

CONGRESSIONAL PERCEPTIONS
SUMMER 1992

1 I'd like to ask where you usually get most of your news about what's going on in the world today--is it from the newspapers, radio television, magazines, or talking with others?

NEWS1

- 1 Newspapers
- 2 Radio
- 3 Television
- 4 Magazines
- 5 Talking with others
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(1;11)

2 How many days in the past week did you watch the news on TV?

NEWS2

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7 Everyday
- 8 Zero (0) - Never
- 9 DK
- a REF

(1; 12-13)

3 How many days in the past week did you--read a daily news paper?

NEWS3

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7 Everyday
- 8 Zero (O) - Never
- 9 OK -
- a REF

(1;14-15)

4 How many days in the past week did you talk about policies with your family or friends?

POLITIC4

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7 Everyday
- 8 Zero (O) - Never
- 9 OK
- a REF

(1;16-17)

5 In 1988 George Bush ran on the Republican ticket against Michael Dukakis for the Democrats. Do you remember for sure whether or not you voted in that election?

VOTE88

- 1 Yes, did vote / thinks so
- 2 No, didn't vote / doesn't think so
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(1 ;18)

6 In 1990 elections were held for the U.S. House of Representatives. Do you remember for sure whether or not you VOTE 90 voted in that election?

VOTE90

- 1 Yes, did vote / thinks so
- 2 No, didn't vote / doesn't think so
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(1;19)

7 How interested are you in politics and national affairs. Are you very interested, somewhat interested, slightly interested, 7 or not at all interested?

POLITIC7

- 1 Very interested
- 2 Somewhat interested
- 3 Slightly interested
- 4 Not at all interested
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(1;20)

8-10 Many people have been talking about the federal government lately. Please think about some good and bad points of the federal government.

GOVT8

GOVT9

GOVT10 Is there anything you like about the federal government?

(1;21-23)

11-13 Many people have been talking about the federal government lately. Please think about some good and bad points of the federal government,

GOVT11

GOVT12

GOVT13 Is there anything you dislike about the federal government?

(1;24-26)

14-16 Many people have been talking about the U.S. Congress lately.

CONG14

CONG15

CONG 16 Please think about some good and bad points of Congress. Is there anything you like about Congress?

(1,27-29)

17-19 Many people have been talking about the U.S. Congress lately. Please think about some good and bad points of Congress.

CONG17

CONG18

CONG19

Is there anything you dislike about Congress?

(1;30-32)

20 Now I am going to read some statements to you. I would like you to tell me if you agree or disagree with the statement.

OPIN20 People like me don't have any say about what the government does.

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(1 ; 33)

21 Voting is the only way people like me can have any say about how the government runs things.

OPIN 21

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(1 ; 3 4)

22 Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't understand what's going on.

OPIN22

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(1;35)

23 I don't think public officials care much about what people like me think.

OPIN23

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(1;36)

24 Have you or anyone in your household ever contacted your Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives or anyone in his or her office?

CONTAC24

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(1;37)

25 Was it to express an opinion?

CONTAC25

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(1;38)

26 Did you get a response from your Representative or his or her office?

CONTAC26

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(1;39)

27 Generally, how satisfied were you with the response: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

CONTAC27

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Not very satisfied
- 4 Not at all satisfied
- 5 NEUTRAL
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(1;40)

28 Now we would like your opinion about the way your Representative has voted on bills that have come up in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington. Would you say that you have generally, agreed, agreed and disagreed about equally, or generally disagreed with the way he or she has voted, or haven't you paid much attention?

OPIN28

- 1 Agreed
- 2 Agreed and disagreed about equally
- 3 Disagreed
- 4 Dk - R hasn't paid much attention
- 5 REF

(1 ;41)

29 We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. Do you consider yourself liberal, slightly liberal, moderate, slightly conservative, or conservative?

POLOR29

- 1 Liberal
- 2 Slightly liberal
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Slightly conservative
- 5 Conservative
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(1;42)

30 What about the Democratic party? Do you consider the Democratic party to be liberal, slightly, slightly conservative, or conservative?

