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It's the Economy Again!
CLINTON NOSTALGIA SETS IN, BUSH REACTION MIXED

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It's the Economy Again!

CLINTON NOSTALGIA SETS IN, BUSH REACTION MIXED

As the country awaits the formal transfer of presidential power, Bill Clinton has never looked better to the American public, while his successor George W. Bush is receiving initial reviews that are more mixed, though still positive. The president leaves office with 61% of the public approving of the way he is handling the job, combined with a surprisingly lofty 64% favorability rating (up from 48% in May 2000). The favorability rating, a mixture of personal and performance evaluations, is all the more impressive because such judgments have never been Clinton's strong suit. Unlike other recent presidents, Clinton's ratings have often run below his job approval scores.

As historians and scholars render their judgments of Clinton's legacy, the public is weighing in with a nuanced verdict. By a 60%-27% margin, people feel that, in the long run, Clinton's accomplishments in office will outweigh his failures, even though 67% think he will be *remembered* for impeachment and the scandals, not for what he achieved. At the same time, evaluations of Hillary Clinton are on the upswing as she leaves the White House to become New York's junior senator.

Opinions of President-elect Bush are notably less effusive, which may be at least partly attributable to the election's contentious conclusion. A 50% plurality approves of the job he has done in explaining his policies and plans for the future. This contrasts to 62% who expressed that view of Clinton in a Pew Research Center survey in January 1993, and 65% who approved of George Bush Sr.'s policy explanations in a Gallup Poll twelve years ago.

Improved Opinion of the Clintons ...

	<u>Aug</u> <u>1998</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2000</u>	<u>Jan</u> <u>2001</u>
<i>Bill Clinton ...</i>	%	%	%
Favorable	54	48	64
Unfavorable	44	47	34
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Hillary Clinton ...</i>			
Favorable	63	49	60
Unfavorable	34	42	35
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100

... And Mixed Reviews for Bush

	<u>Bush Sr.</u> <u>1989</u>	<u>Clinton</u> <u>1993</u>	<u>Bush Jr.</u> <u>2001</u>
<i>Explanation of his policies ...</i>	%	%	%
Approve	65	62	50
Disapprove	28	24	36
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100

1989 and 1993 figures are from Gallup.

His cabinet choices ...

Approve	59	64	58
Disapprove	15	15	16
Don't know	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>
	100	100	100

1989 figures are from ABC News; 1993 are from U.S. News & World Report.

Partisan hostility explains Bush's lower ratings as only 29% of Democrats and independents who lean Democratic approve of the job the president-elect has done in communicating his plans. In contrast, Republicans and independents who lean to the GOP were far more positive toward Clinton in 1993, when 43% approved of his initial policy presentations.

Bush gets somewhat higher grades for his cabinet selections (58% approval).¹ While these ratings are lower than Clinton's, they are comparable to his father's and better than the ratings Ronald Reagan's cabinet received in 1981. Further, the Pew survey, which was conducted among a national sample of 1,258 adults Jan. 3-7, found that relatively few people (21%) believe his cabinet picks and other high-level appointments are too conservative; half think they are about right ideologically. The selection of Colin Powell may have a lot to do with this, as 33% were able to identify the retired general as a member of the new cabinet — a much higher number than could recall the name of any Clinton nominee in 1993.

By a 56% to 29% margin, Americans think it is a good thing that many of Bush's top advisors worked in his father's administration. In that regard only 12% think that Dick Cheney is playing too large a role in the new administration. Even at this early stage, 31% think Cheney will be a successful vice president — a somewhat higher number than think Bush will be a successful president.

Flagging economic optimism may be one of the first problems confronting the new administration. There has been a significant increase in the number of Americans who expect to be worse off financially over the course of the year: 27% express that view now, compared to about 10% in January 1999. In fact, the economic expectations voiced in the current survey are the least positive on this measure since 1992, when Clinton was campaigning for office on a promise to jump-start the economy. Similarly, public interest in stories about the economy and financial conditions is as high as it has been since 1994, when many people still believed the economy was in a recession.

	Jan <u>1992</u>	Feb <u>1995</u>	Jan <u>1999</u>	Jan <u>2001</u>
<i>Personal finances will ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Improve	55	64	72	57
Stay the same (Vol.)	16	17	14	12
Worsen	24	16	10	27
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

1992 figures are from U.S. News & World Report.

¹ The survey was fielded before Linda Chavez withdrew her name as Bush's nominee for Secretary of Labor.

Not surprisingly, the state of the economy has gained importance in the eyes of the public. More than eight-in-ten (81%) rate keeping the economy strong as the leading priority for the president and Congress. While partisan divisions persist in the wake of the election, Republicans, Democrats and independents agree that maintaining strong economic growth should be Washington's first order of business.

Partisan tensions are apparent in public perceptions of which groups will thrive and which ones will lose ground in the Bush years. Majorities think that business corporations, the military and Christian conservatives will gain in influence, while pluralities think feminists, poor people, environmentalists, and union leaders will wane in influence. Already, Bush himself is seen as tilting to the right; by 48%-37%, the public thinks the new president is listening more to the conservatives than the moderates in his party.

Priorities for '01

Perhaps not surprisingly, given the public's growing financial concerns, keeping the economy strong has overtaken education as the public's leading policy priority. Improving education, which led the list of priorities last year, is now second.

As Bush prepares to begin his presidency, there are notable areas of bipartisan agreement, although vast differences continue to divide the parties. Aside from the economy, Republicans, Democrats and independents all rate improving education, reducing crime, and securing Social Security and Medicare very highly. In addition, a strong consensus has emerged in favor of a middle-class tax cut, with better than six-in-ten in each group calling tax cuts a top priority.

But Republicans and Democrats are far apart on the importance of a wide range of issues, including protecting the environment, gun control, health care, strengthening the military and improving the nation's moral climate. Almost three-

	<u>All</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>Priorities ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Keeping economy strong	81	78	84	81
Improving educational system	78	76	81	76
Reducing crime	76	69	82	72
Securing Social Security	74	67	80	74
Adding Medicare drug benefits	73	60	80	72
Securing Medicare	71	64	79	69
Regulating HMOs	66	54	77	60
Reducing middle class taxes	66	63	65	67
Dealing with problems of poor	63	48	75	62
Protecting the environment	63	45	74	68
Providing insurance to uninsured	61	46	74	60
Improving the job situation	60	48	66	60
Paying off the national debt	54	49	55	58
Working to reduce racial tensions	52	40	64	52
Dealing with moral breakdown	51	61	45	46
Strengthening the military	48	63	45	41
Strengthening gun control laws	47	34	61	44
Developing missile defense	41	49	36	37
Reforming campaign finance	37	30	40	42
Dealing with global trade	37	42	38	32

quarters of Democrats and nearly as many independents (68%) rate the environment as a top priority; less than half of Republicans (45%) agree. Democrats are also far more likely than Republicans to regard providing insurance for the uninsured and toughening gun control laws as major priorities.

Conversely, Republicans attach greater importance to building up the military and dealing with the nation’s moral breakdown. Better than six-in-ten Republicans see those issues as leading priorities, compared to fewer than half of Democrats and independents. Republicans are also more likely than Democrats to view missile defense as a top priority; still, only about half (49%) of Republicans see this as very important.

There also is a gender gap over the nation’s priorities, although men and women alike place the economy and education at the top of the list. Women are far more likely to rate insuring the uninsured (68% vs. 53% of men), improving the job situation (65% vs. 53%) and helping the poor and needy (69% vs. 58%) as top priorities. Strengthening the armed forces ranks as more important for men than it does for women (53%-42%).

GOP Narrows Issues Gap

Republicans have made considerable headway over the past two years in cutting into the Democrats’ issues advantage. The public now rates the two parties about even for their ideas on taxes, education and the global economy. The Democrats narrowly led the GOP on global economic issues in January 1999 (38%-33%) and held a substantial advantage on taxes and education.

Democrats maintain their edge as having the best ideas on health care and retirement programs. Health care has long been a Democratic strong suit, and Pew surveys throughout the presidential campaign showed that Al Gore held the edge over Bush as being better able improve the health care system and make prescription drugs more affordable for seniors. The Democrats are seen as having the best ideas on regulating HMOs, as well as securing Social Security, although by

The Party with Better Ideas			
	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Neither/ DK</u>
<i>Who has best ideas on ...</i>	%	%	%
Education	41	40	19=100
January, 1999	46	26	28=100
Middle class tax cuts	42	41	17=100
January, 1999	45	32	23=100
HMO reform	47	30	23=100
January, 1999	46	25	29=100
Social Security	44	36	20=100
January, 1999	46	27	27=100
Medicare drug benefits	49	30	21=100
Global economy	37	39	24=100
January, 1999	38	33	29=100
Morality	26	49	25=100
January, 1999	29	37	34=100

decreased margins since January 1999. On prescription drugs, which was not included on the 1999 survey, the Democrats hold a 19-point lead (49%-30%).

For their part, Republicans have expanded their substantial lead as the party having the best ideas to improve the nation's moral climate. The public currently favors the GOP by a nearly two-to-one margin (49%-26%), and even a substantial number of Democrats (28%) say Republicans have the best ideas on this issue. Independents favor the GOP on morality 48%-21%.

Gridlock Ahead?

Despite the pledges of bipartisanship coming from Washington, half of Americans expect an increased level of bickering from Republicans and Democrats, compared to 41% who believe the two parties will work together.

