

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
DECEMBER 1998 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
— FINAL TOPLINE —
December 9 - 13, 1998
N=1201

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>
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
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

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

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

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

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

NO QUESTION 3 OR 4

Q.5 Looking ahead, so far as you are concerned, do you think that 1999 will be better or worse than 1998?

		----- Gallup End of Year -----									
		Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec
		<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>
59	Better	59	64	61	61	48	53	64	61	50	41
25	Worse	28	20	11	31	42	25	20	20	32	44
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.6 Now looking back at 1998, do you think this has been a good year or a bad year for **(INSERT ITEM; READ IN ORDER)**? How about for...

		Good	Bad	(VOL)	DK/
		<u>Year</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Mixed</u>	<u>Ref</u>
a.	You	72	17	10	1=100
b.	Your community	78	11	8	3=100
c.	Your state	74	12	8	6=100
d.	The country	59	25	12	4=100
e.	National politics	20	58	11	11=100
f.	Wall Street	44	20	13	23=100
g.	The Democratic Party	34	43	10	13=100
h.	The Republican Party	32	42	13	13=100
i.	The news media	52	32	8	8=100
j.	American consumers	73	12	9	6=100

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q.7 What do you think was the single most important news event that happened in the nation or in the world in 1998? **(ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE FOR SPECIFICITY.)**

57 Domestic Stories (Net)

- 30 Clinton sex scandal/Investigation/Impeachment
- 6 Other Clinton scandals
- 5 Miscellaneous domestic stories
- 5 John Glenn's space shuttle flight
- 3 Hurricane Mitch and devastation in Central America
- 2 Collapse of Asian economies
- 1 Bill Clinton (unspecified)
- 1 El Nino and weather effects
- 1 Ups and downs on Wall Street
- 1 Economy (misc)
- 1 Democratic gains in mid-term elections

14 International Stories (Net)

- 7 Iraq/Showdown with Saddam Hussein
- 3 Middle East peace efforts
- 2 Misc. international stories
- 2 Death of Princess Diana

30 Don't know/No answer

Q.8 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; ALWAYS READ ITEM “I” LAST.]

INTERVIEWER: OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES: [FORM 1 N=599; FORM 2 N=602]

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
a. The impeachment inquiry in Congress into allegations against President Clinton	32	38	19	10	1=100
September 21-22, 1998	28	40	23	9	*=100 (N=352)
September 19-20, 1998	33	37	22	7	1=100 (N=256)
Early September, 1998	36	36	17	10	1=100
Late August, 1998	33	39	19	8	1=100
Mid-August, 1998	26	30	20	24	*=100
Early August, 1998	29	34	22	14	1=100
June, 1998 ¹	28	32	24	15	1=100
April, 1998	27	39	20	14	*=100
March, 1998	30	35	25	9	1=100
February, 1998 ²	21	44	25	10	*=100
Early February, 1998	34	42	17	7	0=100
<i>Gallup</i> : 1/27/98	37	43	15	4	1=100
<i>CBS</i> : 1/26/98	38	41	15	5	1=100
b.F1 The debate over whether former Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet (Pronounced: PEE- no-shay) should face trial in Spain	3	12	18	65	2=100
c.F2 Actor Michael J. Fox’s announcement that he has Parkinson’s disease	13	32	28	25	2=100
d.F1 The merger of Exxon and Mobil	8	26	27	38	1=100
e.F2 America Online’s purchase of Netscape Communications	6	19	23	50	2=100
f.F1 A settlement reached by four major tobacco companies and 46 states to restrict the sale and marketing of tobacco products	19	39	25	17	*=100

¹ In June, April and March 1998, story was listed as “Allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton.”

² In February 1998, story was listed as “Allegations that President Clinton had an affair with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky.”

Q.8 CONTINUED...

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
g.	The debate about whether or not to renew the law authorizing the independent counsel to look into possible wrongdoing by Presidents and senior members of their administrations	14	29	26	30	1=100
h.F2	Unseasonable weather patterns	39	35	13	12	1=100
i.	The airing of a videotape on 60 Minutes showing Dr. Jack Kevorkian ending the life of a terminally ill man	16	23	18	43	*=100

Q.9 Did you happen to see this videotape on 60 Minutes or repeated later on some other news show, or not?