DEMOC30

- 1 Liberal
- 2 Slightly liberal
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Slightly conservative
- 5 Conservative
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(1;43)

31 What about the Republican party?

REPUB31

- 1 Liberal
- 2 Slightly liberal
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Slightly conservative
- 5 Conservative
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(1;44)

32 What about Congress?

CONG32

- 1 Liberal
- 2 Slightly liberal

- 3 Moderate
- 4 Slightly conservative
- 5 Conservative
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(1 ;45)

33 What about George Bush?

GBUSH 33

- 1 Liberal
- 2 Slightly liberal
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Slightly conservative
- 5 Conservative
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(1;46)

34 What about the Supreme Court?

SPRCRT34

- 1 Liberal
- 2 Slightly liberal
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Slightly conservative
- 5 Conservative
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(1;47)

I'd like to get your Feelings toward some groups of people in the U.S. government. I'll read the name of a group and I'd like you to rate it using something we call the feeling thermometer. Ratings between 50 and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm toward that group. Ratings between) and 50 degrees mean that you don't feel favorable toward the group and that you don't care too much for that group. You would rate the group at the 50 degree mark if you don't feel particularly warm or cold toward the group.

35 Using the feeling thermometer...how would you rate the justices currently serving on the U.S. Supreme Court?

THERM35

0.....	50.....	100	101 DK
Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	102 REF

(1;48-51)

36 How would you rate the current president, George Bush

THERM36

0.....	50.....	100	101 DK
Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	102 REF

(1;52-55)

37 How would you rate the current members of Congress

THERM37

0.....	50.....	100	101 DK
Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	102 REF

(1;56-59)

38 _____ READ THIS

THERM38 Now, I've asked you to rate some people in government, but sometimes when we talk about the parts of the government in Washington, like the Supreme Court,

the presidency and the Congress, we don't mean the people currently serving in office, we mean the institutions themselves, no matter who's in office. These institutions have their own buildings, historical traditions, and purposes laid out in the Constitution. I'd like to know how warm or cold you feel toward these institutions, not the people currently in office.

Using the feeling thermometer...how would you rate the U.S. Supreme Court

0.....50.....100 101 DK
 Unfavorable Neutral Favorable 102 REF

(1;60-63)

39 Using the feeling thermometer...how would you rate the Presidency

THERM39

0.....50.....100 101 DK
 Unfavorable Neutral Favorable 102 REF

(1;64-67)

40 How would you rate the U.S. Congress as an institution

THERM40

0.....50.....100 101 DK
 Unfavorable Neutral Favorable 102 REF

(1;68-71)

41 And now I'd like to get your feelings toward some other groups in the U.S.

THERM41

Using the feeling thermometer...how would you rate labor unions

0.....50.....100 101 DK
 Unfavorable Neutral Favorable 102 REF

(1;72-75)

42 Using the feeling thermometer...how would you rate big business

THERM42

0.....50.....100 101 DK
 Unfavorable Neutral Favorable 102 REF

(1;76 79)

43 Using the feeling thermometer. . . how would you rate the Constitution

THERM43

0.....50.....100 101 DK
Unfavorable Neutral Favorable 102 REF

(2; 11-14)

44 The institutions of government in Washington, no matter who is in office, need a certain amount of power for the good of the country and the individual person.

Please tell me if the institution has too much power, not enough power, or about the right amount of power.

POWR44

The U.S. Supreme Court has too much power, not enough power or about the right amount of power.

- 1 Too much power
- 2 About the. right amount of power
- 3 Not enough power
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;15)

45 What about the Presidency?

POWR45

- 1 Too much power
- 2 About the. right amount of power
- 3 Not enough power
- 4 DK
- 5 REF I Too much power

(2;16)

46 What about the U.S. Congress?

POWR46

- 1 Too much power
- 2 About the. right amount of power
- 3 Not enough power
- 4 DK
- 5 REF I Too much power

(2 ; 1 7)

47 I have a few more questions about the institutions of the government in Washington--that is, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, and Congress. In general, do you strongly approve, approve, disapprove, or strongly disapprove of...

APRV47

the institution of the Presidency, no matter who is in office?

- 1 Strongly approve
- 2 Approve
- 3 Disapprove
- 4 Strongly disapprove
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2; 18)

48 What about the Supreme Court, no matter who the justices are?

APRV48

- 1 Strongly approve
- 2 Approve
- 3 Disapprove
- 4 Strongly disapprove

5 DK
6 REF

(2;19)

49 What about the U.S. Congress, no matter who is in office?

APRV49

1 Strongly approve
2 Approve
3 Disapprove
4 Strongly disapprove
5 DK
6 REF

(2;20)

50 What about the basic constitutional structure of the U.S. government?

APRV50

1 Strongly approve
2 Approve
3 Disapprove
4 Strongly disapprove
5 DK
6 REF

(2;21)

51 Now I'm going to read you a few statements about the U.S. government.
Tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree
or if you are neutral about each of the following statements.