Republicans are far more optimistic than Democrats about prospects for comity; 51% of Republicans believe partisan cooperation will prevail, while 41% see signs of strife. Democrats, by a wide margin (56%-34%), predict more bickering, as do independents (by 54%-39%).

Congress and its leaders have improved their image in recent months. Currently, 43% of the public approves of the performance of GOP leaders, while 37% disapprove. That is a turnaround since July, when 36% liked the job GOP leaders were doing and 46% disapproved. Similarly, Congress' overall *favorability* is up slightly, with 64% having generally positive impressions of Congress, while 23% hold a negative opinion. In a September survey of registered voters, 61% had at least mostly favorable views of Congress while 32% had largely unfavorable views.

The public has a fairly high level of awareness concerning the close partisan division on Capitol Hill. A solid majority (59%) knew that as a result of the elections, Congress is more narrowly divided, while just 16% said, incorrectly, that the GOP had increased its majority.

Military, Business Seen as Benefitting

The public has clear ideas about what the transfer of power in Washington will mean for various groups. And the public's assessment of likely winners and losers in the Bush administration is vastly different than its list for the Clinton administration eight years ago.

In the public's mind, the military and business corporations will be the hands down winners in the Bush era. More than seven-in-ten Americans (72%) believe the military will gain influence in the coming years, while just 4% say it will lose influence. By a better than seven-to-one margin (66%-9%), the public expects corporations to benefit under the Bush presidency.

Half of Americans (51%) think that conservative Christians, who supported Bush by a wide margin, will gain influence while just 11% say they will lose clout. A bare majority, too, predicts children will gain, but that is far less than the ten-to-one margin that held that view at the start of the Clinton administration. And Washington lobbyists — who were widely seen as being on the outs when Clinton arrived — also are regarded as winners, by a two-to-one margin (35%-17%).

On the flip side, sizable pluralities think that feminists, environmentalists, union leaders and the poor — all traditionally identified with the Democratic Party — will lose influence. All of these groups were seen as gaining influence when Clinton took over in 1993. Older Americans, however, are predicted to fare well in the Bush era by a slightly bigger margin than in 1993.

Interestingly, the public has a mixed view about how African-Americans — who were seen as clear winners eight years ago — will fare under Bush. While whites, by a modest 31%-27% margin, believe that blacks will gain, blacks themselves are far more pessimistic. By better than two-to-one (51%-24%), most blacks believe they will *lose* influence, rather than gain influence, under Bush.

When asked how “people like yourself” will fare, a modest plurality (35%) thinks the Bush era will be positive, but more people had a favorable outlook for the Clinton administration eight years ago. There are stark partisan differences on this question; six-in-ten Republicans say people like them will gain influence, compared to just 5% who say they will lose clout. Democrats, by better than a two-to-one margin (44%-18%), believe they will lose, rather than gain, influence.

Winners and Losers			
	<u>Gain</u>	<u>Lose</u>	Not sure/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
The military	72	4	24=100
Business corporations	66	9	25=100
January, 1993	34	33	33=100
Conservative Christians	51	11	38=100
Children	50	18	32=100
January, 1993	62	6	32=100
Older people	46	26	28=100
January, 1993	42	25	33=100
Washington lobbyists	35	17	48=100
January, 1993	23	31	46=100
People like yourself	35	26	39=100
January, 1993	43	22	35=100
Blacks	30	29	41=100
January, 1993	66	6	28=100
Poor people	29	40	31=100
January, 1993	61	12	27=100
Union leaders	26	38	36=100
January, 1993	35	24	41=100
Environmentalists	24	40	36=100
January, 1993	67	7	26=100
Feminists	18	38	44=100
January, 1993	66	6	28=100

While the public believes evangelical Christians will gain influence under Bush, so too do members of that group. Nearly half of evangelical Christians (48%) say people like them will expand their influence, while just 16% believe they will lose influence. A plurality of seculars (42%), by contrast, see people like themselves losing clout.

Solid pluralities of Americans with incomes over \$50,000 and those living in the South and West are confident they will gain influence. Those with incomes of less than \$20,000 and those living in the East and Midwest are divided over whether people like themselves will gain or lose clout.

Powell's Popularity

Colin Powell has been an extraordinarily popular figure since the Persian Gulf War. And as he prepares for confirmation hearings as Bush's nominee for Secretary of State, his overall favorability ratings are approaching the high level he received shortly after that conflict, nearly a decade ago.

Overall, Powell is viewed very favorably by 45% of the public with another 35% holding a mostly favorable impression of the retired general. When the sample is limited to those who can rate Powell, his favorability reaches 90% (50% very favorable, 40% mostly favorable).

Powell's popularity cuts across political and demographic categories, but Republicans hold a much more favorable view of him than do Democrats. Based on those who could rate him, nearly two-thirds of Republicans (64%) have a *very* favorable impression of Powell, compared to 39% of Democrats.

John McCain, who vied with Bush for the GOP presidential nomination, remains personally popular with the public, although more than a quarter (26%) say they can't rate the Arizona senator. Eight-in-ten of those who could rate McCain have a favorable impression of him.

	Favorability Ratings		
	<i>Among those who could rate</i>		<i>Can't</i>
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Rate</u>
	%	%	%
Colin Powell	90	10=100	11
John McCain	80	20=100	26
Dick Cheney	78	22=100	20
Madeleine Albright	76	24=100	21
Joe Lieberman	72	28=100	24
George W. Bush	65	35=100	7
Bill Clinton	64	36=100	2
Hillary Clinton	64	36=100	5
Al Gore	59	41=100	4

The outgoing Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, remains widely popular, especially among those who can rate her. And although Joe Lieberman's overall favorable rating of 55% is slightly below Al Gore's rating of 57%, Lieberman's favorability among those who can rate bests

Gore's, 72%-59%. While as popular as Gore among Democrats, Lieberman draws much higher ratings than Gore among Republicans and independents.

Divisions Over the Court

The military, which traditionally has garnered high favorability ratings, continues to be quite popular. More than eight-in-ten Americans hold at least mostly favorable views of the nation's armed forces, which is down from the 89% rating the military received in August 1999.

Following the Supreme Court's controversial ruling in the Florida recount case the Court's favorability has declined a bit. About two-thirds (68%) have favorable impressions of the Court, compared to 77% in October 1997. While eight-in-ten Republicans hold positive views of the Court, just 61% of Democrats and 69% of independents agree.

The GOP is now on par with the Democrats in terms of favorability; 56% of the public has a favorable impression of the GOP, almost even with a 60% rating for the Democrats. Republicans have made significant gains since the end of Clinton's impeachment trial in February, 1999, when fewer than half of Americans had positive feelings about the party.

Divided Judgment

As has been the case for much of his presidency, the American public is of two minds about Bill Clinton. While his favorability ratings are near an all-time high and his approval ratings remain strong, an overwhelming majority of Americans think he will be most remembered for the scandals that have plagued his administration.

Clinton's job approval rating is comparable to Ronald Reagan's at a similar point in his presidency (64% in January 1989) and slightly higher than George Bush's 56% rating as he prepared to leave office. A majority of Americans in nearly every major demographic group now approve of the way Clinton is doing his job. Among his biggest admirers are blacks, younger people and the less affluent.

	Reagan Jan 1989	Bush Jan 1993	Clinton Jan 2001
<i>Presidential approval ...</i>	%	%	%
Approve	64	56	61
Disapprove	32	37	30
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Will go down in history as ...</i>			
Outstanding	17	6	12
Above average	42	30	32
Average	25	51	32
Below average	9	8	10
Poor	5	4	11
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100

1989 figures from ABC News; 1993 are from Gallup.

More than six-in-ten independents (63%) approve of the job he is doing, as do more than one-third of Republicans (35%). Conservative Republicans remain Clinton's toughest critics. Only 27% approve of the job he's doing, while 70% disapprove. Moderate to liberal Republicans narrowly approve of Clinton (48% vs. 42% who disapprove).

On balance, Americans think history will view Clinton positively: 44% say he will go down in history as an outstanding or above average president, 32% say he'll be viewed as average, and 21% say below average or poor. When compared to Reagan and Bush, Clinton is clearly the most polarizing figure in the group. In January 1993, nearly six-in-ten Americans said Reagan would go down in history as an outstanding or above average president, 25% said average and 14% said below average or poor. Most Americans (51%) said Bush would go down in history as an average president.

Not surprisingly, Republicans and Democrats have starkly different opinions about how Clinton will be remembered. Only 28% of Republicans say he'll go down in history as an outstanding or above average president. This compares with 62% of Democrats. Fully one-in-five Republicans say history will view Clinton as a poor president, compared to only 3% of Democrats.

Most Recall Scandals

Beyond these broad evaluations, the public is clearly conflicted about Clinton's legacy. By a better than two-to-one margin, Americans say in their own view Clinton's accomplishments will outweigh his failures. However, by an even wider margin, they say he will be remembered by others more for impeachment and scandals than for his accomplishments as president.

Again, Republicans and Democrats don't agree on Clinton's legacy. Republicans are evenly divided on the question of whether the president's accomplishments will outweigh his failures or vice versa, while a strong majority of Democrats (77%) say his accomplishments will matter most. But majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents agree that Clinton will be remembered more for scandals than for his accomplishments as president (79%, 53% and 68%, respectively).