33 Yes, saw the video
66 No, did not see the video
1 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.10 Do you think it was a good idea or a bad idea for 60 Minutes to show this videotape?

38 Good idea
43 Bad idea
19 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.11 Why do you think 60 Minutes chose to air this videotape? Do you think it was because they wanted to raise the issue of assisted suicide, or do you think it was because they thought it would attract a lot of viewers, or do you think it was for both of these reasons?

11 To raise issue
38 To attract viewers
45 Both
1 Neither (VOL)
5 Don't know/Refused
100

IF VERY OR FAIRLY CLOSELY IN Q.8g, ASK: [N=536]

Q.12 Earlier you said you had heard about the debate over whether or not to renew the independent counsel law. In your opinion, should this law be renewed or not?

48 Yes, should be renewed
35 No, should not be renewed
17 Don't know/Refused
100

ROTATE Q.13 AND Q.14; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF NAMES:

On a different subject...

- Q.13 Now I am going to read you the names of some possible candidates for the Republican nomination for President in 2000. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, would you tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican party's candidate for President? **(PROBE: PLEASE WAIT UNTIL I READ THE ENTIRE LIST OF NAMES BEFORE YOU RESPOND.) (READ AND ROTATE)**
- Q.13a And who would be your SECOND choice? **(READ LIST AGAIN IF NEEDED) — IF RESPONDENT GIVES SECOND CHOICE, SKIP Q.13b.**
- Q.13b Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN: [N=456]

	<u>Dec 1998</u>
George W. Bush	
First Choice/Lean Bush	59
Second Choice	17
Dan Quayle	
First Choice/Lean Quayle	10
Second Choice	18
Steve Forbes	
First Choice/Lean Forbes	7
Second Choice	13
Patrick Buchanan	
First Choice/Lean Buchanan	6
Second Choice	12
John McCain	
First Choice/Lean McCain	5
Second Choice	5
John Ashcroft	
First Choice/Lean Ashcroft	3
Second Choice	3
John Kasich	
First Choice/Lean Kasich	*
Second Choice	3
Gary Bauer	
First Choice/Lean Bauer	*
Second Choice	2
Lamar Alexander	
First Choice/Lean Alexander	1
Second Choice	5
None of them (VOL)	
Lean	4
Second Choice	14
Don't know/Refused (VOL)	
First Choice	4
Second Choice	7

- Q.14 Now I am going to read you the names of some possible candidates for the Democratic nomination for President in 2000. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, would you tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Democratic party's candidate for President? (**PROBE: PLEASE WAIT UNTIL I READ THE ENTIRE LIST OF NAMES BEFORE YOU RESPOND.**) (**READ AND ROTATE**)
- Q.14a And who would be your SECOND choice? (**READ LIST AGAIN IF NEEDED**) — **IF RESPONDENT GIVES SECOND CHOICE, SKIP Q.14b**
- Q.14b Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT: [N=590]

Dec 1998

Al Gore	
First Choice/Lean Gore	46
Second Choice	22
Jesse Jackson	
First Choice/Lean Jackson	15
Second Choice	17
Bill Bradley	
First Choice/Lean Bradley	12
Second Choice	13
Dick Gephardt	
First Choice/Lean Gephardt	7
Second Choice	14
Bob Kerrey	
First Choice/Lean Kerrey	2
Second Choice	7
John Kerry	
First Choice/Lean Kerry	2
Second Choice	5
Paul Wellstone	
First Choice/Lean Wellstone	1
Second Choice	2
None of them (VOL)	
Lean	7
Second Choice	12
Don't know/Refused (VOL)	
First Choice	7
Second Choice	9

ROTATE Q.15 AND Q.16

- Q.15 Do you think the Democratic party's nominee for president in 2000 should be more liberal than Bill Clinton, more conservative than Bill Clinton, or about the same as Bill Clinton?

9	More liberal
36	More conservative
49	Same
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.16 Do you think the Republican party's nominee for president in 2000 should be more liberal than former Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, more conservative than Bob Dole, or about the same as Bob Dole?

28 More liberal
 14 More conservative
 47 Same
11 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.17 Now as I read a list, please tell me how important each of these items is for the country... First, how important for the country is (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)? Is this very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important?

NOTE: OCTOBER 1998 TRENDS ARE BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS.