OPIN51

The U.S. Supreme Court is involved in too many issues.

1 Strongly agree
2 Agree
3 Disagree
4 Strongly disagree
5 Neutral
6 DK
7 REF

(2;22)

52 I am upset by specific Supreme Court decisions.

OPIN52

1 Strongly agree
2 Agree
3 Disagree
4 Strongly disagree
5 Neutral
6 DK
7 REF

(2;23)

53 Recent presidents have led the country well.

OPIN53

1 Strongly agree
2 Agree
3 Disagree
4 Strongly disagree
5 Neutral
6 DK
7 REF

(2;24)

54 I am upset by policy decisions recent presidents have made.

OPIN54

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;25)

55 Compared to Congress, recent presidents seem closer to ordinary people.

OPIN55

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;26)

56 Only a very big change in our whole system of government will allow us to solve this country's problems.

OPIN56

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;27)

57 What do you think is the single most important problem facing this country?

PROB57

(2;28)

58 How good a job is the U.S. Congress doing in dealing with this problem, a good job, a fair job, or a poor job?

PROB58

- 1 Good job
- 2 Fair job
- 3 Poor job
- 4 Inappropriate - doesn't deal with problem
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;29)

59 How good a job is the President doing in dealing with this problem, a good, fair, or poor job?

PROB59

- 1 Good job
- 2 Fair job
- 3 Poor job
- 4 Inappropriate - doesn't deal with problem
- 5 DK

(2;30)

60 How good a job is the U.S. Supreme Court doing in dealing with this problem a good, fair or poor job?

PROB60

- 1 Good job
- 2 Fair job
- 3 Poor job
- 4 Inappropriate - doesn' t deal with problem
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;31)

61 We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago?

FINANC61

- 1 Better off
- 2 SAME
- 3 Worse off
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;32)

62 Now we would like to know about the nation. Is the nation better off or worse off financially than it was a year ago?

FINANC62 6

- 1 Better off
- 2 SAME
- 3 Worse off
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;33)

63 What part of the government is most responsible for the massive budget deficits currently facing the U.S. government? Would you say it is Congress or the Presidency?

FINANC63

- 1 The Congress
- 2 The Presidency
- 3 BOTH
- 4 NEITHER
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;34)

64 Now I 'd like to have you compare your feelings toward people in government - the Supreme Court Justices, the President, and members of Congress . Which makes you feel the most angry--the Supreme Court justices, the President or members of Congress?

FEEL64

- 1 Supreme Court justices
- 2 President
- 3 Members of Congress
- 4 ALL

- 5 NONE
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2 ; 35)

65 Which makes you feel most afraid?

FEEL65

- 1 Supreme Court justices
- 2 President
- 3 Members of Congress
- 4 ALL
- 5 NONE
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2; 36)

66 Which makes you feel most disgusted?

FEEL66

- 1 Supreme Court justices
- 2 President
- 3 Members of Congress
- 4 ALL
- 5 NONE
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2; 37)

67 Which makes you feel most uneasy?

FEEL67

- 1 Supreme Court justices
- 2 President
- 3 Members of Congress
- 4 ALL
- 5 NONE
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2 ;38)

68 And which makes you feel most proud?

FEEL68

- 1 Supreme Court justices
- 2 President
- 3 Members of Congress
- 4 ALL
- 5 NONE
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;39)

69 Again, thinking about people in government, please tell me if you strongly approve, approve, disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the way the people are handling their jobs.

OPIN69

How do you feel about the way the nine justices on the Supreme Court have been handling their job? Do you...

- 1 Strongly approve
- 2 Approve
- 3 Disapprove
- 4 Strongly disapprove
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;40)

70 What about President George Bush?

OPIN70

- 1 Strongly approve
- 2 Approve
- 3 Disapprove
- 4 Strongly disapprove
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;41)

71 What about the 535 members of Congress?

OPIN71

- 1 Strongly approve
- 2 Approve
- 3 Disapprove
- 4 Strongly disapprove
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;42)

72 What about the leaders of Congress?

OPIN72

- 1 Strongly approve
- 2 Approve
- 3 Disapprove
- 4 Strongly disapprove
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;43)

73 What about your own Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives?

OPIN73

- 1 Strongly approve
- 2 Approve
- 3 Disapprove
- 4 Strongly disapprove
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;44)

74 Now I would like to know what you think is the most important part of a representative's job. I'll read you several jobs that members of the House of Representatives do. Please tell me whether you think the job is very important, somewhat important, or not important.

