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News Media Gets Good Grades for Iraq Coverage
TAX PLAN FAILS TO CONNECT, BUSH'S ECONOMIC RATINGS SAG

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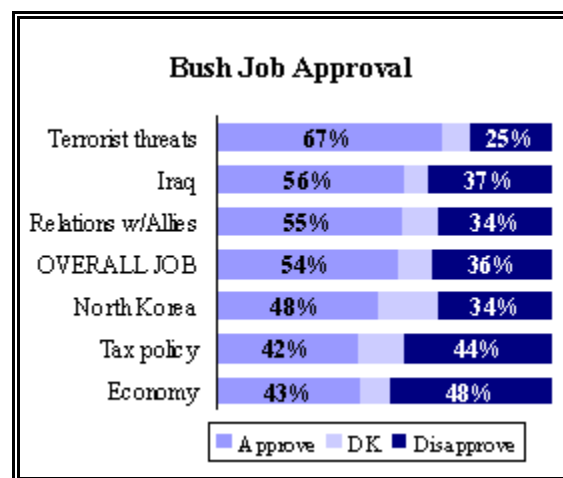
TAX PLAN FAILS TO CONNECT, BUSH'S ECONOMIC RATINGS SAG

President Bush's tax-cut plan is getting a tepid reception from the public and has failed to stem a steady erosion of his ratings on the economy. Barely four-in-ten Americans (43%) approve of his handling of the economy, while 48% disapprove. This marks the first time in Bush's presidency a Pew survey has shown his economic rating in negative territory. His approval mark on tax policy is equally low (42%), despite a high-profile campaign on behalf of his tax plan.

With attention focused on possible war in Iraq and threats of terrorism at home, only about a quarter of the public (26%) is following reports about the president's tax plan very closely. That is far fewer than the number following the debate over Iraq or even the high price of gas. Casting further doubt on the proposal, more Americans favor paying for higher military spending by scaling back previously enacted tax cuts than with reductions in domestic programs or by adding to the deficit. However, *raising* taxes is the least preferred option for underwriting increased defense costs.

The latest Pew Research Center survey of 1,254 Americans, conducted Feb. 12-18, shows that events abroad and at home are weighing heavily on Americans. Roughly half (53%) name international issues — mostly a possible war in Iraq — as the top problems facing the country, while 29% volunteer economic issues. Concerns about both overseas matters and economic issues have increased significantly over the past year, and this anxiety is also reflected in the recent decline in satisfaction with national conditions (“Confidence in Country's Course at Lowest Ebb Since Bush Took Office,” Jan. 31, 2003).

Bush's overall job approval rating has slipped to 54%, down four points since last month and seven points since December. The president's handling of the threat of terrorism remains a strong point — fully two-thirds approve of his performance in that area. And a solid majority (56%) approves of his handling of the Iraq crisis, unchanged since October. But positive assessments of his economic policy have slipped from 49% in October to 43% in the current survey.



Politically, the president has been losing ground — both on the economy and in his overall ratings — among independents. Just 36% of independents approve of his handling of the economy, down from 42% in January. His overall job

rating among independents has slipped from 57% in January to 50% in the current survey. There also continues to be a strong partisan cast to Bush's job approval, with more than eight-in-ten Republicans (84%) and just a third of Democrats (32%) giving him positive marks.

The survey shows the public has become somewhat more supportive of the freedom of the press in covering national security issues than in the fall of 2001, during the war in Afghanistan. The number who believe the government should be able to censor news stories it believes could threaten national security has declined, from 53% to 42%, since November 2001. And a growing majority (78%, up from 64%) prefers that coverage of war be neutral rather than pro-American.

War Viewed as Top National Problem

Roughly a third of Americans (34%) cite the prospect of war in Iraq as the biggest problem facing the country today, making this the top issue on the public's agenda. Somewhat fewer (29%) cited economic concerns, including general references to the economy, unemployment and the cost of living. Terrorism and homeland security were ranked as the most important problems by 18% of Americans.

Overall, 54% mentioned war, terrorism or some other international problem, compared with 39% who cited those problems a year ago (24% terrorism). But the number citing economic problems also has increased sharply from 16% to 29% since March 2002.