	Very <u>Important</u>	Fairly <u>Important</u>	Not too <u>Important</u>	Not at all <u>Important</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
a. Government efforts to regulate the sale of tobacco products	41	23	14	19	3=100
October, 1998	37	21	25	16	1=100
June, 1998	40	28	17	13	2=100
b. Reforming the campaign finance laws	48	30	9	7	6=100
October, 1998	48	35	12	2	3=100
June, 1998	47	34	12	5	2=100
c. Impeaching and removing President Clinton from office	28	12	15	42	3=100
October, 1998 ³	19	13	22	44	2=100
June, 1998 ⁴	18	14	19	48	1=100
d. Major corporate mergers involving banks, oil companies and computer companies	41	30	13	9	7=100
June, 1998 ⁵	42	34	13	6	5=100
e. Efforts by UN weapons inspectors to determine whether or not Iraq is producing chemical or biological weapons	79	13	3	3	2=100
f. Taking steps to make sure the Social Security system is financially sound	87	10	1	1	1=100

³ In October 1998 question was worded "The investigation into the relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky."

⁴ In June 1998 question was worded "Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation into the relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky."

⁵ In June 1998 question was worded "Major corporate mergers involving banks, automobile companies and airlines."

Q.17 CONTINUED ...

	Very <u>Important</u>	Fairly <u>Important</u>	Not too <u>Important</u>	Not at all <u>Important</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
g. Proposals in Congress to cut taxes for middle class Americans	67	20	5	5	3=100
October, 1998	63	27	7	2	1=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=599]

Q.18F1 Do you think the recent merger of America Online and Netscape Communications will generally benefit consumers, or will it be harmful to consumers, or won't it have much of an impact on consumers?

25	Benefit consumers
15	Harmful to consumers
33	Not much of an impact
<u>27</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=602]

Q.19F2 Do you think the merger of Exxon and Mobil will generally benefit consumers, or will it be harmful to consumers, or won't it have much of an impact on consumers?

16	Benefit consumers
30	Harmful to consumers
34	Not much of an impact
<u>20</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.20 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 a-c; THEN ROTATE d-f)** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **(INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")**

NOTE: OCTOBER 1998 TRENDS ARE BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS.

	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. Bill Clinton	23	32	19	24	0	2=100
October, 1998	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

Q.20 CONTINUED ...

	<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>
a. Bill Clinton continued ...						
October, 1996 ⁶	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. Hillary Clinton	32	34	16	15	*	3=100
October, 1998	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

6

October 1996 trend based on registered voters.

Q.20 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>
c.	Al Gore	18	40	22	11	1	8=100
	October, 1998	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 ⁷	15	32	14	5	6	28=100
	September, 1987	6	23	11	3	23	34=100
d.	Congress	11	41	29	12	0	7=100
	October, 1998	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

⁷

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

Q.20 CONTINUED ...

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
e.	The Democratic Party	18	41	24	10	0	7=100
	October, 1998	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	—	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
f.	The Republican Party	11	35	27	20	*	7=100
	October, 1998	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

Q.21 Would you like to see Hillary Clinton run for high political office someday or not?

38	Yes
57	No
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

NO QUESTION 22

On another subject...

Q.23 Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Bill Clinton should or should not be impeached and removed from office?

		<i>Based on Registered Voters</i>		
		Nov	Late Oct	Early Oct
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
29	Should be impeached	23	28	32
67	Should not	70	66	62
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=599]

Q.24F1 If Bill Clinton is NOT impeached, what do you think would be better for the country... if Clinton were officially reprimanded or censured by Congress, OR if the matter was dropped altogether?

50 Censure
 47 Drop the matter
3 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=602]

Q.25F2 Some people feel that at a minimum Bill Clinton should be officially censured, if he is not impeached, to punish him for his behavior. Other people feel this is not necessary, because he has been punished enough since the details of his private life became public. Which comes closer to your view?

45 Clinton should be censured
 47 Already been punished enough
 6 Neither (**VOL**)
2 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK ALL:

Q.26 Do you approve or disapprove of the way each of the following is handling the current investigation into the charges against Bill Clinton? First (**READ AND ROTATE; ALWAYS READ ITEM "d" LAST**)...