REPJOB74

Stopping the president from getting too much power.

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not important
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;45)

75 Helping the people in their district deal with the government bureaucracy .

REPJOB75

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not important
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;46)

76 Bringing federal dollars and projects such as military bases and dams back to the district.

REPJOB76

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not important
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;47)

77 Passing laws on important national problems.

REPJOB77

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not important
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;48)

78 Discussing and debating controversial issues.

REPJOB78

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not important
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;49)

79 Compromising with the President.

REPJOB79

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not important
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;50)

80. To help balance the budget, would you encourage your Representative to quit trying to bring federal projects back

to your district even if other representatives around the country did not quit?

REPJOB80

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(2;51)

81 Do you think it is better for the country to have a president who comes from the same political party that controls Congress so they can work together, or do you think it is better to have a president from the opposite party as Congress so they balance each other?

REPJOB81

- 1 Same party
- 2 Opposite party
- 3 DEPENDS UPON THE PARTY -- R WILL NOT COMMIT TO 1 OR 2
- 5 REF

(2;52)

82 In the United States, Congress and the President share power. This keeps either branch from gaining too much power but sometimes stops anything from getting done. In most other countries of the world, the president is stronger than the Congress, which means that the government is likely to get more done but the president can become very powerful. Which do you prefer -- the President and Congress sharing power or having the President stronger?

POWR82

- 1 President and Congress share power
- 2 President stronger
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(2;53)

83 I'd like to read you a few statements about the U.S. Congress. Tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree or if you are neutral about each of the following statements.

OPIN83

Congress does a good job representing the diverse interests of Americans, whether black or white, rich or poor.

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;54)

84 Congress addresses difficult issues in a reasonably efficient way.

OPIN84

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree

- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;55)

85 Congress is too far removed from ordinary people.

OPIN85

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;56)

86 Congress is too heavily influenced by interest groups when making decisions.

OPIN86

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;57)

87 There are too many staffers or assistants in Congress.

OPIN87

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;58)

88 Members of Congress should do what their district wants them to do even if they think

OPIN88

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;59)

89 Just a few members of Congress have all the power.

OPIN 89

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK

7 REF

(2;60)

90 Members of Congress focus too much on events in Washington.

OPIN90

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2,61)

91 Members of Congress come back to their districts too often.

OPIN91

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;62)

92 Members of Congress should do what is best for the entire country, not just their district.

OPIN92

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;63)

93 Members of Congress are too sensitive to what the public opinion polls tell them their constituents want.

OPIN93

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2,64)

94 How satisfied are you with the fairness of the policies that the U S. Congress passes? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

SATISF94

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree

- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Neutral
- 6 DK
- 7 REF

(2;65)

95 Now we would like to know something about the feelings you have about members of Congress.

FEEL95

Have members of Congress ever made you feel angry?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(2;66)

96 Have members of Congress ever made you feel afraid?

FEEL96

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(2;67)

97 Have members of Congress ever made you feel disgusted?

FEEL97

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(2;68)

98 Have members of Congress ever made you feel uneasy?

FEEL98

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(2;69)

99 Have members of Congress ever made you feel proud?

FEEL99

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(2;70)

100 Many people are complaining lately about the people who serve in Congress. Others think the members of Congress are doing a fine job. What about you? Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the members of Congress in recent years?

SATIS100

- 1 Dissatisfied
- 2 BOTH DISSATISFIED AND SATISFIED

- 3 Satisfied
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(2;71)

101 There are many reasons why people might have negative feelings toward Congress. I would like to know how much each of the following actions of Congress contribute to your negative feelings. Did the action contribute a great deal, some, a little, or not at all to your feelings?

FEEL101

Members of Congress voting for their own pay raise.

- 1 A great deal
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 Not at all
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;72)

102 The Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearings.

FEEL102

- 1 A great deal
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 Not at all
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2; 73)

103 The overdrafts at the House bank.

FEEL103

- 1 A great deal
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 Not at all
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;74)

104 Gridlock over the budget deficit.

FEEL104

- 1 A great deal
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 Not at all
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(2;75)

105 Do you think the wrong kind of people are running for Congress in the first place or do you think there is something about Congress that has a bad effect on people once they get into office?

CONG105

- 1 The wrong kind of people run for Congress

- 2 Congress. has had a bad effect on people
- 3 NEITHER
- 4 BOTH S DK
- 6 REF

(2;76)

106 Some people have suggested that we need to reform some aspects of government. Others think we ought to leave things the way they are. I am going to read you some proposed reforms. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each reform. If you aren't sure, just say you don't know. If you want the reform explained, please let me know.