Mixed Views on Clinton	
<i>In the long run, Clinton's ...</i>	<u>%</u>
Accomplishments will outweigh failures	60
Failures will outweigh accomplishments	27
Don't know	<u>13</u>
	100
<i>In the long run, Clinton will be remembered for ...</i>	
His accomplishments	28
Impeachment & scandals	67
Don't know	<u>5</u>
	100

The Monica Lewinsky scandal and ensuing impeachment is what comes to mind when Americans are asked specifically what Clinton will be remembered for. In an open-ended question, fully 74% cited Clinton's scandals or personal problems as his main legacy, with 43% citing the Lewinsky scandal. Even among Democrats, scandal is the first thing that comes to mind when they think of Clinton. More than two-thirds say he'll be remembered most for this aspect of his presidency.

While references to Clinton's policy achievements are largely overshadowed by recollections of scandals, he does get some credit for his efforts to strengthen the economy. Some 14% cite the economy when asked what Clinton will be most remembered for. Another 6% mention his efforts at peace in the Middle East and elsewhere around the world. Only 1% mention domestic policy achievements other than the economy.

Economy vs. Morality

Overall, Clinton receives high marks for his attempts to deal with the nation's problems. A slim majority (52%) say he has made progress toward solving the major problems facing the country, another 27% say he has tried but failed. Only 15% say he has not addressed these problems or made matters worse.

In terms of specific policy areas, Clinton receives the highest marks for his economic policies. A majority of Americans say he has made progress on unemployment (66%), economic prosperity (61%) and the budget deficit (56%).

Roughly half say he's made progress on race relations (50%) and world peace and stability (47%). In

addition, sizable minorities give him credit for making progress on education (43%), the welfare system (43%), crime (42%), trade policy (41%), and the proper use of American military forces around the world (40%).

	Grading Clinton on Policy				
	<i>Clinton has ...</i>				
	<u>Made Progress</u>	<u>Tried but Failed</u>	<u>Not dealt with</u>	<u>Created Problems</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment	66	15	6	5	8=100
Economy	61	14	5	9	11=100
Deficit	56	17	4	8	15=100
Race relations	50	17	15	6	12=100
World peace	47	33	4	7	9=100
Education	43	28	13	6	10=100
Welfare	43	24	11	12	10=100
Crime	42	26	14	6	12=100
Trade	41	20	6	10	23=100
Use of force	40	21	10	16	13=100
Social Security/ Medicare	36	31	13	10	10=100
Middle East	30	51	3	7	9=100
Taxes	29	25	16	13	17=100
Drugs	28	39	19	4	10=100
Health care	27	43	11	12	7=100
Gap between rich and poor	26	28	22	12	12=100
Morality	18	25	15	30	12=100

He gets less praise for his efforts on Social Security and Medicare, the Middle East, taxes, drugs, health care, and reducing the gap between rich and poor (an area which 22% of Americans say he did not deal with at all). He does get credit for trying on the Middle East and on health care; 51% and 43% respectively, say he tried but failed to deal with these problems. Clinton gets his lowest marks for morality. Only 18% say he made progress in solving this national problem. Nearly a third (30%) say he actually created problems for the next president.

Hillary's Comeback

As she winds up her duties as First Lady and embarks on a new career in the U.S. Senate, Hillary Clinton is enjoying a surge in her own popularity. Six-in-ten Americans now have a favorable opinion of her, up substantially from 49% last year. Mrs. Clinton's ratings have fluctuated throughout her husband's presidency, hitting a low point of 42% favorable early in 1996 amid charges of possible misconduct related to the Whitewater case. Her personal ratings rebounded during the Monica Lewinsky scandal of 1998, but fell again in 2000.

The gender gap in opinion of Mrs. Clinton has sharpened somewhat. In May 2000, 44% of men had a favorable opinion of her compared to 54% of women. Today 51% of men view her favorably versus 68% of women.

Cabinet Earns Fair Grades

Partisan patterns are evident in the divergent views of President-elect Bush's cabinet and his performance to date in promoting his programs. While Republicans applaud Bush's recruitment of figures from past Republican administrations, Democrats think this is a bad thing, not a good thing, by a 48% to 38% margin. Still, Democrats approve of Bush's cabinet choices (44%-23%), and independents approve of Bush's picks by an even wider margin (58%-15%).

With respect to the ideology of the appointees, one-third of Democrats and a quarter of independents think Bush's appointments are too conservative. When partisans are further divided by whether they consider *themselves* to be conservative, moderate, or liberal, these disparities become

Partisan Divide over Bush Cabinet				
	<u>All</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
<i>Cabinet appointments ...</i>				
Approve	58	84	44	58
Disapprove	16	3	23	15
Don't know	<u>26</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>27</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Cabinet appointments ...</i>				
Too conservative	21	3	33	26
Too moderate	7	5	8	8
About right	50	79	33	44
Don't know	<u>22</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Top advisors from</i>				
<i>Bush Sr. administration ...</i>				
Good thing	56	83	38	54
Bad thing	29	8	48	30
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Dick Cheney influence ...</i>				
Too much	12	1	20	14
Too little	12	7	20	11
Right amount	58	80	41	57
Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100	100	100

even more apparent. Fully 57% of liberal Democrats think Bush's cabinet is too conservative, compared to just 21% of more moderate and conservative Democrats.

But the partisan split over Cheney's role is somewhat less pronounced. As many Democrats (20%) believe he has too little influence as say he has too much. And better than four-in-ten Democrats (and 57% of independents) say the former defense secretary is exercising an appropriate level of influence.

Less Interest in Cabinet - Except Powell

Overall, public attention to Bush's cabinet appointments is lower than it was for the Clinton transition eight years ago. Just 58% say they are following Bush's cabinet choices very or fairly closely, compared to 66% who said that at this stage in the Clinton transition of 1993. However, more than twice as many Americans (43%) can name a member of Bush's incoming cabinet than could name a single cabinet or other major appointment made by President-elect Clinton in January of 1993 (21%).

The difference is simple — Colin Powell. While one-in-three can identify Powell as a Bush appointee, only 18% can name any of the rest of Bush's appointees *combined*. John Ashcroft comes in a distant second to Powell with 8% recalling his name. By comparison, the most recognized figure in Clinton's 1993 cabinet was Lloyd Bentsen at 8%.

Residents of the Midwest do slightly better at identifying Bush's cabinet appointments — possibly because they are more familiar with local politicians like Ashcroft, Tommy Thompson and Spencer Abraham who have landed cabinet posts. African-Americans are just as likely as whites to identify Colin Powell or Condoleezza Rice as Bush appointees, but only 5% name any others, compared to 18% of whites.

Those who are able to name one or more cabinet appointments express greater satisfaction with Bush's choices than those who cannot by a 69% to 51% margin. While Republicans are more apt to know the names of Bush's nominees than are Democrats, approval of the appointments is linked to familiarity even when party affiliation is taken into account.

Bush's Tough Sales Job

So far, Bush has been more successful with his cabinet picks than in selling his agenda. While half approves of the way he has explained his policies and plans for the future, the other half either actively disapproves (36%) or isn't sure (14%).

Bush's lagging approval on this aspect of his transition reflects particularly low marks from Democrats and independents. Democrats clearly are not giving Bush much of a honeymoon, but neither are independents. In 1993, 63% of independents approved of Clinton's job explaining his agenda, compared to only 48% who approve of Bush's performance so far. Independents who lean toward one of the parties tend to show attitudes very similar to those who identify themselves as partisans outright.

Independents Not on Board		
	Jan <u>1993</u>	Jan <u>2001</u>
<i>Approve of president-elect's explanation of policies ...</i>	%	%
All	62	50
Republicans	43	80
Democrats	77	30
Independents	63	48
Lean Republican	42	73
No partisan leaning	56	37
Lean Democrat	78	26

A majority of Americans (58%) say it is too early to tell if Bush will be a successful president. Of the rest, 26% (mostly Republicans and independents who lean Republican) predict Bush will be successful, and 15% (mostly Democrats and Democratic leaners) believe he will be unsuccessful. Either because of his performance to date, or because the job is easier, slightly more think that Dick Cheney will be successful as vice president than think Bush will be successful as president. Nearly a third predict success for Cheney, only 7% foresee failure.

While nearly half of the public sees Bush being pulled to the right, much of that sentiment is being driven by liberal Democrats and African-Americans. Each group, by a better than two-to-one margin, says Bush is listening more to conservatives, not moderates in his party. Republicans tend to see Bush's ideological tendencies as similar to their own. Republicans who think of themselves as conservative believe that Bush is listening more to conservatives (53%-34%). Moderate and liberal Republicans tend to think Bush is listening to the more moderate members of his party by a 58% to 25% margin.

More Bears, Fewer Bulls

The increase in economic pessimism has occurred across all segments of the population, but has been particularly pronounced among women and African-Americans, where there was more than a threefold increase in the proportion who think things will get worse for them over the next year (women from 10% to 31%, blacks from 12% to 39%).

This trend also has a large partisan component. Democrats are twice as likely as Republicans (36% to 18%) to be pessimistic about their immediate economic prospects, with independents falling somewhere in between. By comparison, two years ago Democrats were slightly more optimistic about their immediate economic future than Republicans.

Concern about the economy over the next year is even more noticeable with respect to the public's mixed view of the stock market. Nearly as many Americans expect the market to go down (30%) as up (34%) over the next 12 months. This represents a distinct shift from late 1997, when the "bulls" outnumbered the "bears" by two-to-one (32% to 16%).

