 30	48	46	50	46	0
30-49	48	41	45	48	+7
50-64	42	45	45	48	+3
65+	38	48	36	57	+9
Education					
College Grad.	49	40	49	44	+4
Some College	44	44	52	43	-1
High School Grad.	48	40	42	50	+10
<H.S. Grad	30	56	28	64	+8
Family Income					
\$50,000+	51	42	55	39	-3
\$30,000-\$49,999	48	41	44	48	+7
\$20,000-\$29,999	43	47	46	50	+3
<\$20,000	34	55	29	67	+12
Region					
East	40	43	39	54	+11
Midwest	44	43	38	53	+10
South	45	45	46	47	+2
West	51	40	53	43	+3

Question: Suppose the 1994/1996 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?

*Includes leaners

Continued ...

	November 1994		March 1996		Change In
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Democratic Support</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Total</i>	45	43	44	49	+6
<i>Community Size</i>					
Large City	40	50	36	56	+6
Suburb	44	43	43	51	+8
Small City/Town	46	42	45	50	+8
Rural Area	49	41	49	41	0
<i>Religious Preference</i>					
Total White Protestant	53	36	54	40	+4
White Prot. Evangelical	65	27	59	34	+7
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	42	45	50	44	-1
White Catholic	43	48	42	48	0
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	92	5	92	7	+2
Democrat	7	87	4	93	+6
Independent	43	38	41	43	+5
<i>1992 Presidential Vote</i>					
Bush	85	9	85	12	+3
Clinton	15	76	16	78	+2
Perot	55	30	53	30	0
<i>Presidential Approval</i>					
Approve	22	68	21	73	+5
Disapprove	75	17	75	19	+2
No Opinion	33	33	31	40	+7
<i>Listens To Talk Radio</i>					
Regularly	49	40	49	44	+4
Sometimes	48	42	48	44	+2
Rarely/Never	41	46	40	53	+7

1996 Presidential Preference
Two-Way Trial Heat*
 (Based on Registered Voters)

	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Dole</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N)</u>
	%	%	%	
Total	53	41	6=100	(1116)
Sex				
Male	48	46	6=100	(541)
Female	57	37	6=100	(575)
Race				
White	48	46	6=100	(939)
Non-white	83	12	5=100	(173)
Black	91	4	5=100	(92)
White males	44	49	7=100	(464)
White females	53	42	5=100	(475)
Age				
Under 30	53	44	3=100	(169)
30-49	53	41	6=100	(480)
50-64	53	42	5=100	(241)
65+	56	35	9=100	(218)
Education				
College Grad.	53	44	3=100	(308)
Some College	49	45	6=100	(334)
High School Grad.	51	43	6=100	(368)
<H.S. Grad	66	25	9=100	(105)
Family Income				
\$75,000+	38	59	3=100	(134)
\$50,000-\$74,999	42	52	6=100	(174)
\$30,000-\$49,999	53	41	6=100	(304)
\$20,000-\$29,999	54	42	4=100	(178)
<\$20,000	73	23	4=100	(198)
Region				
East	63	33	4=100	(224)
Midwest	54	37	9=100	(275)
South	51	44	5=100	(387)
West	47	48	5=100	(230)

Question: Suppose there were only two major candidates for president and you had to choose between Bill Clinton, the Democrat and Bob Dole, the Republican. Who would you vote for?
 As of today, do you lean more to Bill Clinton, the Democrat or Bob Dole, the Republican?

* Includes leaners

Continued ...