REFRM106

Lengthening the term served by members of the U.S. House of Representatives say from 2 years to 4 years.

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(2;77)

107 Limiting the term served by Supreme Court justices instead of allowing them to serve for life.

REFRM107

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;11)

108 Allowing presidents to run for a third term.

REFRM108

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3; 12)

109 Requiring that the federal budget be balanced.

REFRM109

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3; 13)

110 Reducing the salary for members of Congress.

REFRM110

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;14)

111 Limiting the number of terms someone can serve in Congress.

REFRM111

- 1 Favor

- 2 Oppose
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;15)

112 Would you say you strongly favor or not very strongly favor term limitations?

- REFRM112**
- 1 Strongly
 - 2 Not very strongly
 - 3 DK
 - 4 REF

(3;16)

113 Some people opposed to term limitations have suggested that the problems Congress deals with are so complex that it takes years for members of Congress to develop the expertise needed to address those problems.

TERM113

Have you thought at all about this argument?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;17)

114 Being aware of this argument, would you still favor limiting the number of terms someone can serve in Congress?

TERM114

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;18)

115 Other people opposed to term limitations have suggested that limiting terms for members of Congress would only increase the power of unelected staff members and interest group lobbyists.

TERM115

Have you thought at all about this argument?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;19)

116 Being aware of this argument, would you still favor limiting the number of terms someone can serve in Congress?

TERM116

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;20)

117 Would you say you strongly oppose or not very strongly oppose term limitations?

TERM117

- 1 Strongly
- 2 Not very strongly
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3; 2 1)

118 Some people in favor of term limitations are concerned that current members of Congress, who win better than 95 percent of 118 the time, don't give other people the chance to get into office.

TERM118

Have you thought at all about this argument?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;22)

119 Being aware of this argument, would you still oppose limiting the number of terms someone can serve in Congress?

TERM119

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;23)

120 Other people in favor of term limitations have suggested that the longer representatives are in Congress the more they are influenced by the Washington-interest group scene.

TERM120

Have you thought at all about this argument?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;24)

121 Being aware of 'this argument, would you still oppose limiting the number of terms someone can serve in Congress?

TERM121

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;25)

122 I'm going to ask you some questions about government. Most people aren't sure of the correct answer, but we are interested in their best guesses. If you aren't sure of the answer, please make a guess.

INTERVIEWERS: PROBE FOR GUESSES
ACCEPT DK ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

GUESS122

Can you recall who is head of the new Russian republic?

(3;26)

123 Do you happen to recall who is the Secretary of State?

GUESS123

(3;27)

124 Who its the Secretary of Defense?

GUESS124

(3;28)

125 Is the current federal budget deficit larger or smaller than
it was when Ronald Reagan first took office in 1981?

GUESS125

- 1 Larger
- 2 About the same
- 3 Smaller
- 4 DK
- 5 REF

(3;29)

126 _____ READ THIS

GUESS126

Now I'm going to ask you some questions about Congress.
Again, most people aren't sure of the correct answers, but we
are interested in their best guesses. If you aren't sure of
the answer, please make a guess.

INTERVIEWERS: PROBE FOR GUESSES
ACCEPT DK ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

126 How long is the term of office for a United States Senator

YEARS

- 97 Lifetime
- 98 DK
- 99 REF

(3;30-33)

127 How many U.S. senators are there from your state?

GUESS127

SENATORS

- 98 DK
- 99 REF

(3;34-37)

128 Which party, the Republicans or Democrats, has the most
members in the U.S. House of Representatives?

GUESS128

- 1 Republicans V
- 2 Democrats I
- 3 . DK
- 4 REF

(3;38)

129 Which party, the Republicans or Democrats, has the most member s in the U.S. Senate?

GUESS129

- 1 Republ icans
- 2 Democrats
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;39)

130 What is the current salary of members of Congress?

GUESS130

THOUSAND DOLLARS

1000 = 1 MILLION

9998 DK

9999 R E F

(3;40-43)

131. On average, how many assistants or staff members does each member of the House of Representatives have?

GUESS131

ASSISTANTS/STAFF MEMBERS

(3;44-47)

132 On average, how many years have the current members of the House of Representatives been in office?

GUESS132

YEARS

98. DK

99 REF

(3;48-51)