Wealthier Americans are significantly more optimistic on this issue than those of more moderate means. Respondents from households earning at least \$50,000 annually predict that stocks will go up, not down, by a margin of 43% to 28%. By comparison, those in households earning under \$50,000 are split, with 31% bullish and 33% bearish.

At the same time that many people express short-term concerns about the upcoming year, there are signs that Americans remain confident with their *long-term* economic prospects and the general direction of the country. General satisfaction with the state of the nation is up, from 47% last June and 51% in September to 55% today. The increase has been across the board, with particularly notable gains among retirees, political independents and those living in the East. Moreover, 76% of working Americans say they either make enough money to lead the kind of life they want, or think they will be able to in the future, a proportion that has remained remarkably steady over the past decade.

Expecting a Downturn		
<i>Family finances will get worse ...</i>	<u>Jan 1999</u>	<u>Jan 2001</u>
All Respondents	10	27
Men	11	23
Women	10	31
White	10	25
Black	12	39
Hispanic	6	25
College Grad.	7	22
Some College	7	21
H.S. or less	13	32
\$75,000+	5	26
\$50-\$75,000	3	25
\$30-\$50,000	10	22
\$20-\$30,000	17	26
Under \$20,000	13	34
Republicans	11	18
Democrats	9	36
Independents	10	24

Winter Weather Tops News Interest Index

Cold winter weather was the most closely followed news story this month. More than four-in-ten Americans (42%) followed this story very closely. Attentiveness to this story is on par with winter weather-related news in previous years. Not surprisingly, those living in the East and Midwest, where many of the storms occurred, paid the most attention to the story, while those in the West were less interested.

The survey shows an uptick in interest in economic news. Nearly a third of Americans (32%) followed reports about the condition of the U.S. economy closely this month. Public attentiveness to economic news is the highest it has been since May 1994, before the psychological impact of the economic recovery had really taken hold. College graduates and those in the highest income bracket followed this story more closely than others.

Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East gained the very close attention of 21% of the public this month. Interest in the Middle East peace process has remained remarkably stable over the years, with roughly one-in-five Americans paying very close attention and at least half following the story at least fairly closely.

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<u>Cold Winter Weather and Storms</u> %	<u>Condition of the Economy</u> %	<u>Bush's Cabinet Choices</u> %	<u>Peace Efforts in the Middle East</u> %	<u>(N)</u>
<i>Total</i>	42	32	26	21	(1258)
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	38	30	25	22	(572)
Female	45	34	26	21	(686)
<i>Race</i>					
White	42	32	26	21	(1002)
Black	45	34	24	20	(137)
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	37	21	17	17	(232)
30-49	37	29	23	16	(507)
50+	50	40	32	28	(491)
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	36	43	37	24	(436)
Some College	40	34	25	23	(294)
H.S. Grad. & Less	45	26	21	19	(521)
<i>Region</i>					
East	50	36	24	24	(240)
Midwest	52	27	24	17	(319)
South	42	32	27	22	(461)
West	24	32	26	22	(238)
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	40	35	36	19	(348)
Democrat	46	33	22	24	(421)
Independent	38	29	22	19	(393)
<i>Internet User</i>					
Yes	38	31	26	21	(822)
No	48	33	24	22	(436)

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?

PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

(Demographic Breakdown for Top Six Responses)

	Keeping the Economy <u>Strong</u> %	Improving the Educational <u>System</u> %	Reducing <u>Crime</u> %	Adding Prescription <u>Drug Benefits</u> %	Securing Social <u>Security</u> %	Securing <u>Medicare</u> %
Total	81	78	76	73	74	71
Sex						
Male	82	76	73	69	73	69
Female	81	79	78	76	75	73
Race						
White	80	77	73	71	74	71
Non-white	87	83	89	82	77	75
Black	90	87	92	85	84	80
Hispanic†	80	82	73	72	68	74
Race and Sex						
White Men	81	75	70	66	73	69
White Women	80	79	75	75	75	73
Age						
Under 30	81	79	78	68	59	58
30-49	78	78	72	71	70	68
50-64	90	75	77	78	89	76
65+	83	79	81	79	84	88
Sex and Age						
Men under 50	81	78	74	66	69	66
Women under 50	80	74	74	64	64	76
Men 50+	85	74	73	75	80	74
Women 50+	89	79	84	82	93	88
Education						
College Grad.	78	75	58	59	67	60
Some College	84	80	74	69	70	78
H.S. Grad & Less	81	78	83	79	81	74
Family Income						
\$75,000+	84	74	64	53	66	60
\$50,000-\$74,999	82	83	65	67	70	62
\$30,000-\$49,999	81	77	74	75	79	76
\$20,000-\$29,999	87	75	86	80	77	78
<\$20,000	77	78	83	79	74	75

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

Question: I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President-elect Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should (INSERT ITEM) be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?

Continued ...

	Keeping the Economy <u>Strong</u> %	Improving the Educational <u>System</u> %	Reducing <u>Crime</u> %	Adding Prescription <u>Drug Benefits</u> %	Securing Social <u>Security</u> %	Securing <u>Medicare</u> %
Total	81	78	76	73	74	71
Region						
East	82	83	69	74	77	75
Midwest	84	73	74	68	72	68
South	85	80	80	74	80	76
West	71	74	78	74	65	63
Religious Affiliation						
Total White Protestant	80	73	77	74	76	68
White Protestant Evangelical	73	74	75	74	78	72
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	86	73	79	74	73	64
White Catholic	80	82	70	70	74	70
Secular	80	77	65	76	68	65
Community Size						
Large City	76	78	69	78	74	71
Suburb	90	83	69	67	76	74
Small City/Town	80	77	79	74	75	71
Rural Area	81	70	83	70	73	67
Party ID						
Republican	78	76	69	60	67	64
Democrat	84	81	82	80	80	79
Independent	81	76	72	72	74	69
Party and Ideology						
Conservative Republican	78	72	66	63	64	62
Moderate/Liberal Republican	78	79	73	56	71	67
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	84	78	83	80	84	80
Liberal Democrat	88	87	78	82	75	75
Labor Union						
Union Household	73	76	74	72	69	68
Non-Union Household	83	78	76	73	75	72

BILL CLINTON FAVORABILITY AND JOB APPROVAL

	<i>May 2000</i>	<i>January 2001</i>	<i>Change in</i>	<i>July 2000</i>	<i>January 2001</i>	<i>Change in</i>
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Approve</u>
	%	%		%	%	
<i>Total</i>	48	64	+16	55	61	+6
<i>Sex</i>						
Male	49	62	+13	55	60	+5
Female	46	65	+19	55	62	+7
<i>Race</i>						
White	43	58	+15	51	57	+6
Non-white	76	85	+9	73	79	+6
Black	84	91	+7	78	88	+10
Hispanic†	n/a	n/a	n/a	57	63	+6
<i>Race and Sex</i>						
White Men	45	58	+13	51	57	+6
White Women	41	59	+18	52	57	+5
<i>Age</i>						
Under 30	55	73	+18	59	66	+7
30-49	47	60	+13	56	61	+5
50-64	44	61	+17	57	58	+1
65+	46	63	+17	48	61	+13
<i>Sex and Age</i>						
Men under 50	51	63	+12	57	61	+4
Women under 50	66	+17	58	64	+6	
Men 50+	46	60	+14	53	59	+6
Women 50+	43	64	+21	53	59	+6
<i>Education</i>						
College Grad.	46	59	+13	53	62	+9
Some College	48	52	+4	56	59	+3
H.S. Grad & Less	48	69	+21	56	62	+6
<i>Family Income</i>						
\$75,000+	46	56	+10	52	59	+7
\$50,000-\$74,999	44	53	+9	58	60	+2
\$30,000-\$49,999	49	60	+11	56	62	+6
\$20,000-\$29,999	48	67	+19	53	67	+14
<\$20,000	53	76	+23	58	64	+6

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

Question: Now I'd like your opinion of some people and things in the news. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of (Bill Clinton) is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president?

Continued...

	<u>May 2000</u>	<u>January 2001</u>	<u>Change in</u>	<u>July 2000</u>	<u>January 2001</u>	<u>Change in</u>
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Approve</u>
	%	%		%	%	
Total	48	64	+16	55	61	+6
Region						
East	54	61	+7	58	70	+12
Midwest	42	60	+18	56	61	+5
South	48	63	+15	56	59	+3
West	48	68	+20	51	58	+7
Religious Affiliation						
Total White Protestant	n/a	53	n/a	48	50	+2
White Protestant Evangelical	n/a	47	n/a	37	45	+8
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	n/a	59	n/a	56	55	-1
White Catholic	n/a	60	n/a	60	65	+5
Secular	n/a	n/a	n/a	60	70	+10
Community Size						
Large City	n/a	70	n/a	64	65	+1
Suburb	n/a	62	n/a	54	63	+9
Small City/Town	n/a	65	n/a	56	61	+5
Rural Area	n/a	54	n/a	44	57	+13
Party ID						
Republican	20	31	+11	28	35	+7
Democrat	73	88	+15	80	85	+5
Independent	48	65	+17	58	63	+5
Party and Ideology						
Conservative Republican	n/a	24	n/a	19	27	+8
Moderate/Liberal Republican	n/a	41	n/a	41	48	+7
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	n/a	86	n/a	79	83	+4
Liberal Democrat	n/a	93	n/a	87	91	+4
Labor Union						
Union Household	51	67	+16	60	62	+2
Non-Union Household	48	62	+14	54	61	+7