Biggest National Problems	
%	
54	
International/Terrorism	
34	War/Iraq
16	Terrorism
2	Homeland security
29	Economic
21	Economy - general
6	Unemployment
5	Bush/Government
5	Morality/Values
2	Health care costs
2	Drugs/Alcohol

In the current survey, opponents of military action in Iraq, and those who are willing to proceed only with allied support, are most likely to cite a possible war as the top issue facing the nation. Fully 40% of these respondents rate Iraq as the nation's biggest problem, compared with 28% of those who support military action unconditionally. Unconditional proponents of military action, in turn, place most emphasis on the risks of domestic terrorism. Fully 23% of those who favor unilateral action in Iraq, if necessary, say the threat of terrorism is America's most important problem, compared with just 8% of those who oppose action in Iraq.

War Supporters, Opponents Have Different Concerns			
<i>Top Problem</i>	<i>Military Action in Iraq</i>		
	----Favors----		
	<u>Fully</u>	<u>tionally</u>	<u>Opposes</u>
	%	%	%
War/Iraq	28	40	40
Economy (net)	27	29	36
Terrorism	23	12	8

Women are significantly more likely than men to cite the situation in Iraq as the nation's most important problem (42% vs. 25%). Men place more importance on the economy, unemployment, and terrorism. Overall, economic issues are rated as the biggest national problem by more residents in the Northeast (38%) and West (33%) than in the South (22%) and Midwest (27%). Terrorism ranks higher on the list of concerns in the Northeast (22%), and is least frequently mentioned in the West (11%).

Top Personal Problem: Making Ends Meet

When Americans are asked about their top *personal* problems, economic issues lead the list. Three-in-ten Americans volunteer that they do not have enough money to pay their bills and make ends meet. The emphasis on personal economic problems has been consistent for several years; in June 2001, 26% cited such concerns as the leading problems confronting them and their families.

Other economic concerns also trouble Americans: 7% cite unemployment as the biggest problem facing them and their families; 5% cite the high cost of health insurance; and 3% specifically mention the high cost of gas and fuel. Those numbers also are largely unchanged from two years ago.

Roughly one-in-ten (9%) mention concerns about war, America's international involvements, or the risk of a family member being called into service as their biggest personal concern. By comparison, just 1% cite concerns about terrorism as their most important problem.

Financial Concerns: Health Care, Retirement

Americans' specific financial concerns have changed little in recent years, despite the weak economy. Presented with a list of possible concerns ranging from health care to child care, six-in-ten (59%) say they are very concerned about being unable to afford necessary health care when a family member gets sick, and 56% say the same about not having enough money for their retirement. In both cases, these rates of high concern are roughly equivalent to measures taken over the past four years.

There has been some rise in concern about losing a job or taking a cut in pay. Four-in-ten (41%) say they worry a great deal about this, on par with the level in June of last year, but up from 34% two years ago in February 2001.

While these measures have been stable over the past few years, Americans are expressing significantly more personal economic unease than in the late 1980s. The proportion expressing a high level of concern over having enough for retirement has increased from 34% in 1988 to 56% in the current survey.

Concerns Rise over Past 15 Years				
	<i>Percent "Very Concerned"</i>			
	<u>1988</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2003</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Affording health care	--	50	60	59
Money for retirement	34	42	51	56
College savings	34	51	50	55
Caring for an aging parent	20	33	--	44
Adequate child care	35	35	--	42
Losing job or pay cuts	18	28	--	41

Percentage based on those who gave an answer.

The number who are very concerned about unemployment and pay cuts has skyrocketed from 18% fifteen years ago to 41% today. College costs are of far greater concern today than in 1988, and the proportion who worry about having to care for an aging parent or relative has more than doubled. In 1988, just 20% worried a great deal about caring for their elders. This increased to 33% in 1994, and 44% in the current survey.

