

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS**  
**AUGUST 1997 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**-- FINAL TOPLINE --**  
**August 7 - 10, 1997**  
**N = 1,213**

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. **[IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
August, 1997	59	32	9=100
June, 1997	54	34	12=100
May, 1997	57	34	9=100
April, 1997	55	34	11=100
February, 1997	60	32	8=100
Early February, 1997	57	30	13=100
January, 1997	59	31	10=100
November, 1996	57	34	9=100
July, 1996	54	38	8=100
June, 1996	54	38	8=100
April, 1996	53	39	8=100
March, 1996	55	38	7=100
February, 1996	51	39	10=100
January, 1996	50	43	7=100
October, 1995	48	42	10=100
September, 1995	45	42	13=100
August, 1995	44	44	12=100
June, 1995	50	40	10=100
April, 1995	47	43	10=100
March, 1995	44	44	12=100
February, 1995	44	44	12=100
December, 1994	41	47	12=100
November, 1994	48	40	12=100
October, 1994	41	47	12=100
Early October, 1994	38	47	15=100
September, 1994	41	52	7=100
July, 1994	45	46	9=100
June, 1994	42	44	14=100
May, 1994	46	42	12=100
March, 1994	45	42	13=100
January, 1994	51	35	14=100
Early January, 1994	48	35	17=100

Q.1 con't ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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 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>
August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 1997	40	44	16=100
February, 1997	44	42	14=100
January, 1997	38	47	15=100
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100
October, 1995	36	51	13=100
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

Q.3 Can you recall anything you have heard or read about Bill Clinton in the news recently? (**ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE**)

		<u>Feb</u> <u>1997</u>
<b>24</b>	<b>SCANDAL (NET)</b>	<b>32</b>
	18 Sexual Harassment (Net)	--
	11 Sexual harassment (unspecified)	--
	6 Paula Jones	6
	1 Accused of harassment by woman in White House	--
	5 Whitewater	18
	3 Campaign Finance	7
<b>23</b>	<b>DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)</b>	<b>10</b>
	19 Balanced Budget (Net)	--
	13 Budget agreement	--
	6 Tax bill	--
	3 Line item veto	--
	4 UPS Strike	--
	1 Welfare Reform	2
2	Bad things, Don't like him (general)	--
2	Knee Injury	--
2	His Travels	--
1	Personal Life (general)	4
1	Weight Loss	--
18	Other	11
41	Don't know/No answer	47

Q.4 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>
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	50	45	5=100
May, 1988	41	54	5=100
January, 1988	39	55	6=100

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.4a Do you happen to know the name of the professional boxer who bit off part of the ear of his opponent in a recent championship bout?

79 Mike Tyson

4 Other answer

17 DK/Refused  
100

Q.4b Can you name the country which recently re-acquired a piece of territory that had been a British colony?

40 China

12 Other answer

48 DK/Refused  
100

Q.5 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? [READ AND ROTATE LIST]

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<b>(VOL) DK</b>
a. The debate in Washington about the federal budget	14	34	25	26	1=100
May, 1997	16	38	23	22	1=100
February, 1997	19	28	22	29	2=100
March, 1996	24	35	23	18	*=100
January, 1996	32	42	17	9	*=100
September, 1995	20	35	27	18	*=100
August, 1995 <sup>1</sup>	18	34	27	20	1=100
b. Senate hearings on improper foreign campaign contributions	10	28	26	35	1=100
May, 1997 <sup>2</sup>	18	33	23	25	1=100
April, 1997	19	37	22	21	1=100
February, 1997 <sup>3</sup>	18	27	21	33	1=100
January, 1997	17	29	26	28	*=100
December, 1996	22	26	22	30	*=100
c. An attempt by some Republican House members to replace Newt Gingrich as Speaker	13	27	28	31	1=100
d. The problems aboard the Russian space station Mir	14	39	24	23	*=100
e. The exploration of the planet Mars by the Pathfinder spacecraft	22	36	23	19	*=100
f. The slaying of designer Gianni Versace and the search for the suspect, Andrew Cunanan	24	33	24	19	*=100
g. The expansion of NATO to include Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic <sup>4</sup>	6	16	31	46	1=100
April, 1997	6	16	27	50	1=100
January, 1997	5	15	32	47	1=100

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<sup>1</sup> In this month the story was listed as "The debate in Congress over the federal budget."

<sup>2</sup> In this month story was listed as "Charges of improper campaign contributions to the Democrats by foreign business interests."