APPROVAL OF BUSH CABINET CHOICES AND EXPLANATION OF POLICIES

	--- Cabinet Choices ---			--- Explaining Policies and Plans ---		
	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	58	16	26=100	50	36	14=100
Sex						
Male	61	16	23	54	32	14
Female	55	16	29	46	38	16
Race						
White	61	14	25	53	33	14
Non-white	50	22	28	39	44	17
Black	44	28	28	29	51	20
Hispanic†	n/a	n/a	n/a	56	33	11
Race and Sex						
White Men	64	14	22	57	31	12
White Women	58	14	28	49	35	16
Age						
Under 30	57	16	27	48	37	15
30-49	63	12	25	47	37	16
50-64	57	20	23	54	34	12
65+	53	16	31	55	30	15
Sex and Age						
Men under 50	64	14	22	51	34	15
Women under 50	58	29	13	40	16	44
Men 50+	56	18	26	60	29	11
Women 50+	54	19	27	51	35	14
Education						
College Grad.	68	17	15	51	40	9
Some College	64	14	22	48	40	12
H.S. Grad & Less	53	16	31	50	32	18
Family Income						
\$75,000+	65	12	23	57	34	9
\$50,000-\$74,999	78	16	6	58	33	9
\$30,000-\$49,999	62	9	29	51	35	14
\$20,000-\$29,999	58	19	23	45	37	18
<\$20,000	45	21	34	42	40	18

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

Question: So far, would you say you approve or disapprove of George W. Bush's cabinet choices and other high level appointments?
 Do you approve or disapprove of the job President-elect Bush has done so far in explaining his policies and plans for the future to the American people?

Continued ...

	--- Cabinet Choices ---			--- Explaining Policies and Plans ---		
	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	58	16	26=100	50	36	14=100
Region						
East	50	26	24	43	42	15
Midwest	59	13	28	55	36	9
South	63	14	23	52	31	17
West	57	13	30	49	36	15
Religious Affiliation						
Total White Protestant	66	11	23	59	28	13
White Protestant Evangelical	66	8	26	64	23	13
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	64	15	21	54	32	14
White Catholic	59	10	31	54	35	11
Secular	n/a	n/a	n/a	32	52	16
Community Size						
Large City	51	19	30	44	43	13
Suburb	63	16	21	51	36	13
Small City/Town	57	17	26	53	34	13
Rural Area	61	12	27	51	31	18
Party ID						
Republican	84	3	13	80	12	8
Democrat	44	23	33	30	55	15
Independent	58	15	27	48	36	16
Party and Ideology						
Conservative Republican	88	2	10	86	8	6
Moderate/Liberal Republican	79	5	16	71	18	11
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	45	21	34	30	52	18
Liberal Democrat	41	27	32	32	59	9
Labor Union						
Union Household	50	26	24	45	43	12
Non-Union Household	59	14	27	51	34	15

PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION

	----- January 1999 -----				----- January 2001 -----			
		Stay the	Get	Don't		Stay the	Get	Don't
	<u>Improve</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Know</u>	<u>Improve</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Know</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	72	14	10	4=100	57	12	27	4=100
Sex								
Male	75	11	11	3	59	15	22	4
Female	68	18	10	4	54	10	31	5
Race								
White	71	16	10	3	56	14	26	4
Non-white	75	9	12	4	56	4	35	5
Black	77	8	12	3	51	3	39	7
Hispanic†	84	8	6	2	66	4	25	5
Race and Sex								
White Men	75	12	11	2	58	18	21	3
White Women	68	19	9	4	55	11	29	5
Age								
Under 30	85	8	5	2	73	6	20	1
30-49	81	9	8	2	60	10	26	4
50-64	65	19	12	4	49	11	35	5
65+	41	33	18	8	36	28	27	9
Sex and Age								
Men under 50	83	7	8	2	66	10	21	3
Women under 50 80	11		7	2	7		27	3
Men 50+	57	21	18	4	46	23	25	6
Women 50+	52	28	13	7	41	14	37	8
Education								
College Grad.	77	14	7	2	62	13	22	3
Some College	74	13	7	6	64	11	21	4
H.S. Grad & Less	69	16	12	3	51	12	32	5
Family Income								
\$75,000+	82	11	5	2	63	9	26	2
\$50,000-\$74,999	84	13	3	*	63	10	25	2
\$30,000-\$49,999	74	14	10	2	61	13	22	4
\$20,000-\$29,999	68	13	17	2	57	16	26	1
<\$20,000	68	17	13	2	48	10	34	8

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

Question: Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse, or get a lot worse?

Continued ...

	----- January 1999 -----				----- January 2001 -----			
	Improve	Stay the Same	Get Worse	Don't Know	Improve	Stay the Same	Get Worse	Don't Know
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	72	14	10	4=100	57	12	27	4=100
Region								
East	69	14	13	4	54	13	30	3
Midwest	68	17	11	4	55	14	28	3
South	75	14	9	2	54	12	28	6
West	73	13	9	5	63	10	22	5
Religious Affiliation								
Total White Protestant	70	16	10	4	57	14	25	4
White Protestant Evangelical	68	18	11	3	58	13	23	6
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	72	14	9	5	56	16	26	2
White Catholic	76	15	7	2	57	15	24	4
Secular	70	15	11	4	49	14	34	3
Community Size								
Large City	79	11	6	4	56	12	27	5
Suburb	74	14	9	3	62	11	24	3
Small City/Town	67	15	13	5	56	11	28	5
Rural Area	69	18	11	2	50	16	30	4
Party ID								
Republican	66	19	11	4	69	11	18	2
Democrat	74	13	9	4	49	9	37	5
Independent	75	12	10	3	57	15	24	4
Party and Ideology								
Conservative Republican	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	68	13	17	2
Moderate/Liberal Republican	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	71	7	19	3
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	49	9	37	5
Liberal Democrat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	10	35	5
Labor Union								
Union Household	77	10	10	3	54	12	32	2
Non-Union Household	71	15	10	4	56	12	27	5

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,258 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period January 3-7, 2001. 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=636) or Form 2 (N=622), 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.

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 numbers in the U.S. 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. The use of replicates also insures that the regional distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Again, this works to increase the representativeness of the sample.

At least 10 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 is at home." 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 2000). 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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2001 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
January 3-7, 2001
N = 1,258

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>
January, 2001	61	30	9=100
July, 2000	55	34	11=100
June, 2000	56	35	9=100
May, 2000	57	33	10=100
April, 2000	57	31	12=100
March, 2000	57	35	8=100
February, 2000	58	33	9=100
January, 2000	56	35	9=100
December, 1999	55	35	10=100
October, 1999	59	34	7=100
Late September, 1999	59	33	8=100
September, 1999	56	36	8=100
August, 1999	60	32	8=100
July, 1999	58	31	11=100
June, 1999	55	35	10=100
May, 1999	56	34	10=100
April, 1999	56	38	6=100
March, 1999	62	31	7=100
February, 1999	64	30	6=100
Mid-January, 1999	66	29	5=100
January, 1999	63	30	7=100
Late December, 1998	71	27	2=100
Early December, 1998	61	32	7=100
November, 1998	65	29	6=100
September 21-22, 1998	62	33	5=100
September 19-20, 1998	55	36	9=100
Early September, 1998	61	33	6=100
Late August, 1998	62	32	6=100
Early August, 1998	63	28	9=100
June, 1998	59	32	9=100
May, 1998	62	28	10=100
April, 1998	62	28	10=100
March, 1998	65	26	9=100
Early February, 1998	71	26	3=100
January, 1998	61	30	9=100
November, 1997	58	31	11=100
September, 1997	58	29	13=100
August, 1997	59	32	9=100
June, 1997	54	34	12=100
May, 1997	57	34	9=100
April, 1997	55	34	11=100
February, 1997	60	32	8=100

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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
January, 1994	51	35	14=100
Early January, 1994	48	35	17=100
December, 1993	48	36	16=100
October, 1993	44	42	14=100
September, 1993	49	35	16=100
Early September, 1993	43	43	14=100
August, 1993	39	46	15=100
May, 1993	39	43	18=100
Early May, 1993	45	37	18=100
April, 1993	49	29	22=100
February, 1993	56	25	19=100

Q.2 Do you (approve/disapprove) very strongly, or not so strongly?

		<i>ABC/W. Post</i>	<i>L.A. Times</i>
		Bush	Reagan
		<u>Dec 1992</u>	<u>July 1988</u>
61	Approve	49	56
	40 Very strongly	20	23
	19 Not so strongly	29	33
	2 Don't know	--	--
30	Disapprove	48	38
	9 Not so strongly	24	20
	21 Very strongly	24	18
	* Don't know	--	--
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100

Q.3 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>
January, 2001	43	36	21=100
July, 2000	36	46	18=100
May, 2000	40	42	18=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100
February, 2000	40	43	17=100
January, 2000	39	41	20=100
December, 1999	38	42	20=100
October, 1999	34	50	16=100
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100
September, 1999	35	48	17=100
August, 1999	40	44	16=100
July, 1999	36	45	19=100
June, 1999	37	46	17=100
May, 1999	38	44	18=100
March, 1999	38	47	15=100
February, 1999	37	51	12=100
Mid-January, 1999	36	51	13=100
January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Late December, 1998	39	56	5=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
September 21-22, 1998	44	44	12=100
September 19-20, 1998	46	41	13=100
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Late August, 1998	48	36	16=100
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
June, 1998	42	38	20=100
May, 1998	40	41	19=100
April, 1998	41	40	19=100
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

Q.3 CONTINUED ...