	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Dole</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Total	53	41	6=100	(1116)
Community Size				
Large City	60	36	4=100	(196)
Suburb	55	39	6=100	(258)
Small City/Town	54	41	5=100	(417)
Rural Area	46	46	8=100	(242)
Religious Preference				
Total White Protestant	43	51	6=100	(561)
White Prot. Evangelical	38	59	3=100	(263)
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	49	44	7=100	(298)
White Catholic	54	40	6=100	(234)
Party ID				
Republican	15	83	2=100	(366)
Democrat	91	6	3=100	(376)
Independent	52	39	9=100	(331)
1992 Presidential Vote				
Bush	13	86	1=100	(300)
Clinton	85	11	4=100	(457)
Perot	35	50	15=100	(104)
Presidential Approval				
Approve	85	12	3=100	(584)
Disapprove	12	80	8=100	(463)
No Opinion	48	36	16=100	(69)
GOP Congress Approval				
Approve	23	73	4=100	(436)
Disapprove	77	18	5=100	(552)
No Opinion	46	40	14=100	(128)
Listens To Talk Radio				
Regularly	44	48	8=100	(231)
Sometimes	48	45	7=100	(318)
Rarely/Never	59	36	5=100	(567)

Candidate Attributes
By Support in Two-Way Trial Heat

	Clinton Supporters*		Dole Supporters*	
	<u>Clinton</u> %	<u>Dole</u> %	<u>Clinton</u> %	<u>Dole</u> %
Would use good judgment in a crisis	74	11	11	79
Personally likeable	88	6	44	45
A typical politician	24	60	55	28
Can get things done	67	16	7	79
Honest and truthful	59	12	3	79
Has new ideas	70	17	22	59
Intelligent	64	14	11	67
Cares about people like me	84	4	13	65
Keeps his promises	51	11	6	72
Shares my values	78	8	5	83

Question: As I read a list of phrases tell me if you think this phrase better describes Bill Clinton or if it better describes Bob Dole...

* Expressed support for the candidate in two-way trial heat; includes leaners.

1996 Presidential Preference
 Three-Way Trial Heats*
 (Based on Registered Voters)

	<i>Clinton vs. Dole vs. Perot</i>			<i>Clinton vs. Dole vs. Unnamed Independent</i>		
	<u>Clinton</u> %	<u>Dole</u> %	<u>Perot</u> %	<u>Clinton</u> %	<u>Dole</u> %	<u>Independent</u> %
<i>Sex</i>						
Male	38	37	20	38	35	23
Female	49	33	11	50	26	18
White Males	33	41	22	34	37	24
White Females	44	38	13	46	30	19
<i>Party ID</i>						
Republican	10	75	10	14	71	13
Democrat	83	4	11	80	6	8
Independent	41	24	29	36	20	39
<i>1992 Presidential Vote</i>						
Clinton	79	8	10	78	8	13
Bush	10	84	4	11	70	15
Perot	17	23	54	20	39	36

Question: Suppose the 1996 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Clinton, the Democrat; Bob Dole, the Republican; and Ross Perot, an Independent. Who would you vote for?

Suppose the 1996 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Clinton, the Democrat; Bob Dole, the Republican; and an Independent or third party candidate. Who would you vote for?

* Includes leaners

Profile of the Perot Voter
1992 vs. 1996

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1996</u>
	%	%
<i>Sex</i>		
Male	61	62
Female	<u>39</u>	<u>38</u>
	100	100
<i>Age</i>		
Under 30	21	31
30-49	47	32
50-64	25	19
65+	7	18
<i>Education</i>		
College Grad.	25	8
Some College	34	24
High School Grad.	34	44
<H.S. Grad	6	24
<i>Family Income</i>		
\$75,000+	13	5
\$50,000-\$74,999	22	16
\$30,000-\$49,999	38	36
\$20,000-\$29,999	11	16
<\$20,000	11	16
<i>Region</i>		
East	24	17
Midwest	27	28
South	28	32
West	21	23
<i>Community Size</i>		
Large City	15	16
Suburb	24	19
Small City/Town	39	38
Rural Area	22	27
<i>Party ID</i>		
Republican	30	24
Democrat	19	24
Independent	48	47

Legislative Priorities By Party ID
 "Top Priorities"