<sup>3</sup> In previous months story was listed as "Charges of improper campaign contributions to the Democrats by Indonesian business interests."

<sup>4</sup> In previous months story was listed as "The discussion and debate about expanding NATO into Eastern Europe."

**Q.5 con't ...**

		Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
h.	The reunification of Hong Kong and China	14	34	23	28	1=100
i.	The suicide bombing by Palestinian terrorists in a Jerusalem market	12	28	31	29	*=100

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.6 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "3" OR "9" IN Q.6, ASK:**

Q.6a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=904]**

		Early <u>Nov 1996<sup>5</sup></u>	Oct <u>1996</u>	Late Sept <u>1996</u>	Early Sept <u>1996</u>	July <u>1996</u>	June <u>1996</u>	March <u>1996</u>	Jan <u>1996</u>	Oct <u>1995</u>	Aug <u>1995</u>	Nov <u>1994</u>	Oct <u>1994</u>	Early Oct <u>1994</u>	Sept <u>1994</u>	July <u>1994</u>
45	Rep/Lean Rep	44	42	43	43	46	44	44	46	48	50	45	47	52	48	45
48	Dem/Lean Dem	48	49	49	51	47	50	49	47	48	43	43	44	40	46	47
<u>7</u> 100	Other/Undecided	<u>8</u> 100	<u>9</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100	<u>9</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100

<sup>5</sup>

Based on Likely Voters.

**ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...**

**ASK OF FORM 1 ONLY: [N=610]**

Q.7F1 Now I'd like your views on some people and things in the news. As I read from a list, please tell me which category best describes your overall opinion of who or what I name. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **(INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")**

	Very Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Very Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Never Heard <u>Of</u>	Can't <u>Rate</u>
a. Bill Clinton	16	45	21	17	0	1=100
April, 1997	17	44	21	16	*	2=100
January, 1997	17	49	18	14	*	2=100
October, 1996 <sup>6</sup>	12	45	22	19	0	2=100
June, 1996	16	45	23	14	*	2=100
April, 1996	16	41	24	16	0	3=100
February, 1996	20	35	22	21	0	2=100
January, 1996	13	43	27	15	0	2=100
August, 1995	13	36	29	20	0	2=100
February, 1995	14	41	25	17	0	3=100
December, 1994	17	34	24	22	0	3=100
July, 1994	15	43	25	16	*	1=100
May, 1993	18	42	23	12	0	5=100
July, 1992	17	42	25	9	0	7=100
June, 1992	10	36	33	14	1	6=100
May, 1992	11	42	32	10	*	5=100
March, 1992	10	43	29	11	1	6=100
February, 1992	15	44	24	7	2	8=100
January, 1992	9	28	11	4	27	21=100
November, 1991	5	25	8	2	39	21=100
b. Al Gore	15	39	22	15	1	8=100
April, 1997	12	45	24	12	1	6=100
January, 1997	18	47	21	8	1	5=100
July, 1994	18	49	19	7	2	5=100
August, 1992	22	44	15	5	2	12=100
July, 1992 <sup>7</sup>	15	32	14	5	6	28=100
September, 1987	6	23	11	3	23	34=100
c. Newt Gingrich	6	24	35	27	2	6=100
April, 1997	5	23	36	28	3	5=100
January, 1997	4	24	39	26	2	5=100
August, 1995	9	21	29	25	4	12=100
February, 1995	12	29	22	15	10	12=100
December, 1994	7	18	15	13	30	17=100
July, 1994	2	12	8	4	65	9=100

<sup>6</sup> October 1996 trend based on registered voters.

<sup>7</sup> July 1992 trend based on 461 respondents asked on July 9, 1992 only.

**Q.7F1 con't ...**

	<u>Very Favorable</u>	<u>Mostly Favorable</u>	<u>Mostly Unfavorable</u>	<u>Very Unfavorable</u>	<u>Never Heard Of</u>	<u>Can't Rate</u>
d. Congress	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
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
e. The Democratic Party	11	41	32	10	0	6=100
June, 1997	10	51	25	8	*	6=100
January, 1997	13	47	28	7	*	5=100
October, 1995	9	40	37	11	-	3=100
July, 1994	13	49	27	7	*	4=100
May, 1993	14	43	25	9	0	9=100
July, 1992	17	44	24	9	*	6=100
f. The Republican Party	9	38	36	11	*	6=100
June, 1997	8	43	31	11	1	6=100
January, 1997	8	44	33	10	*	5=100
October, 1995	10	42	28	16	*	4=100
July, 1994	12	51	25	8	*	4=100
May, 1993	12	42	25	10	0	11=100
July, 1992	9	37	31	17	*	6=100



Q.9 Generally, what's the better situation: that a President's political party also have a controlling majority in Congress OR is it better that one party control the White House, while the other party controls the Congress...or don't you think it matters too much one way or the other?