These growing concerns are notable across all age groups, and do not simply reflect the aging of the American population. For example, concern about caring for an aging parent or relative is equally high across all age ranges – from those under age 30 (45% very concerned) to those age 65 and older (40%) – and has risen equally across all groups over the past 15 years. And while worries about having enough money for retirement tend to be higher among those under age 65 than among those over, these concerns have increased among all age groups. In 1988, just 19% of seniors were very concerned about retirement costs; today twice as many feel very concerned (43%). A comparable increase in concern is apparent among those under age 30 (from 35% in 1988 to 61% today) as well as among those aged 30 to 64.

Plurality Favors Delaying Tax Cuts for Defense

As was the case last year, a plurality of the public is willing to forgo the tax cuts passed early in Bush’s term in order to pay for increased military and homeland defense costs. But they draw the line at raising taxes to finance those costs; in that case, adding to the deficit and reducing spending become somewhat more palatable.

Four-in-ten say the best way to pay for proposed increases for military and homeland defense is to postpone or reduce tax cuts. That is nearly twice the number who support reducing spending on domestic programs (21%) or adding to the budget deficit (23%). More Democrats favor postponing the tax cuts than the other two options combined, while Republicans are divided evenly over whether deficit spending (28%), domestic cuts (27%) or reduced tax cuts (32%) is the best approach.

While half the sample chose among these three options for paying for military and homeland defense, the other half was asked a different version of the question that presented the alternatives as adding to the deficit, reducing domestic spending, or *increasing* taxes. While four-in-ten are willing to see the 2001 tax cuts delayed or phased out, the survey finds fewer than a quarter (23%) favor raising taxes to finance military and homeland defense.

Delaying Tax Cuts OK, But Don't Raise Taxes			
<i>Best way to pay for defense increases</i>			
	%		%
Postpone tax cuts	40	Increase taxes	23
Add to deficit	23	Add to deficit	31
Cut domestic	21	Cut domestic	28
None	1	None	5
Other/Multiple	3	Other	6
Don't know	<u>12</u>	Don't know	<u>7</u>
	100		100

Faced with these choices, support for deficit spending rises (from 23% to 31%) and more are willing to see a reduction in spending on domestic programs (28% vs. 21% in the original formulation).

These alternative formulations have the biggest effect on Democratic respondents. While nearly half of Democrats (48%) endorse the postponement or reduction of last year's tax cuts, just 24% favor increasing taxes. In fact, there is virtually no partisan divide in the second formulation of this question. Republicans, Democrats and independents are all similarly divided over whether tax increases, domestic cuts, or deficit spending would be the best approach to pay for higher defense and military costs.

Good Marks for Iraq Coverage

Two-thirds of the public (66%) say the press is doing an excellent or good job providing up-to-date reports on the Iraq crisis, while 28% rate the coverage as only fair or poor. By comparison, 74% of the public rated press coverage favorably in January 1991, just prior to the start of the Persian Gulf War. Supporters of military action are more positive about the coverage, with 73% giving it an excellent or good rating, compared with 57% of opponents.

Ratings are slightly lower, though still positive on balance, for the job the press is doing covering the debate in the United Nations and other countries over how to deal with Iraq (58% excellent or good) and the debate in Washington (57%). But Americans are divided over press coverage of the public's reaction to the Iraq crisis (48% favorable/47% unfavorable).

Coverage of the breakup and loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia was rated very positively, with 77% saying news organizations did an excellent or good job on that story. Among those following the story very closely or fairly closely, ratings were even more favorable (82%). But the public was slightly less positive about the coverage of the Columbia disaster than it had been about coverage of the Challenger explosion in 1986. In a question asked in July that year, several months after the event, 90% rated the coverage favorably.

Americans feel much less favorably about the coverage of the tax-cut debate in Washington. Only about four-in-ten (39%) give coverage of that story an excellent or good rating; 52% say the coverage has been only fair or poor.