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

On another subject...

Q.4 I'd like your views on the state of the nation. All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
January, 2001	55	41	4=100
September, 2000	51	41	8=100
June, 2000	47	45	8=100
April, 2000	48	43	9=100
August, 1999	56	39	5=100
January, 1999	53	41	6=100
November, 1998	46	44	10=100
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
February, 1998	59	37	4=100
January, 1998	46	50	4=100
September, 1997	45	49	6=100
August, 1997	49	46	5=100
January, 1997	38	58	4=100
July, 1996	29	67	4=100
March, 1996	28	70	2=100
October, 1995	23	73	4=100
June, 1995	25	73	2=100
April, 1995	23	74	3=100
July, 1994	24	73	3=100
March, 1994	24	71	5=100
October, 1993	22	73	5=100
September, 1993	20	75	4=100
May, 1993	22	71	7=100
January, 1993	39	50	11=100
January, 1992	28	68	4=100
November, 1991	34	61	5=100
<i>Late February, 1991 (Gallup)</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>3=100</i>
August, 1990	47	48	5=100
May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 1989	45	50	5=100
September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100
May, 1988	41	54	5=100
January, 1988	39	55	6=100

NO QUESTION 5

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?
[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a. George W. Bush's cabinet choices and other high level appointments	26	32	24	17	1=100
January, 1993 (Clinton)	24	42	22	11	1=100
b. Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East	21	32	29	17	1=100
Early October, 1998 ²	21	40	27	12	*=100
c. Cold winter weather and storms in the Northeast and Midwest	42	31	15	11	1=100
January, 1999 ³	37	34	17	12	*=100
Early December, 1998 ⁴	39	35	13	12	1=100
d. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	32	38	17	11	2=100
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	*=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100

2 Based on registered voters.

3 In January 1999 question was worded "Cold winter weather and storms in the Midwest."

4 In December 1998 question was worded "Unseasonable weather patterns."

Q.7 Now I would like to ask you about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them... Can you recall the names of any one that George W. Bush has chosen for his cabinet or appointed to other high level government posts?

		<u>Jan 1993</u>	
43	Yes		21
<u>57</u>	No/Don't Know/Refused	<u>79</u>	
100		100	

IF YES IN Q.7, ASK:

Q.7a Which names can you recall? (**OPEN-END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES**)

- 33 Colin Powell
- 8 John Ashcroft
- 4 Condoleezza Rice
- 3 Christine Whitman
- 3 Tommy Thompson
- 2 Donald Rumsfeld
- 2 Linda Chavez
- 1 Spencer Abraham
- 1 Norman Mineta
- 1 Gale Norton
- * Donald Evans
- * Mel Martinez
- * Alberto Gonzales
- * Rod Paige
- * Ann Veneman
- * Anthony Principi
- * Andrew Card
- * Karen Hughes
- * Paul O'Neill
- * Karl Rove

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Do you happen to know whether the Republicans in Congress now have a **BIGGER** majority than they did before the election OR is the Congress now more **NARROWLY** divided?

- 16 Republicans have a bigger majority now
- 59 Congress is more narrowly divided
- 25 Don't know/Refused
- 100

On another subject...

Q.9 How do you think President Bill Clinton will go down in history... as an outstanding president, above average, average, below average, or poor?

		----- Gallup -----		
			Bush	Reagan
		<u>Feb 1999</u>	<u>Jan 1993</u>	<u>Jan 1989</u>
12	Outstanding	11	6	17
32	Above average	29	30	42
32	Average	27	51	25
10	Below average	13	8	9
11	Poor	18	4	5
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.10 Thinking ahead, what do you think Bill Clinton will be most remembered for after he has left office? (**ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE FOR CLARITY**)

		<u>March 1998</u>
74	SCANDALS (NET)	57
43	Lewinsky/Impeachment (Sub-Net)	6
39	Monica Lewinsky incident/case/relationship	5
4	Impeachment	--
*	Avoiding impeachment/Staying in office/Ability to recover from scandal	1
18	Other Personal/Sex Scandals (Sub-Net)	38
14	Infidelity/Problems with Women/Sexual Exploits/Girlfriends	33
4	Personal life/Conduct/Personal troubles	2
*	Slanderous allegations/Allegations by women of an affair/harassment	3
*	Sexual harassment case/scandal/incident	2
14	Scandals	18
1	Lack of integrity/morals	1
*	Corrupting/disgracing/cheapening the White House	1
*	Whitewater	1
14	ECONOMY/BUDGET DEFICIT (NET)	14
13	Economy (Sub-Net)	11
12	The economy/Good management of the economy	9
1	Decrease in unemployment	3
*	Stock market	*
*	Inflation	*
1	Balancing the budget/Handling the deficit/Decrease in national debt	5
6	FOREIGN POLICY (NET)	4
2	Middle East peace process	--
2	Efforts for peace	--
1	Improvements in foreign policy/world affairs	1
*	Iraq situation/No loss of life/Ensuring peace	3
5	OTHER POSITIVE COMMENTS (NET)	8
2	Good job he has done/Accomplishments	6
2	Good/Great president	--
1	His concern for the common man/working people/poor/less fortunate	2
*	Good communicator	--
3	OTHER NEGATIVE COMMENTS (NET)	3
2	Lying/Lack of honesty/Ability to spin the truth	3
1	Negative personal comment	--
1	DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)	5
3	Don't Know/Can't think of anything	13

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=636]:

Q.11F1 In the long run, do you think the accomplishments of the Clinton Administration will outweigh its failures, or will the failures outweigh the accomplishments?

		Jan <u>2000</u>	Aug <u>1999</u>	Jan <u>1999</u>	Early Sept <u>1998</u>	-- Reagan --	
						May <u>1987</u>	<i>Newsweek</i> Feb <u>1987</u>
60	Accomplishments will outweigh failures	51	56	50	52	46	52
27	Failures will outweigh accomplishments	37	38	34	35	41	38
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=622]:

Q.12F2 In the long run, do you think Bill Clinton will mostly be remembered for his accomplishments as president or for the impeachment and other scandals involving his administration?

28	Remembered for his accomplishments as president
67	Remembered for the impeachment and other scandals involving his administration
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.13 Thinking about the major problems facing the country, would you say President Clinton has made progress toward solving these problems, tried but failed to solve these problems, not addressed these problems, or made these problems even worse?

		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	Oct <u>1995</u>
52	Made progress	45	24
27	Tried but failed	34	50
9	Not addressed	9	11
6	Made problems worse	9	12
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

Q.14 For each of these areas of national interest, tell me if you think the Clinton Administration has MADE PROGRESS in solving problems, TRIED BUT FAILED to solve problems, DID NOT DEAL WITH problems, or CREATED problems for the next president. First, (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)...

ASK ITEMS a. THRU i. OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=636]:

		Made <u>Progress</u>	Tried but <u>Failed</u>	Did not deal <u>with Problems</u>	Created <u>Problems</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.F1	Budget deficit	56	17	4	8	15=100
b.F1	Trade policy	41	20	6	10	23=100
c.F1	Federal taxes	29	25	16	13	17=100
d.F1	Unemployment	66	15	6	5	8=100
e.F1	Race relations	50	17	15	6	12=100
f.F1	The gap between rich and poor	26	28	22	12	12=100
g.F1	Drug problems	28	39	19	4	10=100
h.F1	Public education	43	28	13	6	10=100
i.F1	Morality	18	25	15	30	12=100

ASK ITEMS j. THRU q. OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=622]:

j.F2	Crime	42	26	14	6	12=100
k.F2	The situation in the Middle East	30	51	3	7	9=100
l.F2	Health care	27	43	11	12	7=100
m.F2	Economic prosperity	61	14	5	9	11=100
n.F2	The welfare system	43	24	11	12	10=100
o.F2	The financial stability of Social Security and Medicare	36	31	13	10	10=100
p.F2	World peace and stability	47	33	4	7	9=100
q.F2	The proper use of American military forces around the world	40	21	10	16	13=100

On a different subject...

Q.15 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

		<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>							
		Jan <u>1999</u>	May <u>1997</u>	Feb <u>1995</u>	March <u>1994</u>	Oct <u>1992</u>	Aug <u>1992</u>	May <u>1992</u>	Jan <u>1992</u>
11	Improve a lot	17	12	11	10	9	6	8	9
46	Improve some	55	56	53	57	51	50	49	46
12	Stay the same (VOL)	14	17	17	16	15	14	13	16
18	Get a little worse	7	10	13	11	14	20	22	19
9	Get a lot worse	3	2	3	3	3	5	4	5
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.16 Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

		Late		Early								
		Sept	Aug	Sept	Nov	May	June	Feb	July	March		
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>		
52	Full-time	56	58	55	55	53	57	55	55	53		
12	Part-time	13	11	12	12	12	13	11	12	14		
35	Not employed	31	30	33	33	35	30	34	33	32		
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>		
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		

Q.17 and Q.18 BASED ON THOSE EMPLOYED FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME [N=837]:

Q.17 Do you now earn enough money to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

		Late		Early							<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>			
		Sept	Aug	Sept	Nov	May	June	Feb	July	Mar	Oct	Aug	May	Jan
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>
43	Yes	42	39	43	41	46	44	41	40	44	36	33	34	39
56	No	58	60	57	59	54	56	58	60	56	63	66	65	61
<u>1</u>	DK/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

IF "2" DO NOT NOW EARN ENOUGH MONEY IN Q.17 ASK:

Q.18 Do you think you will be able to earn enough money in the future to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

		Late		Early							<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>			
		Sept	Aug	Sept	Nov	May	June	Feb	July	March	Oct	Aug	May	Jan
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>
33	Yes	33	38	36	33	34	34	35	34	33	35	36	34	34
21	No	23	19	20	24	18	20	20	24	20	36	25	28	22
<u>2</u>	DK/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
56%		58%	60%	57%	59%	54%	56%	58%	60%	56%	63%	66%	65%	61%

ASK ALL:

Q.19 Over the next 12 months, do you think the stock market is most likely to go up a lot, go up some, stay about the same, go down some, or go down a lot?