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a.	The Republicans in Congress	33	59	8=100
	<i>Gallup: 12/4-6/98</i>	32	61	7=100
	<i>Gallup: 11/20-22/98</i>	34	58	8=100
	<i>Gallup: 11/13-15/98</i>	31	62	7=100
	<i>Gallup: 10/9-12/98</i>	38	55	7=100
	<i>Gallup: 10/6-7/98</i>	34	58	8=100
	<i>Gallup: 9/23-24/98†</i>	32	59	9=100
	<i>Gallup: 9/11-12/98†</i>	43	48	9=100
	<i>Gallup: 8/10-12/98†</i>	33	52	15=100
	<i>Gallup: 2/13-15/98†</i>	44	44	12=100
b.	Democrats in Congress	44	46	10=100
	<i>Gallup: 12/4-6/98</i>	47	44	9=100
	<i>Gallup: 11/20-22/98</i>	44	46	10=100
	<i>Gallup: 11/13-15/98</i>	44	46	10=100
	<i>Gallup: 10/9-12/98</i>	44	46	10=100
	<i>Gallup: 10/6-7/98</i>	44	46	10=100
	<i>Gallup: 9/23-24/98†</i>	45	41	14=100
	<i>Gallup: 9/11-12/98†</i>	43	44	13=100
	<i>Gallup: 8/10-12/98†</i>	44	39	17=100

† Question wording: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way each of the following has handled the controversy over Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky?"

Q.26 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
c.	House Judiciary Committee Chairman, Henry Hyde	37	43	20=100
d.	Bill Clinton	40	53	7=100

ASK H.1 STARTING WEDNESDAY; SUBSTITUTE H.2 AFTER THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE VOTES ON ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT.

[H.1 N=483; H.2 N=718]

H.1 So far, have the House Judiciary Committee hearings on impeaching President Clinton made you more likely to support Clinton's impeachment, less likely to support impeachment, or haven't they affected your opinion either way?

18 More likely to support impeachment
25 Less likely to support impeachment
54 No effect
1 Haven't paid attention to hearings (VOL)
2 Don't know/Refused
100
(N=483)

H.2 Has the House Judiciary Committee's vote in favor of impeaching President Clinton made you more likely to support Clinton's impeachment, less likely to support impeachment, or hasn't this affected your opinion either way?

15 More likely to support impeachment
23 Less likely to support impeachment
58 No effect
* Not aware of the vote/Haven't paid attention (VOL)
4 Don't know/Refused
100
(N=718)

ROTATE Q.27 AND Q.28

Q.27 If the House of Representatives decides to impeach President Clinton, will your opinion of Clinton be changed for the better, for the worse, or won't impeachment have an effect on your opinion of him?

7 Opinion changed for the better
5 Opinion changed for the worse
85 Impeachment won't have an effect
3 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.28 If the House of Representatives decides to impeach President Clinton, will your opinion of the Republicans in Congress be changed for the better, for the worse, or won't impeachment have an effect on your opinion of them?

13	Opinion changed for the better
33	Opinion changed for the worse
50	Impeachment won't have an effect
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ROTATE Q.29 AND Q.30

Q.29 Why do you think most Republicans are pursuing the impeachment of President Clinton — because they think what he has done is serious enough to end his presidency OR for political reasons?

18	Serious enough to end presidency
71	For political reasons
8	Both (VOL)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.30 Why do you think most Democrats are against impeaching President Clinton — because they don't think what he has done is serious enough to end his presidency OR for political reasons?

26	Don't think what he's done is serious enough
61	Political reasons
8	Both (VOL)
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=599]

Q.31F1 Do you think Congress is giving TOO MUCH attention to the allegations against President Clinton, TOO LITTLE attention, or about the right amount?

65	Too much
3	Too little
29	Right amount
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=602]

Q.32F2 Do you think the media is giving TOO MUCH attention to the investigation of President Clinton, TOO LITTLE attention, or about the right amount?

		---- Whitewater Investigation ⁸ ----				
		Aug	May	Aug	March	<i>Newsweek</i>
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>March 1994</u>
64	Too much	69	43	45	55	44
2	Too little	4	14	15	7	10
31	About the right amount	26	39	37	33	36
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.32a In your opinion, how can we best avoid things like the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal in the future — by electing a president with high moral character, or by making sure that a president's private life remains private?

34	Electing a president with high moral character
60	Making sure a president's private life remains private
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

8

Question worded: "Do you think the media is giving too much attention to the Whitewater case and White House handling of it, too little attention or about the right amount?"