Republicans More Positive About Media Coverage of Iraq, Bush Tax Plan				
<i>Rate coverage</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>excellent or good...</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Shuttle disaster ¹	82	83	82	83
1986	90	92	93	87
Iraq crisis	66	74	64	65
1991	74	78	68	76
Public views of Iraq	48	53	50	43
1991	45	46	48	44
Tax & stimulus plan	39	45	37	38
1990 ²	64	65	68	67

¹Based on those following the story very/fairly closely
²Debate over tax increases to reduce the deficit

On two issues that have divided political partisans Iraq and President Bush's tax proposals Republicans give the press higher ratings for its coverage than do Democrats. On Iraq, 74% of Republicans say the coverage has been excellent or good, compared with 64% of Democrats. A similar partisan difference was seen in public opinion 12 years ago on the eve of the Persian Gulf War. On the debate over tax and stimulus plans, 45% of Republicans rate the coverage favorably, compared with 37% of Democrats.

More Oppose Government Censorship

The public is divided over press freedom in coverage of war and national security. Half say it is more important that the media be able to report news it thinks is in the national interest, while 42% place priority on the government’s ability to censor news it views as a threat to national security. By roughly the same margin (50%-40%), more think that decisions about how to cover war should be left to news organizations rather than to the military.

Generally, support for unfettered media coverage is higher now than in November 2001, during the U.S. war in Afghanistan. At that time, 53% said the government should censor news that may threaten national security (42% currently). Support for government censorship was even higher during the Persian Gulf War. Shortly after the war ended in 1991, nearly six-in-ten (58%) favored censorship of news that may threaten national security; in late January of that year, almost the same number (57%) thought the military ought to have more control over how news organizations reported on war.

Questions of military control over the news divide supporters and opponents of military action in Iraq. Half of war supporters think the government should be able to censor news that it feels threatens national security, compared with one-fifth (21%) of those who oppose military action in Iraq. War supporters are evenly divided on the question of whether the military or news organizations should have more control over how a war would be covered, while opponents of military action think news organizations should make the decisions (by a margin of 65% to 25%).

Americans differ over several aspects of the media’s coverage of war and national security, but a growing majority rejects the idea that coverage should be pro-American. Roughly eight-in-ten (78%) favor neutral coverage, compared with just 16% who say news organizations should be pro-American. There has been a significant shift on this question since November 2001, when nearly twice as many (30%) endorsed pro-American coverage. Overwhelming majorities of war supporters and opponents (77%, 86% respectively) favor neutral coverage.

More Support for Independent News Media				
	Oct 1985	March 1991	Nov 2001	Now
<i>What’s more important ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Govt censor news it believes threatens national security	38	58	53	42
Media able to report news it believes is in national interest	50	32	39	50
Both/Don’t know	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100
	Oct 1986	Jan 1991	Nov 2001	Now
	%	%	%	%
<i>For war news ...</i>				
Give military more control	29	57	50	40
Media should decide how to report	64	34	40	50
Don’t know	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
	March 1991	Nov 2001	Now	
<i>War coverage should be ...</i>				
Pro-American	22	30	16	
Neutral	71	64	78	
Don’t know	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	
	100	100	100	

Should Reporters Accompany Troops? Public is Divided

The public is divided on the question of whether a pool of American reporters should be allowed to accompany U.S. forces into combat zones, with 49% saying they should be allowed and 45% saying they should not be. The Bush administration announced recently that journalists will be assigned slots with combat and support units and will accompany them into the field if the U.S. goes to war in Iraq. More than 200 journalists have undergone training for these assignments.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the *February News Interest Index* survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,254 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period February 12-18, 2003. 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 Form 1 (N=629) the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points; for Form 2 (N=625) the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2003 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
February 12 - 18, 2003
Total N=1254

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush 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 George W. Bush is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
February, 2003	54	36	10=100
January, 2003	58	32	10=100
December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
August, 2002	67	21	12=100
Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
July, 2002	67	21	12=100
June, 2002	70	20	10=100
April, 2002	69	18	13=100
Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
February, 2002	78	13	9=100
January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

Q.2 Generally, how would you say things are these days in your life – would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

		<i>NORC</i>			
		<u>Sept</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>
		<u>1996</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991¹</u>	<u>1990</u>
29	Very happy	34	17	12	33
51	Pretty happy	53	48	52	58
17	Not too happy	11	34	33	9
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100

¹ For January 1991 and February 1990 the question was worded, "Taken all together, how would you say things are these days..."