133 Before ending this interview, I have a few remaining background questions.

PARTY133

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republ ican
- 3 Independent
- 4 Other, minor party
- 5 DK
- 6 REF

(3; 52)

134 Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

DEMO134

- 1 Strong
- 2 Not very strong
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

.(3;53)

135 Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

REPUB135

- 1 Strong
- 2 Not very strong
- 3 DK

4 REF

(3;54)

136 Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party;

- PARTY136**
- 1 Democratic
 - 2 Republican
 - 3 Neither
 - 4 Other
 - 5 DK
 - 6 REF

(3;55)

37 What is the highest level of school you have completed?

EDUCLVL

- 1 Less than high school
- 2 Some high school
- 3 High school graduate
- 4 Some technical school
- 5 Technical school graduate
- 6 Some college
- 7 College graduate
- 8 Post graduate or professional degree
- 9 Other
- a DK
- b REF

(3,56-57)

138 What race do you consider yourself?

RACE

- 1 White/Caucasian
- 2 Mexican/Hispanic
- 3 Black/African American
- 4 American Indian/Native American
- 5 Oriental/Asian
- 6 Other
- 7 DK
- 8 REF

(3,58)

139 Do you consider yourself Hispanic?

HISP

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;59)

140 In what year were you born?

BIRTHYR

- 1975 DK
- 1976 SREF

(3,60-63)

141 Was your total household income in 1991 above or below \$35,000?

INCOME

- 1 Above
- 2 Below
- 3 DK
- 4 REF

(3;64)

142 I am going to mention a number of income categories.
When I come to the category that describes your total household income before taxes in 1991, please stop me.

INC142

- 1 35 to 40 thousand (35,000 - 39,999)
- 2 40 to 50 thousand (40,000 - 49,999)
- 3 50 to 60 thousand (50,000 - 60,000)
- 4 60 to 70 thousand (60,000 - 70,000)
- 5 75 to 100 thousand (75,000 - 99,999)
- 6 100 thousand OR MORE (100,000 +)
- 7 DK
- 8 REF

(3;65)

143 I am going to mention a number of income categories.
When I come to the category that describes your total household income before taxes in 1991, please stop me.

INC143

- 1 Under 5 thousand (0 - 4,999)
- 2 5 to 10 thousand (5,000 - 9,999)
- 3 10 to 15 thousand (10,000 - 14,999)
- 4 15 to 20 thousand (15,000 - 19,999)
- 5 20 to 25 thousand (20,000 - 24,999)
- 6 25 to 30 thousand (25,000 - 29,999)
- 7 30 to 35 thousand (30,000 - 34,999)
- 8 DK
- 9 REF

(3;66)

144 THANK RESPONDENT FOR HIS/HER COOPERATION!

SEX

ENTER THE SEX OF THE RESPONDENT

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

(3;67)

145 PLEASE ENTER THE FIVE DIGIT CODE FROM THE LABEL
STATE ON THE COVERSHEET WHICH ALSO LISTS THE
TELEPHONE NUMBER.

(3;67)

147 PLEASE VERIFY THE FIVE DIGIT CODE WITH THE NUMBER BELOW.
HAVE YOU ENTERED THE NUMBER CORRECTLY? IF NOT,
PLEASE X-BACK AND ENTER THE NUMBER CORRECTLY.

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

(3;76)

148 ENTER DAY OF THE WEEK:
DAY

- 1 Sunday
- 2 Monday
- 3 Tuesday
- 4 Wednesday
- 5 Thursday
- 6 Friday
- 7 Saturday

(3;77)

149 ENTER MONTH.
MONTH

- 1 January
- 2 February
- 3 March
- 4 April
- 5 May
- 6 June
- 7 July
- 8 August
- 9 September
- a October
- b November
- c December

(4;11-12)

:150 ENTER DATE (1-31):
(4;13-16)

- 151 Did you enter- the correct ID number in at the beginning of the interview?
Did you accidentally type in an incorrect numeric response?
Did some inappropriate questions pop up during the interview?
Did you jot down some remarks or notes which should be brought to the attention of the people cleaning the data?
DO WE NEED TO MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS TO THE DATA IN THIS INTERVIEW?
if you are unsure, enter 1 YES
- 1 YES - please write detailed remarks on the coversheet
 - 2 NO - the interview went smoothly with no mistakes

(4;17)

152 CONGRATULATIONS!! YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB!!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!
ENTER YOUR INTERVIEWER ID:

(4,18-21)

153 CONGRATULATIONS!! YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB!!
KEEP UP -THE GOOD WORK!!

END