		<i>-- Newsweek --</i>	
		Dec	Sept
		<u>2000</u>	<u>1997</u>
34	Total Go up	29	32
4	Go up a lot	6	--
30	Go up some	23	--
26	Stay about the same	25	33
30	Total Go Down	26	16
23	Go down some	20	--
7	Go down a lot	6	--
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>
100		100	100

On another subject...

Q.20 Do you approve or disapprove of the job President-elect Bush has done so far in explaining his policies and plans for the future to the American people?

		<i>Gallup</i>	
		Clinton	Bush
		<u>Jan 1993</u>	<u>March 1989</u>
50	Approve	62	65
36	Disapprove	24	28
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

ROTATE Q.21 AND Q.22

Q.21 In the long run, do you think George W. Bush will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?

26	Successful
15	Unsuccessful
58	Too early to tell
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.22 In the long run, do you think Dick Cheney will be a successful or unsuccessful vice president, or do you think it is too early to tell?

31	Successful
7	Unsuccessful
59	Too early to tell
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=636]:

Q.23F1 So far, would you say you approve or disapprove of George W. Bush's cabinet choices and other high level appointments?

		<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	<i>ABC</i>	<i>Harris</i>
		Clinton	Bush	Reagan
		<u>Jan 1993</u>	<u>Jan 1989</u>	<u>Jan 1981⁵</u>
58	Approve	64	59	52
16	Disapprove	15	15	34
<u>26</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>14</u>
100		100	100	100

⁵

Question worded: "Now let me ask you about President-elect Reagan's Cabinet appointments. How would you rate his appointment of... the cabinet as a whole? Would you say it was an excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor appointment?"

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=622]:

Q.23aF2 What's your opinion of the cabinet choices and other high level appointments George W. Bush has made so far... Do you think they are too conservative, too moderate or about right?

21	Too conservative
7	Too moderate
50	About right
<u>22</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.24 Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing that many of George W. Bush's top advisors worked in his father's administration?

56	Good thing
29	Bad thing
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.25 How much influence do you think Dick Cheney is having within the Bush Administration... too much, too little or about the right amount?

12	Too much
12	Too little
58	Right amount
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.26 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President-elect Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should (**INSERT ITEM; ROTATE; OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES**) be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... (**INSERT ITEM**)?⁶

		Top Priority	Important But lower Priority	Not too Important	Should Not Be Done	DK/Ref.
ASK ITEMS a THRU j OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=636]:						
a.F1	Improving the job situation	60	30	6	2	2=100
	January, 2000 ⁷	41	35	16	4	4=100
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3=100
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100
b.F1	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	66	22	4	5	3=100
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4=100
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	76	19	3	2	*=100
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1=100
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2=100
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100
d.F1	Paying off the national debt	54	32	8	2	4=100
	January, 2000	44	38	11	3	4=100
	July, 1999	45	41	10	2	2=100
	January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4=100
	January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2=100
e.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	66	26	4	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	34	7	3	2=100
	July, 1999	57	30	8	4	1=100
	January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4=100
	January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2=100
	January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2=100
	December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3=100

⁶ In July 1999 the question was worded: "Now a few questions about national issues. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority..."

⁷ Trends from January 2000 and all previous years are not entirely comparable due to a change in the placement of this question within the survey.

Q.26 CONTINUED ...

		Top Priority	Important But lower Priority	Not too Important	Should Not Be Done	DK/Ref.
f.F1	Reforming the campaign finance system	37	32	18	6	7=100
	January, 2000	32	34	20	6	8=100
	July, 1999	28	37	23	7	5=100
	January, 1999	29	36	21	6	8=100
	January, 1998	32	34	24	5	5=100
	January, 1997	31	37	23	5	4=100
g.F1	Developing a national missile defense system to protect against missile attacks	41	32	14	9	4=100
h.F1	Strengthening gun control laws	47	24	11	16	2=100
	January, 2000	46	25	16	11	2=100
	July, 1999	51	23	11	12	3=100
i.F1	Adding prescription drug benefits to Medicare coverage	73	19	4	2	2=100
	January, 2000	54	31	9	3	3=100
j.F1	Protecting the environment	63	30	3	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1=100
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1=100
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100
ASK ITEMS k THRU t OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=622]:						
k.F2	Improving the educational system	78	17	1	3	1=100
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1=100
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
l.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	74	21	1	2	2=100
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1=100
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1=100
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	71	24	2	1	2=100
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2=100
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100

Q.26 CONTINUED ...

		Top Priority	Important But lower Priority	Not too Important	Should Not Be Done	DK/Ref.
n.F2	Working to reduce racial tensions	52	35	7	3	3=100
	January, 2000	46	40	10	2	2=100
	July, 1999	49	37	8	4	2=100
	January, 1999	49	35	11	3	2=100
	January, 1998	41	38	13	7	1=100
	January, 1997	50	34	9	5	2=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	63	28	6	1	2=100
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1=100
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	51	27	10	7	5=100
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3=100
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4=100
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100
q.F2	Strengthening the US military	48	37	8	5	2=100
r.F2	Dealing with global trade issues	37	46	8	3	6=100
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7=100
s.F2	Keeping the economy strong	81	15	2	1	1=100
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1=100
t.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	61	31	4	2	2=100
	January, 2000	55	32	8	2	3=100

Q.27 Now I'd like your opinion of some people and things in the news. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE IN BLOCKS: a. THRU e. AND f. THRU n.) is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? (INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")

	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 Rate
a. The Republican Party	13	43	22	13	*	9=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	11	42	28	12	0	7=100
August, 1999	8	45	31	12	*	4=100
February, 1999	7	37	36	15	0	5=100
January, 1999	10	34	27	23	0	6=100
Early December, 1998	11	35	27	20	*	7=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	9	43	28	14	0	6=100
Early September, 1998	9	47	26	11	*	7=100
March, 1998	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
December, 1994	21	46	19	8	*	6=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
b. The Democratic Party	18	42	21	9	1	9=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	16	44	23	12	*	5=100
August, 1999	14	45	28	9	*	4=100
February, 1999	11	47	26	11	0	5=100
January, 1999	14	41	26	12	0	7=100
Early December, 1998	18	41	24	10	0	7=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	11	45	29	9	*	6=100
Early September, 1998	13	47	25	8	*	7=100
March, 1998	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	0	3=100
December, 1994	13	37	31	13	*	6=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

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
c. Congress	10	54	18	5	1	12=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	8	53	27	5	*	7=100
August, 1999	8	55	27	7	*	3=100
June, 1999	9	47	30	9	*	5=100
February, 1999	4	48	36	8	0	4=100
January, 1999	7	41	30	15	0	7=100
Early December, 1998	11	41	29	12	0	7=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	7	55	25	8	0	5=100
Early September, 1998	7	59	22	5	0	7=100
October, 1997	5	48	33	11	0	3=100
August 1997	6	44	33	11	0	6=100
June, 1997	4	48	34	8	0	6=100
May, 1997	5	44	32	10	*	9=100
February, 1997	6	46	31	9	*	8=100
January, 1997	6	50	32	8	*	4=100
June, 1996	6	39	38	12	*	5=100
April, 1996	6	39	37	13	0	5=100
January, 1996	4	38	38	16	*	4=100
October, 1995	4	38	42	13	0	3=100
August, 1995	5	40	34	13	*	7=100
June, 1995	8	45	31	11	*	5=100
February, 1995	10	44	27	10	0	9=100
July, 1994	7	46	34	9	*	4=100
May, 1993	8	35	35	13	0	9=100
November, 1991	7	44	34	9	0	6=100
March, 1991	16	50	19	7	0	8=100
May, 1990	6	53	25	9	1	6=100
May, 1988	8	56	23	5	0	8=100
January, 1988	6	58	25	4	0	7=100
May, 1987	10	64	16	4	*	6=100
January, 1987	7	52	23	8	0	10=100
June, 1985	9	58	21	5	*	7=100
d. The Supreme Court	18	50	13	8	1	10=100
October, 1997	13	64	12	6	*	5=100
May, 1997	16	56	17	5	0	6=100
July, 1994	18	62	13	3	*	4=100
May, 1993	17	56	14	4	0	9=100
November, 1991	18	54	16	5	0	7=100
May, 1990	10	55	18	7	1	9=100
January, 1988	14	65	11	2	*	8=100
May, 1987	13	63	15	2	*	7=100
Roper, March 1985	17	47	21	7		8=100