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=629]:

Q.3 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

	March 2002	May 2001	Feb 2001	Aug 1999	June 1999	May 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995	Mar 1994	Dec 1993	June 1993	Jan 1992	May 1990	Feb 1989	April 1987
34 War/Iraq	10															
21 Economy (general)	8	7	7	2	3	4	4	4	5	4	6	17	43	5	4	7
16 Terrorism	24	1	*	*	*	*	*									
6 Unemployment/Lack of jobs	4	5	6	3	4	6	6	7	10	12	15	19	22	7	9	13
5 Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	4	2	4	3	3	5	4	8	6	5	2	5	2	2	1	0
5 Morality/Ethics/Family values	8	6	12	13	11	10	9	13	12	10	6	7	3	5	2	3
Defense issues/Military spending																
2 National & homeland security	5	1														
2 Health care/costs	2	6	7	9	3	4	5	4	7	14	14	11	3	3	1	*
2 Drugs/Alcohol	4	4	6	6	5	7	7	8	5	10	8	5	4	37	23	6
1 Energy crisis/Rising gas/heating prices	1	22	4													
1 North Korea																--
1 Education	4	8	11	8	7	9	5	6	6	5	5	5	2	4	4	0
1 Peace in the world/Peace	1															
Inflation/Difference																
1 between wages/costs	1	1	3	1	*	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
1 Crime/Gangs/Justice system	4	4	8	12	11	13	12	19	22	31	25	7	3	7	8	3
1 Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	2	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	3	1	3	4	6
13 Other																
1 None	1	*	2	*	1	*	1	*								
4 Don't know/No answer	8	8	7	11	11	12	7	6	3	4	6	2	3	1	3	3
DEFENSE/TERRORISM/																
54 INTERNATIONAL (NET)	39	3	5	7	11	5	10	1	9	2						
29 ECONOMIC (NET)	16	40	26	15	8	16	18	18	28	26	33	53	76	26	28	35

War in Afghanistan in March 2002

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=625]:

Q.4 What is the biggest problem facing you and your family these days? [OPEN END. RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

		<i>(RVs)</i>			<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>			
		June 2001	Sept 1996	March 1994	Dec 1993	Aug 1992	May 1992	Jan 1992
30	Not enough money/Paying bills/Making ends meet	26	22	28	27	22	20	24
16	Family/Personal/Health problems	3	5	8	5	2	3	4
12	Economy/Recession/Business (general)	8	5	2	4	16	30	19
9	War/International affairs/Military service	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7	Unemployment/Low paying jobs	8	8	9	12	28	26	28
4	Health care/High cost of health insurance	6	8	7	15	10	8	10
3	Child care/Costs of education	3	3	5	3	3	5	4
3	Time management/Not enough time or sleep	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	High gas/Fuel prices	9	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Issues facing the elderly	2	7	3	3	2	*	*
2	High prices/High cost of living and housing	10	4	4	6	7	8	10
2	Taxes/High taxes	8	14	5	6	7	8	8
1	Morality/Family values	2	3	1	1	2	*	*
1	Terrorism/Safety	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
6	Other	26	11	9	15	10	15	15
12	No problems/Don't know	18	21	28	16	12	7	11

ASK ALL:

Q.6 In general, how would you rate the job the press is doing in **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE; READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES]**? And how would you rate the job the press has done **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a.	Providing up to date reports on the latest developments in the Iraq crisis	22	44	22	6	5=100
	Early January, 1991	27	47	18	4	4=100
b.	Reporting about how the American public feels about the crisis in Iraq	13	35	31	16	5=100
	Early January, 1991	9	36	35	15	5=100
c.	Covering the debate in the UN and other countries about how to deal with Iraq	16	42	27	11	5=100
d.	Covering the debate in Washington over the use of force in Iraq	15	42	27	9	6=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=629]:

e.F1	Covering the break up and loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia					
	February 2003 Based on Total	34	43	13	3	6=100
	February 2003 (Based on Very/Fairly)	39	43	12	3	3=100 (N=528)
	July, 1986 ² (Based on Very/Fairly)	57	33	7	2	*=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=625]:

f.F2	Covering the debate in Washington over tax cuts and economic stimulus plans	5	34	37	15	9=100
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NO QUESTION 7

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

ASKED FEBRUARY 15-18, 2003 [N=217]:

Q.8F2 If there is an American military action in Iraq, do you think a pool of American reporters should be allowed to accompany American forces into combat zones or do you think the press should be restricted?