	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Republicans</u> %	<u>Democrats</u> %	<u>Independents</u> %
Balancing the Federal Budget	72	79	64	72
Reforming the Welfare System	70	74	66	70
Reforming the Health Insurance System	66	46	77	69
Reforming the Tax System	59	64	57	60
Reforming Immigration Laws	46	51	44	41
Placing Limits On Product Liability Damages	23	22	21	24

Question: Now a few questions about priorities for President Clinton and the Congress between now and the presidential election... As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item should be a priority. First...(READ LIST AND ROTATE)...should this be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,500 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period March 28-31, 1996. 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 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=751) or Form 2 (N=749), the sampling error is plus or minus 4 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.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone households in the U.S. Estimates of the number of telephone households within each county are derived from 1990 Census data on residential telephone incidence that have been updated with state-level information on new telephone installations and county-level projections of the number of households. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing three or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample.

At least four attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home". If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who lives in the household". This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 1992). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters. After an optimum sample balancing solution is reached, the weights were constrained to fall within the range of 1 to 5. This constraint is useful to ensure that individual respondents do not exert an inordinate effect on the survey's overall results.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
MARCH 1996 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
-- FINAL TOPLINE --
March 28-31, 1996
N=1,500

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]**

		Feb 1996	Jan 1996	Oct 1995	Sept 1995	Aug 1995	June 1995	April 1995	Feb 1995	Dec 1994	Early Oct 1994	Sept 1994	July 1994	May 1994	Jan 1994	Dec 1994	Oct 1993	Sept 1993	Aug 1993	June 1993	May 1993	April 1993	Feb 1993
55	Approve	51	50	48	45	44	50	47	44	41	38	41	45	46	51	48	44	49	39	39	45	49	56
38	Disapprove	39	43	42	42	44	40	43	44	47	47	52	46	42	35	36	42	35	46	43	37	29	25
<u>7</u> 100	Don't know	<u>10</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>13</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100	<u>15</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>9</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>16</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>16</u> 100	<u>15</u> 100	<u>18</u> 100	<u>18</u> 100	<u>22</u> 100	<u>19</u> 100

Q.1a Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress? **(IF "DON'T KNOW," ENTER AS CODE 9. IF "DEPENDS," PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the proposals and policies of the Republican leaders in Congress? IF STILL "DEPENDS," ENTER AS CODE 9.)**

		Feb 1996	Jan 1996	Oct 1995	Sept 1995	Aug 1995	June 1995	April 1995	March 1995	Dec 1994 ¹
35	Approve	33	36	36	36	38	41	44	43	52
51	Disapprove	53	54	51	50	45	45	43	39	28
<u>14</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>13</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>17</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>13</u> 100	<u>18</u> 100	<u>20</u> 100

¹ In December the question asked "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

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

		Oct <u>1995</u>	April <u>1995</u>	July <u>1994</u>	Mar <u>1994</u>	Oct <u>1993</u>	Early Sept <u>1993</u>	June <u>1993</u>	Jan <u>1993</u>	Jan <u>1992</u>	Nov <u>1991</u>	May <u>1990</u>	Feb <u>1989</u>	May <u>1988</u>	Jan <u>1988</u>
28	Satisfied	23	23	24	24	22	20	22	39	28	34	41	45	41	39
70	Dissatisfied	73	74	73	71	73	75	71	50	68	61	54	50	54	55
<u>2</u> 100	No Opinion	<u>4</u> 100	<u>3</u> 100	<u>3</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>11</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100

ASK Q.2a AND Q.2b ONLY OF THOSE WHO ANSWERED "DISSATISFIED" IN Q.2:

Q.2a What things are you most dissatisfied with? (OPEN-ENDED: ACCEPT UP TO 3 MENTIONS)

		Oct <u>1995</u>
18	Crime	20
16	The political system/Washington politics	17
13	The economy	13
12	Moral crisis/Lack of family values/Too many babies being born out of wedlock	13
12	Lack of jobs	8
11	Taxes are too high	14
10	Government spends too much/Government is too big	12
10	The educational system	9
10	The health care system/lack of health care	21
9	Welfare reform	9
5	Social Security/Elderly	--
5	Foreign Policy	8
4	The deficit	5
4	Judicial system/Court system	5
3	Homelessness/Poverty	--
3	Low wages	2

Q.2a con't ...