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
e. The military	32	50	9	3	0	6=100
August, 1999	30	59	8	2	*	1=100
June, 1999	36	47	11	2	0	4=100
Early September, 1998	29	57	7	3	0	4=100
October, 1997	22	56	13	5	0	4=100
May, 1997	23	57	11	5	0	4=100
February, 1996	33	49	12	4	*	2=100
July, 1994	30	57	8	3	*	2=100
May, 1993	32	53	8	2	0	5=100
March, 1991	60	34	2	2	0	2=100
May, 1990	18	55	15	6	*	6=100
January, 1988	20	57	14	3	*	6=100
April, 1987	17	63	12	4	0	4=100
January, 1987	19	54	11	5	*	11=100
July, 1986	32	53	7	3	0	5=100
June, 1985	24	53	13	5	*	5=100

ASK ITEMS f. THRU j. OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=636]:

f.F1 Bill Clinton	23	41	17	17	0	2=100
May, 2000	17	31	19	28	*	5=100
March, 1999	21	34	19	23	*	3=100
December, 1998	23	32	19	24	0	2=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	15	37	20	24	0	4=100
Early September, 1998	18	39	18	23	0	2=100
Late August, 1998	18	36	20	24	0	2=100
March, 1998	22	40	19	16	*	3=100
November, 1997	19	44	21	14	0	2=100
October, 1997	15	47	20	16	*	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 (RVs)	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

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

		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>
g.F1	Hillary Clinton	25	35	19	16	*	5=100
	May, 2000	15	34	20	22	1	8=100
	Early December, 1998	32	34	16	15	*	3=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	24	34	18	18	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	24	40	18	13	0	5=100
	Late August, 1998	25	38	21	13	*	3=100
	March, 1998	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
	December, 1994	17	33	25	20	1	4=100
	July, 1994	19	38	22	18	1	2=100
	May, 1993	19	41	18	11	1	10=100
h.F1	George W. Bush	24	36	21	12	0	7=100
	May, 2000	18	40	19	12	1	10=100
	March, 1999 ⁸	21	40	14	7	4	14=100
	November, 1997	13	41	12	6	9	19=100
i.F1	Al Gore	22	35	20	19	*	4=100
	May, 2000	13	37	23	15	1	11=100
	March, 1999	12	35	26	17	2	8=100
	December, 1998	18	40	22	11	1	8=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	37	25	13	1	8=100
	Early September, 1998	13	44	22	13	1	7=100
	Late August, 1998	11	44	23	14	1	7=100
	March, 1998	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 ⁹	15	32	14	5	6	28=100
	September, 1987	6	23	11	3	23	34=100

⁸ In March 1999 and November 1997 the category was listed: "Texas Governor George W. Bush."

⁹ July 1992 trend based on 461 respondents asked on July 9, 1992 only.

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
j.F1	Dick Cheney	20	42	13	5	2	18=100
	December, 1994	10	32	14	5	21	18=100
	March, 1991 ¹⁰	33	35	4	2	10	16=100
	May, 1990	3	17	8	3	44	25=100

ASK ITEMS k. THRU n. OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=622]:

k.F2	Joe Lieberman	17	38	16	5	6	18=100
l.F2	Madeleine Albright	19	41	14	5	8	13=100
	May, 2000	12	36	11	7	16	18=100
	March, 1999 ¹¹	20	43	14	8	6	9=100
	April, 1997	16	49	10	4	6	15=100
	January, 1997	13	44	12	4	9	18=100
	February, 1995	2	16	11	5	47	19=100
m.F2	Colin Powell	45	35	6	3	4	7=100
	October, 1995	21	55	11	3	2	8=100
	August, 1995	26	36	12	5	7	14=100
	February, 1995	31	36	8	3	12	10=100
	December, 1994	31	38	7	2	11	11=100
	July, 1994	33	41	6	2	10	8=100
	June, 1992	30	35	11	4	10	10=100
	March, 1991	51	28	2	1	7	11=100
n.F2	John McCain	18	41	12	3	9	17=100
	May, 2000	14	40	15	5	11	15=100
	ABC/WP: February, 2000		60		21		19=100
	CNN/USA Today/						
	Gallup: December, 1999 ¹²		57		11	14	18=100

¹⁰ In March 1991 and May 1990, the category was listed: "Richard Cheney."

¹¹ In March 1999 and April 1997, the category was listed: "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright." In January 1997 the category was listed: "Secretary of State designate, Madeleine Albright."

¹² In December 1999, the category was listed: "Arizona Senator John McCain."

Q.28 Usually, when there is a new president, certain groups gain influence in Washington, while other groups lose influence... As I read from a list, tell me if you think these groups will gain influence, lose influence or not be affected by George W. Bush's taking office? First... **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE a. THROUGH k. — ITEM I. SHOULD ALWAYS COME LAST)**

		<u>Gain</u>	<u>Lose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a.	Environmentalists	24	40	25	11=100
	January, 1993	67	7	16	10=100
b.	Feminists	18	38	29	15=100
	January, 1993	66	6	18	10=100
c.	Older people	46	26	22	6=100
	January, 1993	42	25	26	7=100
d.	Washington lobbyists	35	17	28	20=100
	January, 1993	23	31	29	17=100
e.	Blacks	30	29	31	10=100
	January, 1993	66	6	19	9=100
f.	Union leaders	26	38	24	12=100
	January, 1993	35	24	28	13=100
g.	Business corporations	66	9	17	8=100
	January, 1993	34	33	21	12=100
h.	Poor people	29	40	23	8=100
	January, 1993	61	12	19	8=100
i.	Children	50	18	24	8=100
	January, 1993	62	6	22	10=100
j.	Conservative Christians	51	11	27	11=100
k.	The military	72	4	16	8=100
l.	People like yourself	35	26	33	6=100
	January, 1993	43	22	27	8=100

Q.29 This coming year, do you think Republicans and Democrats in Washington will work together more to solve problems OR do you think they will bicker and oppose one another more than usual?

41 Work together
 50 Bicker and oppose one another more than usual
 4 Same as in the past (VOL)
 5 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.30 When it comes to national policy, who do you think George W. Bush is listening to more... **(READ, ROTATE)**

48 Conservative members of his party
 OR
 37 Moderate members of his party
15 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.31 As I read a list of issues, please tell me which party you think has the best ideas. (First), on the issue of **(READ AND ROTATE)** who has the best ideas... the Republican Party or the Democratic Party? **REPEAT FOR NEXT ITEM:** And who has the best ideas on...

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL) <u>Neither</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a.	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound January, 1999	36 27	44 46	7 7	13=100 20=100
b.	Cutting taxes for the middle class January, 1999	41 32	42 45	6 6	11=100 17=100
c.	Improving the educational system January, 1999	40 26	41 46	7 7	12=100 21=100
d.	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans January, 1999	30 25	47 46	7 7	16=100 22=100
e.	Providing prescription drug benefits to senior citizens on Medicare	30	49	5	16=100
f.	Dealing with the global economy January, 1999	39 33	37 38	5 6	19=100 23=100
g.	Improving morality in this country January, 1999	49 37	26 29	11 17	14=100 17=100

Finally, I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only...

Q.32 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, at home or anywhere else on at least an occasional basis?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
January, 2001	71	29	*=100
July, 2000	68	31	1=100
June, 2000	68	31	1=100
April, 2000	68	32	*=100
March, 2000 ¹³	72	28	0=100
February, 2000	67	33	*=100
January, 2000	68	32	*=100
December, 1999	67	33	*=100
October, 1999	67	33	*=100
Late September, 1999	68	32	*=100
September, 1999	70	30	*=100
August, 1999	67	33	*=100
July, 1999	68	32	*=100
June, 1999	64	35	1=100
May, 1999	66	33	1=100
April, 1999	71	29	*=100
March, 1999	68	32	*=100
February, 1999	68	32	*=100
January, 1999	69	31	*=100
Early December, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early September, 1998	64	36	*=100
Late August, 1998	66	34	0=100
Early August, 1998	66	34	*=100
April, 1998	61	39	*=100
January, 1998	65	35	*=100
November, 1997	66	34	*=100
June, 1997	60	40	0=100
Early September, 1996	56	44	*=100
July, 1996	56	44	*=100
April, 1996	58	42	*=100
March, 1996	61	39	*=100
February, 1996	60	40	0=100
January, 1996	59	41	0=100

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In March 2000, "or anywhere else" was added to the question wording.

IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.32, ASK:

Q.33 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

	<u>Goes Online</u>	<u>Doesn't Go Online</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
January, 2001	61	39	0=100
July, 2000	55	45	*=100
June, 2000	56	44	*=100
April, 2000	54	46	*=100
March, 2000	61	39	0=100
February, 2000	52	48	0=100
January, 2000	52	48	*=100
December, 1999	53	47	0=100
October, 1999	50	50	0=100
Late September, 1999	52	48	*=100
September, 1999	53	47	0=100
August, 1999	52	48	0=100
July, 1999	49	51	0=100
June, 1999	50	50	*=100
May, 1999	48	52	0=100
April, 1999	51	49	*=100
March, 1999	49	51	*=100
February, 1999	49	51	*=100
January, 1999	47	53	*=100
Early December, 1998	42	58	0=100
November, 1998	37	63	*=100
Early September, 1998	42	58	*=100
Late August, 1998	43	57	*=100
Early August, 1998	41	59	*=100
April, 1998	36	64	0=100
January, 1998	37	63	0=100
November, 1997	36	63	1=100
July, 1996	23	77	0=100
April, 1996	21	79	*=100
March, 1996	22	78	0=100
February, 1996	21	79	*=100
January, 1996	21	79	0=100
June, 1995 ¹⁴	14	86	*=100

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The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:

(1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)

(2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?