		May <u>1992</u>
18	President's party also control Congress	26
32	One party control each	23
42	Doesn't matter	40
<u>8</u> 100	Can't say	<u>11</u> 100

-- NO QUESTION 10 --

Q.11 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which ONE best reflects your impression of Bill Clinton. (First,) does Bill Clinton impress you as... (**READ AND ROTATE**)

		Sept <u>1994</u>	July <u>1994</u>	Dec <u>1993</u>	Aug <u>1993</u>	Jan <u>1993</u>
a.	47 Trustworthy or	47	46	56	56	63
	47 Not trustworthy	49	49	35	37	29
	2 <b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Neither particularly	3	2	3	2	3
	<u>4</u> <b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

		Sept <u>1994</u>	July <u>1994</u>	Dec <u>1993</u>	Aug <u>1993</u>
b.	64 Able to get things done or	41	40	63	36
	29 Not able to get things done	54	56	27	54
	3 <b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Neither particularly	5	2	5	6
	<u>4</u> <b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

		July <u>1994</u>	Dec <u>1993</u>	Aug <u>1993</u>
c.	31 Liberal,	37	32	38
	52 Middle of the road or	47	49	44
	12 Conservative	13	12	11
	1 <b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Neither particularly	1	2	2
	<u>4</u> <b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100

		July <u>1994</u>	Dec <u>1993</u>	Aug <u>1993</u>
d.	45 Keeps his promises or	36	41	32
	46 Doesn't keep his promises	56	42	53
	5 <b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Neither particularly	3	7	8
	<u>4</u> <b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100

**ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...**

Q.12 Would you like to see your Representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=904]**

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

Q.12a Regardless of how you feel about your own Representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=904]**

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

Q.13 Now, I'm going to read you some phrases. Please tell me if you think each one better describes the REPUBLICAN Party and its leaders or the DEMOCRATIC Party and its leaders. (First,) which party do you think is better described by the phrase... (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE START)

		Republican Party	Democratic Party	Both Equally	Neither	Don't Know
a.	Able to manage the Federal government well	39	33	4	16	8=100
	July, 1996	45	32	4	12	7=100
	April, 1995	49	30	3	13	5=100
	July, 1994	43	31	4	17	5=100
	May, 1990	28	20	12	31	9=100
	May, 1988	33	30	10	17	10=100
	January, 1988	30	28	12	20	10=100
	May, 1987	24	25	13	28	10=100

**Q.13 con't ...**

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	Both <u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
b.	Can bring about the kind of changes the country needs	38	40	4	11	7=100
	July, 1996	39	46	2	7	6=100
	April, 1995	51	34	4	7	4=100
	July, 1994	39	42	4	10	5=100
	May, 1990	27	31	13	18	11=100
	May, 1988	27	43	9	11	10=100
	January, 1988	28	37	14	11	10=100
	May, 1987	26	36	14	14	10=100
c.	Is concerned with the needs of people like me	31	49	3	10	7=100
	July, 1996	35	50	2	7	6=100
	April, 1995	39	49	2	7	3=100
	July, 1994	35	49	4	8	4=100
	May, 1990	21	42	12	18	7=100
	May, 1988	23	51	8	11	7=100
	January, 1988	22	47	11	13	7=100
d.	Governs in an honest and ethical way	28	33	5	26	8=100
	July, 1996	38	37	2	18	5=100
	April, 1995	35	36	4	19	6=100
	July, 1994	32	35	6	21	6=100
e.	Well organized	39	30	6	16	9=100
	July, 1996	40	35	9	9	7=100
	July, 1994	48	27	7	13	5=100
	May, 1990	40	16	22	13	9=100
	May, 1988	39	23	15	14	9=100
	January, 1988	38	20	19	14	9=100
	May, 1987	34	19	25	13	9=100

Q.14 This year, have Republicans and Democrats in Washington been working together more to solve problems, OR have they been bickering and opposing one another more than usual?

		<u>June</u> <u>1997</u>	<u>Oct</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>Aug</u> <u>1993</u>
43	Working together more	34	21	20
46	Opposing each other more	49	72	57
3	Same as in past ( <b>VOL</b> )	6	3	13
<u>8</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>11</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100

Now, I'd like to ask you about some things that have been in the news recently. Not everyone will have heard about them...