		<u>Oct 1995</u>
3	Immigration	--
2	Don't like cuts being made in social spending	8
2	Abortion	--
2	Race relations/Affirmative action	5
4	Other (SPECIFY)	12
4	Don't know/Refused	3
--	None/Nothing	1
25	ECONOMY (NET)	21
(N=1028)		(N=1440)

Q.2b Generally, who do you think is most responsible for... (**IF RESPONDENT ONLY GAVE ONE ANSWER IN Q.2a, INSERT "THIS"; IF MORE THAN ONE ANSWER, INSERT FIRST MENTION FROM Q.2a)? (READ LIST AND ROTATE)**

		<u>Oct 1995</u>
11	The President	7
35	The Congress	35
6	Business corporations	8
7	The news media	6
3	The entertainment industry	3
3	Wall Street banks and investment companies	2
25	The people themselves	27
4	Or who? (SPECIFY)	8
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100
(N=988)		(N=1392)

NOW A DIFFERENT KIND OF QUESTION...

Q.3 As I mention a person's name, tell me what one word best describes your impression of that person. Tell me just the one best word that describes him or her. (ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES)

NOTE: Top 20 verbatim responses

ASK ITEM a. OF FORM 1 ONLY:

ASK ITEM b. OF FORM 2 ONLY:

a.F1 *HILLARY CLINTON*

b.F2 *ROSS PEROT*

<u>Response</u>	<u>Frequency*</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Frequency*</u>
Intelligent	34	Rich	39
Smart	26	Crazy	18
"Rhymes with rich"	22	Idiot	18
Good	21	Egotistical	15
Bossy	21	Nuts	11
Aggressive	20	Money	10
Domineering	18	Arrogant	10
O.K.	17	Intelligent	9
Strong	16	Independent	9
Nice	13	Short	8
Liar	13	O.K.	8
Powerful	11	Wealthy	8
Distrustful	10	Annoying	8
Dishonest	9	Smart	8
Pushy	9	Funny	7
Snob	8	Goofy	7
Ambitious	7	Outspoken	6
Fair	7	Interesting	6
Great	7	Radical	6
Independent	6	Millionaire	5

* This table shows the number of respondents out of 750 who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

**ASK ALL:
ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...**

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]

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
a. The situation in Bosnia	18	43	26	13	*=100
February, 1996	21	43	22	13	1=100
January, 1996 ²	37	45	13	5	*=100
September, 1995	15	40	25	19	1=100
August, 1995	16	36	26	21	1=100
June, 1995	22	42	22	13	1=100
March, 1995	11	27	36	25	1=100
February, 1995	8	33	32	26	1=100
December, 1994	13	37	32	18	*=100
October, 1994	13	35	29	22	1=100
September, 1994	9	29	39	23	*=100
June, 1994	12	28	37	22	1=100
May, 1994	18	37	26	18	1=100
January, 1994	12	31	32	25	*=100
Early January, 1994	15	38	30	17	*=100
December, 1993	15	32	31	21	1=100
October, 1993	16	36	30	17	1=100
September, 1993	15	32	32	20	1=100
Early September, 1993	17	38	26	19	*=100
August, 1993	19	37	25	18	1=100
May, 1993	23	34	28	13	2=100
February, 1993	15	32	33	20	*=100
January, 1993	15	33	30	22	*=100
September, 1992	10	27	31	31	1=100
b. News about the Republican presidential candidates	26	41	20	13	*=100
January, 1996	10	34	31	24	1=100
September, 1995	12	36	30	22	*=100
August, 1995 ³	13	34	28	25	*=100
June, 1995	11	31	31	26	1=100
January, 1992	11	25	36	27	1=100
December, 1991	10	28	32	30	*=100
October, 1991	12	26	31	29	2=100

² In previous month story was listed as "The deployment of US troops to Bosnia."