		Early <i>L.A. Times</i>	
		Jan 1991 ³	Nov 1983
49	Allow reporters	57	63
45	Restrict them	34	28
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100

² This item was asked of those who followed the Challenger explosion story "very closely" or "fairly closely."

³ In Early January 1991 the question was worded, "If there is an American invasion of Kuwait or Iraq do you think a pool of American reporters should be allowed to accompany American forces into combat zones or do you think the press should be restricted the way they were in Grenada?" In November 1983 the L.A. Times question was worded, "Do you think the press should continue to accompany American soldiers into combat zones or do you think the press should be restricted from now on, the way they were in Grenada."

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about President Bush

Q.12 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. The economy	43	48	9=100
January, 2003	47	45	8=100
Early October, 2002	49	40	11=100
June, 2002	53	36	11=100
January, 2002	60	28	12=100
Early September, 2001	47	44	9=100
February, 2001	50	22	28=100
Clinton: Early September, 1998	71	23	6=100
Clinton: September, 1997	60	34	6=100
Clinton: January, 1996	50	42	8=100
Clinton: June, 1995	46	46	8=100
Clinton: October, 1994	45	46	9=100
Clinton: July, 1994	38	56	6=100
Bush, Sr.: August, 1990	40	52	8=100
Bush, Sr.: May, 1990	42	47	11=100
c. The situation with North Korea	48	34	18=100
January, 2003	53	27	20=100
October, 1994 ⁴	49	31	20=100
June, 1994 <i>Newsweek</i>	31	42	27=100
d. Terrorist threats	67	25	8=100
January, 2003	69	23	8=100
Early October, 2002	71	22	7=100
June, 2002	74	18	8=100
Clinton: September, 1998 ⁵	72	20	8=100
e. Relationships with major allies	55	34	11=100
f. Tax policy	42	44	14=100
June, 2002	45	39	16=100
<i>FOX News:</i> 1/02*	58	28	14=100
<i>FOX News:</i> 6/01*	59	29	12=100
<i>FOX News:</i> 3/01*	54	31	15=100

* Based on Registered Voters

NO QUESTION 13

⁴ In October 1994 the question was worded, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is dealing with North Korea?"

⁵ In September 1998 the question was worded, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling current threats from international terrorist groups?"

Q.14 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]...?

	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not too Concerned	Not at all Concerned	Does Not Apply (VOL)	Don't Know
a. Not having enough money for your retirement?	56	20	9	11	3	*=100
June, 2002	54	25	10	10	1	*=100
February, 2001	55	24	10	9	1	1=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	55	24	11	8	1	1=100
October, 1999	51	27	13	8	1	*=100
May, 1997	42	26	15	13	3	1=100
October, 1996 (RVs)	56	24	11	7	1	1=100
March, 1996	59	23	9	7	2	*=100
October, 1995	48	29	10	8	4	1=100
March, 1994 ⁶	42	29	14	12	3	1=100
May, 1988	34	35	15	8	4	4=100

BASED ON THOSE WHO GIVE AN ANSWER [N=967]:

b. Being unable to save enough money to put a child through college?	55	19	9	17=100		
June, 2002	52	19	10	19=100		
September, 2000 (RVs)	52	25	10	13=100		
October, 1999	50	24	12	14=100		
May, 1997	48	22	12	18=100		
October, 1996 (RVs)	53	21	11	15=100		
October, 1995	52	22	11	15=100		
March, 1994	51	22	11	16=100		
May, 1988	34	34	16	16=100		
c. Being unable to afford necessary health care when a family member gets sick?	59	17	10	12	2	1=100
June, 2002	61	18	10	10	1	*=100
February, 2001	60	18	9	11	1	1=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	63	19	8	8	2	*=100
October, 1999	60	19	13	7	1	*=100
May, 1997	50	20	16	13	1	*=100
October, 1996 (RVs)	61	18	12	7	1	1=100
March, 1996	68	16	10	6	*	*=100
October, 1995	66	17	9	7	1	*=100
March, 1994	50	22	15	11	1	1=100