Q.15 Compared to five years ago, has the federal budget deficit increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

		May <u>1987</u>
40	Increased	<u>74</u>
32	Decreased	9
17	Stayed about the same	8
<u>11</u>	DK/Refused	<u>9</u>
100		100

Q.16 Now thinking about the PAST YEAR, please tell me whether you think each of the following has increased, decreased or stayed the same... (First), **INSERT ITEM; ROTATE**

	<u>Increased</u>	<u>Decreased</u>	<u>Stayed the Same</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. The crime rate	49	34	15	2=100
b. Unemployment	24	59	14	3=100
c. Inflation	41	24	32	3=100

Q.17 Over the PAST FEW MONTHS has the stock market been going up, going down, or not changing too much either way?

		May <u>1994</u>
58	Going up	11
6	Going down	39
20	Staying the same	21
<u>16</u>	DK/Refused	<u>29</u>
100		100

Q.18 Have you heard that Congress recently passed legislation to balance the federal budget and cut taxes for many Americans?

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED 'I' HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE BUDGET LEGISLATION, ASK:**

Q.19 From what you've heard or read, would you say you approve or disapprove of the balanced budget legislation?

75	Yes, have heard about the budget legislation
52	Approve
14	Disapprove
9	DK/Refused
23	No, have not heard — <b>GO TO Q.20</b>
<u>2</u>	DK/Refused — <b>GO TO Q.20</b>
100	

**ASK ALL:**

**ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...**

Q.20 Now I'm going to ask you about several things the federal government has done in recent years. For each item I read, please tell me how important you think it has been for country. (First),(**INSERT ITEM; ROTATE**)...has this been very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

Q.21 Of all the things I just read, which ONE has been most important to you and your family personally? (**READ LIST AGAIN IF NECESSARY**)

		<i>----- Importance Level -----</i>					Ranked
		<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Most Important</u>
a.	The Family Leave Act, which allows people to take time off from work to care for a new baby or a sick family member	68	23	6	2	1=100	12
b.	An increase in the minimum wage	64	24	7	4	1=100	9
c.	A new ratings system for television programs	34	23	21	19	3=100	3
d.	Welfare reform	67	22	5	3	3=100	8
e.	A deal reached between several states and the tobacco industry to severely restrict the advertising and sale of cigarettes	52	20	14	12	2=100	4
f.	The recent agreement to balance the federal budget and cut taxes for many Americans	74	20	2	2	2=100	34
g.	The decision to expand the membership of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization	27	37	18	9	9=100	1
h.	A law which allows people to keep their health insurance even if they lose their job or change jobs	82	14	2	1	1=100	24

Now thinking about the balanced budget legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton...

**ASK Q.22 AND Q.23 OF FORM 1 ONLY: [N=610]**

Q.22F1 In your opinion, if the federal budget IS balanced in five years, do you think this will help you and your family financially, hurt you and your family financially, or not affect you and your family too much?

		May <u>1997</u>	Feb <u>1997</u>	Jan <u>1996</u> <sup>8</sup>
43	Help	32	33	40
8	Hurt	14	19	20
44	Not much affect	47	40	35
<u>5</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100

Q.23F1 Do you think the federal budget will actually be balanced by the year 2002, or won't the budget be balanced by then?

		May <u>1997</u>	Feb <u>1997</u>
16	Will be balanced	10	9
77	Won't be balanced	85	18
<u>7</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u> 100	<u>1</u> 28% <sup>9</sup>

**ASK Q.24 AND Q.25 OF FORM 2 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.24F2 From what you've heard or read about the balanced budget agreement, do you think it will help you and your family financially, hurt you and your family financially, or not affect you and your family too much?

30	Help — <b>GO TO Q.25</b>
9	Hurt — <b>GO TO Q.26</b>
54	Not much affect — <b>GO TO Q.26</b>
<u>7</u> 100	DK/Refused — <b>GO TO Q.26</b>

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<sup>8</sup> In January 1996, the question referred to a seven year balanced budget plan.

<sup>9</sup> In February 1997 question was based on the percent of respondents who thought President Clinton and the Republican leaders in Congress would be able to reach an agreement (28% yes, 62% no, 2% depends, 8% don't know/refused).