³ The 1991 and 1992 trends refer to Democratic candidates.

Q.4 con't ...

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL) DK
c.	The terrorist bombings in Israel	18	36	29	17	*=100
d.	The conviction of Lyle and Erik Menendez for murdering their parents	14	26	36	24	*=100
	January, 1994 ⁴	12	28	34	25	1=100
e.	News about the Whitewater investigation	11	28	34	26	1=100
	January, 1996	11	28	33	28	*=100
	August, 1995 ⁵	11	26	32	30	1=100
	May, 1994 ⁶	22	36	23	18	1=100
	March, 1994 ⁷	11	38	28	21	2=100
	January, 1994 ⁸	14	25	28	32	1=100
	Early January, 1994	13	29	31	26	1=100
f.	The debate in Washington about the federal budget	24	35	23	18	*=100
	January, 1996	32	42	17	9	*=100
	September, 1995	20	35	27	18	*=100
	August, 1995 ⁹	18	34	27	20	1=100
g.	The potential for military conflict between China and Taiwan	19	28	25	28	*=100
h.	Investigations and lawsuits being brought against tobacco companies	20	32	27	21	*=100

⁴ In previous month story was listed as "The trial of the Menendez brothers for the murder of their parents."

⁵ In previous month story was listed as "The Congressional hearings about Whitewater."

⁶ In previous month story was listed as "The Whitewater case and other issues about the personal finances of the Clinton's."

⁷ In previous month story was listed "News stories about the Whitewater case and White House handling of it".

⁸ In previous months story was listed "Questions about Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed real estate investments in Arkansas".

⁹ In previous month story was listed as "The debate in Congress over the federal budget."

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.5 Thinking about the presidential primaries so far, generally do you think they have been a good way of determining who the best qualified nominees are or not?

		March <u>1992</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>1988</u>	<i>Newsweek</i> <u>1980</u>
35	Yes -- GO TO Q.6	31	48	40
58	No -- GO TO Q.5a	59	37	48
<u>7</u> 100	Don't know/Refused -- GO TO Q.6	<u>10</u> 100	<u>15</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100

IF "NO" ASK:

Q.5a Why do you feel that way? (open-end)

- 12 Negative campaigning/Mud slinging
- 12 Don't cover the real issues/important issues
- 11 Whoever has the most money to spend gets elected/Money talks
- 9 Make false promises/Promises they can't keep
- 8 Need money/Only those with money get involved
- 6 Process doesn't allow the best people to run
- 5 Don't like any of them
- 5 It's pre-determined/Political elite decides
- 5 Don't feel any are qualified
- 5 The media decides who will win/Media too involved
- 5 Too few choices/Not many options
- 5 Electoral votes are not representative of citizens
- 4 Popularity contest/Publicity contest
- 4 Not getting the facts/Information is censored
- 4 Not enough information on positions/Voting record
- 2 Need more debates
- 8 Other
- 12 Don't know

ASK ALL:

Q.6 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to the 1996 presidential campaign, too little coverage to the campaign, or the right amount of coverage?

		<u>Oct</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>1992</u>	<u>Feb</u> <u>1992</u>	<u>Oct</u> <u>1991</u>	<u>May</u> <u>1988</u>	<u>Nov</u> <u>1987</u>
29	Too much	18	22	19	12	24	21
10	Too little	18	11	15	22	7	16
58	Right amount	60	62	62	58	62	58
<u>3</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100

ASK Q.7 AND Q.7a OF FORM 1 ONLY: [N=554]

Q.7F1 Suppose the 1996 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Clinton, the Democrat; Bob Dole, the Republican; and Ross Perot, an Independent. Who would you vote for?