BASED ON THOSE WHO GIVE AN ANSWER [N=827]:

d. Not having adequate child care when you go to work?	42	13	13	32=100		
June, 2002	37	17	13	33=100		
September, 2000 (RVs)	43	21	11	25=100		
October, 1995	42	22	15	21=100		
March, 1994	35	22	15	28=100		
May, 1988	35	22	20	23=100		

⁶ In March 1994 the question started with, "Now I'd like you to think about the future. As I read some different things that might affect your personal future, please tell me how concerned you are about each one happening to you."

Q.14 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Concerned</u>	Somewhat <u>Concerned</u>	Not too <u>Concerned</u>	Not at all <u>Concerned</u>	Does Not Apply <u>(VOL)</u>	Don't Know
e. Losing your job or taking a cut in pay	41	12	13	18	16	*=100
June, 2002	40	15	15	19	11	*=100
February, 2001	34	14	15	27	9	1=100
May, 1997	30	15	19	20	16	*=100
March, 1996	47	16	14	15	8	*=100
October, 1995	34	17	16	17	16	*=100
March, 1994	28	16	14	21	21	*=100
May, 1988 ⁷	18	16	23	18	22	3=100
f. Having to care for an aging parent or relative	44	20	12	13	10	1=100
March, 1994	33	28	15	14	10	*=100
May, 1988	20	32	26	14	6	2=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=629]:

Q.42F1 Do you think the military should exert more control over how news organizations report about the war or do you think that most decisions about how to report about the war should be left to news organizations themselves?

	Mid- Nov <u>2001</u>	Mid Oct <u>2001</u>	Late Jan <u>1991</u>	Oct <u>1986</u> ⁸
40 Give military more control	50	59	57	29
50 News organizations should decide	40	28	34	64
<u>10</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>
100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=625]:

Q.43F2 Which is more important to you: that the government be able to censor news stories it feels threaten national security OR that the news media be able to report stories they feel are in the national interest?

	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>	March <u>1991</u>	Aug <u>1989</u>	June <u>1985</u>	Oct <u>1985</u>
42 Government able to censor	53	58	40	44	38
50 News media able to report	39	32	52	38	50
2 Both equal (VOL)	4	5	5	9	6
<u>6</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.44 In your opinion, which is better that news coverage of a war be pro-American or that news coverage of a war be neutral?

	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>	March <u>1991</u>
16 Pro-American	30	22
78 Neutral	64	71
<u>6</u> No opinion/Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100	100	100

NO QUESTION 45 THRU 46

⁷ In May 1988 the question just asked: losing your job.

⁸ In October 1986 the question was worded "Some people feel that the government should have more control over how news organizations report on terrorist incidents. Others feel that most decisions on how to report the story should be made by the news organizations themselves. Which comes closer to your opinion?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=629]:

Q.48 As you may know, President Bush has proposed large increases in the budget for military defense and homeland security. Which one of the following do you think is the BEST way to pay for these increases, if they are to happen? **[READ AND ROTATE]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Feb</u> <u>2002</u>
23	Add to the budget deficit	24
21	Reduce spending on domestic programs [OR]	22
40	Postpone or reduce last year's tax cuts	42
1	None (VOL)	2
1	Multiple (VOL)	*
2	Other (VOL)	1
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=625]:

Q.49 As you may know, President Bush has proposed large increases in the budget for military defense and homeland security. Which one of the following do you think is the BEST way to pay for these increases, if they are to happen? **[READ AND ROTATE]**

<u>Total</u>	
31	Add to the budget deficit
28	Reduce spending on domestic programs [OR]
23	Increase taxes
5	None [VOL, DO NOT READ]
3	Multiple [VOL, DO NOT READ]
3	Other [VOL, DO NOT READ]
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL, DO NOT READ]
100	