**IF “HELP” IN Q.24, ASK:**

Q.25F2 In what ways will the budget agreement help you and your family? (*Open-end*)

36	Will cut taxes
20	People will have more money
10	Capital gains tax change/Reduce capital gains tax
8	Balanced budget good for future generations
8	Tax credit for children
6	Cut for college tuition/Deductions for college/Tuition assistance
4	Improve economy
3	Will help to lower debt
16	Other
11	Don't know/No answer



**ASK ALL:**

Q.26 Now, I'd like to ask you about some specific parts of the recent balanced budget agreement. The (first one) is... **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** Have you heard or read about this, or not? **IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS 'YES, HAVE HEARD' ABOUT THE ITEM, CONTINUE WITH Q.27 BEFORE READING NEXT ITEM IN Q.26; IF 'NO' OR 'DK', MOVE ON TO NEXT ITEM IN Q.26.**

**IF '1' HAVE HEARD, ASK:**

Q.27 Do you approve or disapprove of this?

**INTERVIEWER NOTE: SPLIT FORM ITEMS WHERE INDICATED**

		<i>-- Heard Of --</i>			<i>-- Based On Those Who Heard --</i>		
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>
a.	A \$500 tax credit for each child under 17	69	31	*=100	89	8	3=100
b.	Tax credits and incentives for college tuition expenses	65	34	1=100	88	9	3=100
c.	A reduction in the capital gains tax rate	47	52	1=100	74	19	7=100
d.	New rules for Individual Retirement Accounts, making these accounts available to more Americans	43	56	1=100	92	4	4=100
e.	An increase in the amount of inherited wealth which is exempt from federal estate taxes	45	55	*=100	79	16	5=100
f.	A new program to finance health care for children without insurance	53	46	1=100	88	9	3=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=610]**

g.F1	Changes in the Medicare system, including offering new insurance options, such as HMOs, to the elderly	62	37	1=100	75	20	5=100
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**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=603]**

h.f2	Changes in the Medicare system, including limiting payments to hospitals, doctors and other health care providers	64	35	1=100	54	37	9=100
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**ASK ALL:**

i.	Restoring some welfare benefits to legal immigrants	50	49	1=100	39	56	5=100
j.	A limit on the amount of capital gains that can be exempted in the sale of a home	47	52	1=100	72	21	7=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.28 Now that Congress and the President have reached an agreement on how to balance the federal budget by the year 2002, which ONE of the following issues do you think they should address next? (**READ ITEMS; ROTATE**) (**ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE**)

- 2 Reforming the campaign finance system
- 12 Improving the long term stability of the Medicare system
- 29 Improving the long term stability of the Social Security system
- 30 Improving the educational system
- 4 Improving race relations
- 18 Reducing poverty and homelessness
- 1 None of the above
- 2 Other (**SPECIFY**)
- 1 DK/Refused

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.29 There is a proposal that the country apologize to African Americans for slavery. Do you favor or oppose this?

- 33 Favor
  - 58 Oppose
  - 9 Don't know/Refused
- 100

Q.30 How often if ever do you listen to radio shows that invite listeners to call in to discuss current events, public issues and politics — regularly, sometimes, rarely or never?

		Early										
		Sept	July	June	April	March	Oct	April	Nov	July	Dec	April
		<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1993</u>
17	Regularly	15	16	17	13	18	18	19	16	17	23	23
24	Sometimes	25	24	25	23	28	33	30	31	29	22	32
28	Rarely	22	27	26	25	24	25	24	26	24	25	23
31	Never	37	33	31	39	30	24	27	26	30	30	22
<u>* 100</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1 100</u>	<u>* 100</u>	<u>1 100</u>	<u>* 100</u>	<u>* 100</u>	<u>* 100</u>	<u>* 100</u>	<u>1 100</u>	<u>* 100</u>	<u>0 100</u>	<u>* 100</u>

Q.31 Some people say we should have a third major political party in this country in addition to the Democrats and Republicans. Do you agree or disagree?

		<i>ABC/Washington Post<sup>10</sup></i>					
		July	Oct	April	July	Jan	Sept
		<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1982</u>
47	Agree	58	59	57	53	41	44
46	Disagree	37	37	38	43	48	44
<u>7 100</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5 100</u>	<u>4 100</u>	<u>5 100</u>	<u>4 100</u>	<u>11 100</u>	<u>12 100</u>

<sup>10</sup> Trends based on a somewhat different question wording: "Tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with [the following statement], or if perhaps, you have no opinion about the statement -- 'We should have a third major political party in this country in addition to the Democrats and Republicans.'"