Q.7a

F1 As of TODAY, do you lean most to Bill Clinton, the Democrat; Bob Dole, the Republican; or do you lean toward Ross Perot the Independent?

		<u>Sept</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>July</u> <u>1994</u>
BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:			
44	Bill Clinton/Lean Clinton	42	39
35	Bob Dole/Lean Dole	36	36
16	Ross Perot/Lean Perot	19	20
<u>5</u> 100	Other candidate/Undecided (VOL.)	<u>3</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100

ASK Q.8 AND Q.8a OF FORM 2 ONLY: [N=562]

Q.8F2 Suppose the 1996 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Clinton, the Democrat; Bob Dole, the Republican; and an Independent or third party candidate. Who would you vote for?

Q.8a

F2 As of TODAY, do you lean most to Bill Clinton, the Democrat; Bob Dole, the Republican; or do you lean toward an Independent or third party candidate?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

45 Clinton/Lean Clinton
30 Dole/Lean Dole
20 Unnamed Independent/Third party
5 Undecided/Other
100

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Suppose there were only two major candidates for president and you had to choose between Bill Clinton, the Democrat, and Bob Dole, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

Q.9a As of TODAY, do you lean more to Bill Clinton, the Democrat, or Bob Dole, the Republican?

Jan
1996

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=1116]

53	Clinton/Lean Clinton	53
41	Dole/Lean Dole	41
<u>6</u>	Other/Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>
100		100

(N=895)

Q.10 Would you say that your choice is more a vote for (INSERT CHOICE FROM Q.9 OR Q.9a) OR more a vote against (INSERT NAME OF OTHER CANDIDATE)?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=1116]

Direction of Support:

53	Clinton
30	Pro-Clinton -- GO TO Q.10a
20	Anti-Dole -- GO TO Q.11
3	Undecided -- GO TO Q.11
41	Dole
15	Pro-Dole -- GO TO Q.10a
25	Anti-Clinton -- GO TO Q.11
1	Undecided -- GO TO Q.11
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF "VOTE FOR" IN Q.10 ASK:

Q.10a Is your choice more a vote for (INSERT CHOICE FROM Q.9 OR Q.9a) personally or more a vote for his party?

IF "PERSONALLY" IN Q.10a ASK:

Q.10b Do you support him more because of his personal characteristics and abilities OR more because of what he stands for politically?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=1116]

Major Reason For Support:

53	Clinton
10	Party
4	Personality/Abilities
13	Political stands
21	Oppose opponent
5	Total other/Undecided
41	Dole
600	Party
3	Personality/Abilities
5	Political stands
24	Oppose opponent
3	Total other/Undecided
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.11 As I read a list of phrases tell me if you think this phrase better describes Bill Clinton or if it better describes Bob Dole. (READ AND ROTATE)

		<u>Bill Clinton</u>	<u>Bob Dole</u>	<u>(VOL) Both</u>	<u>(VOL) Neither</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
ASK ITEMS a.-e. OF FORM 1 ONLY: [N=751]						
a.F1	Would use good judgment in a crisis	47	38	4	4	7=100
b.F1	Personally likable	67	22	4	4	3=100
c.F1	A typical politician	35	45	16	1	3=100
d.F1	Can get things done	40	41	2	9	8=100
e.F1	Honest and truthful	34	39	2	19	6=100
ASK ITEMS f.-j. OF FORM 2 ONLY: [N=749]						
f.F2	Has new ideas	49	34	2	10	5=100
g.F2	Intelligent	42	35	14	4	5=100
h.F2	Cares about people like me	54	28	2	12	4=100
i.F2	Keeps his promises	32	35	1	23	9=100
j.f2	Shares my values	47	37	2	9	5=100

ASK ALL:

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT:

Q.12 Suppose the 1996 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 ANSWERED "OTHER" OR "DON'T KNOW" IN Q.12 ASK:

Q.12a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

		Jan 1996	Oct 1995	Aug 1995	Nov 1994	Oct 1994	Early Oct 1994	Sept 1994	July 1994
BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=1116]									
44	Republican/Lean Republican	46	48	50	45	47	52	48	45
49	Democrat/Lean Democrat	47	48	43	43	44	40	46	47
<u>7</u> 100	Other candidate/Undecided (VOL.)	<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

ASK ALL:

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q.13 Are you concerned that Bob Dole may be too old to serve as President, OR isn't Bob Dole's age a concern for you?

26 Concerned Dole may be too old

72 Not concerned

2
100 Don't know/Refused

Q.13a In your opinion, what is it about Bob Dole's age that concerns people MOST... (READ AND ROTATE)?

17 He has old-fashioned ideas

29 He may be too old to meet the physical demands of the job of President

35 He may be too old to understand the concerns of younger generations of Americans

12 None of the above (VOL)

7
100 Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q.17 Who in Washington do you think should take the lead in solving the nation's problems -- President Clinton, or the Republican Congressional leaders?

		<u>April</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>March</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>Feb</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>Dec</u> <u>1994</u>
47	President Clinton	48	40	40	39
36	Republican Leaders	36	40	38	43
9	Both (VOL)	12	10	16	10
<u>8</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100

ASK Q.18 OF FORM 1 ONLY: [N=751]

Q.18F1 In dealing with Congress, do you think President Clinton ... (READ)

		<u>Aug</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>April</u> <u>1995</u>
30	Should go along with the Republicans more often?	26	25
23	Should challenge the Republicans more often?	27	27
41	Is handling the situation about right?	38	41
2	Neither (VOL)	2	2
<u>4</u> 100	Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	<u>7</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100

ASK Q.19 OR FORM 2 ONLY: [N=749]

Q.19F2 In dealing with President Clinton and the Democrats in Congress, do you think Bob Dole... (READ)

29	Should go along with the President and the Democrats more often?
24	Should challenge the President and the Democrats more often?
39	Is handling the situation about right?
2	Neither (VOL)
<u>6</u> 100	Don't know/Refused

Q.20 Now a few questions about priorities for President Clinton and the Congress between now and the presidential election... As I read from a list tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. First ... (**READ LIST AND ROTATE**) should this be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?

		<u>Top Priority</u>	<u>Important But Lower Priority</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Should Not be Done</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
ASK ITEMS a.-c. OF FORM 1 ONLY: [N=751]						
a.F1	Reforming immigration laws	46	37	13	3	1=100
c.F1	Balancing the federal budget	72	22	3	2	1=100
ASK ITEMS d.-g. OF FORM 2 ONLY: [N=749]						
d.F2	Reforming the tax system	59	28	8	3	2=100
e.F2	Reforming the health insurance system so that people can keep their health insurance even if they lose their job or change jobs	66	26	4	3	1=100
f.F2	Placing limits on the amount of money awarded in lawsuits involving defective products	23	42	24	8	3=100
g.F2	Reforming the welfare system	70	23	4	2	1=100

--- NO QUESTION 21---

ASK ALL:

Q.22 If the President and the Republican leaders in Congress are able to make progress on the important issues facing our country, who will deserve the most CREDIT for making this happen ... (**READ RESPONSES**)?

- 35 President Clinton OR
- 40 Republican leaders in Congress
- 14 Both equally (**VOL**)
- 3 Neither (**VOL**)
- 8 Don't Know/Refused
- 100

Q.23 If the President and the Republican leaders in Congress are NOT able to make progress on the important issues facing our country, who will deserve the most BLAME for this...(READ RESPONSES)?

36 President Clinton OR
 41 Republican leaders in Congress
 15 Both equally (VOL)
 2 Neither (VOL)
 $\frac{6}{100}$ Don't Know/Refused

Q.24 Now I'd like you to think about some concerns that people may have. How concerned are you, if at all, about (INSERT ITEM: ROTATE)? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about this? What about (NEXT ITEM)...?

	<u>Very Con- cerned</u>	<u>Somewhat Con- cerned</u>	<u>Not too Con- cerned</u>	<u>Not at all Con- cerned</u>	<u>Does Not Apply</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Not having enough money for your retirement?	59	23	9	7	2	*=100
October, 1995	48	29	10	8	4	1=100
March, 1994	42	29	14	12	2	1=100
May, 1988	34	35	15	8	4	4=100
b. Losing your job or taking a cut in pay?	47	16	14	15	8	*=100
October, 1995	34	17	16	17	16	*=100
March, 1994	28	16	14	21	21	*=100
May, 1988 ¹⁰	18	16	23	18	22	3=100
c. Being unable to afford necessary health care when a family member gets sick?	68	16	10	6	*	*=100
October, 1995	66	17	9	7	1	*=100
March, 1994	50	22	15	11	1	1=100
d. Your children not having good job opportunities?	67	18	7	5	3	*=100
October, 1995	57	23	6	4	10	0=100
March, 1994	51	21	8	8	12	*=100

¹⁰ In 1988 question asked only about losing your job.

Q.25 There has been a lot of talk lately about people's financial concerns about the future... I'd like to read you two approaches for making things better for people. Approach "A" includes such things as cutting taxes, reducing regulations on business, and cutting the federal government. Approach "B" includes such things as a higher minimum wage, more government job training and education programs, and government incentives for corporations to treat their employees more fairly. In your opinion, which is the better approach to improving things for people, "A" or "B"?

- 43 A. Cutting taxes, reducing regulations, cutting government
- 54 B. Increasing the minimum wage, government job training and education programs, and incentives to encourage corporations to treat their employees more fairly
- 1 Neither (VOL)
- $\frac{2}{100}$ Don't know/Refused

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.26 How often if ever do you listen to radio shows that invite listeners to call in to discuss current events, public issues and politics -- regularly, sometimes, rarely or never?

- 18 Regularly
- 28 Sometimes
- 24 Rarely
- 30 Never
- $\frac{*}{100}$ Don't Know/Refused

Q.27 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school or at home on at least an occasional basis?

		<u>Feb</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>Jan</u> <u>1996</u>
61	Uses a PC at home, work or school	60	59
39	Does not use PC	40	41
$\frac{*}{100}$	Don't know/Refused	$\frac{0}{100}$	$\frac{0}{100}$

IF YES:

Q.28 Do you ever use a computer at work, school or home to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?

		<u>Feb</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>Jan</u> <u>1996</u>
BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:			
22	Goes on-line	21	21
39	Does not go on-line	39	38
0	Don't know/Refused	*	0
<u>39</u> 100	Not a computer user	<u>40</u> 100	<u>41</u> 100

IF YES:

Q.29 Do you ever go on-line to get information on current events, public issues and politics? **IF YES:** How often do you go on-line for this type of information... every day, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, less often, or never?

		<u>Feb</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>Jan</u> <u>1996</u>
BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:			
2	Everyday	1	2
3	3-5 days/week	2	2
5	1-2 days/week	4	3
3	Once every few weeks	3	3
1	Less Often	2	1
8	No/Never	9	10
0	Don't know/Refused	0	*
39	PC user, Does not go on-line	39	38
<u>39</u> 100	Not a computer user	<u>40</u> 100	<u>41</u> 100

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED 1,2,3 OR 4 IN Q.29 ASK:

Q.29a Do you ever go on-line to get information about the 1996 presidential campaign? **IF YES:** How often do you go on-line for this type of information... every day, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, less often, or never?

		<u>Feb 1996</u>
BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:		
*	Everyday	*
1	3-5 days/week	1
2	1-2 days/week	2
1	Once every few weeks	1
*	Less Often	*
9	No/Never	6
0	Don't know/Refused	0
9	Does not go on-line for political/public issues	11
39	PC user, Does not go on-line	39
<u>39</u> 100	Not a computer user	<u>40</u> 100