WHITESTRATER:

The Public Calls the Issue Serious
Concern is widespread that the President and First Lady have been less than honest

**Question:** As you may know, President Clinton and his wife are involved in a controversy over the Whitewater Development Corporation in Arkansas and their involvement in a failed savings and loan in the 1980's while Clinton was governor of Arkansas. In your view, are the suspicions against the Clintons very serious or not very serious?

**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners Inc. for CNN/Time, January 10-11, 1996.

**Question:** Do you think President Clinton is telling the truth or not telling the truth about his personal finances and his involvement in the Whitewater affair?

**Source:** Survey by Hart & Teeter Research Companies for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, January 13-16, 1996.

**Question:** Do you think Hillary Rodham Clinton is telling the truth or not telling the truth about her personal finances and her involvement in the Whitewater affair?

**Source:** Survey by Hart & Teeter Research Companies for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, January 13-16, 1996.

**Different readings on whether the public’s attention to this issue is waxing or waning**

**Question:** ...tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely? ...News about the Whitewater investigation?

**Source:** Surveys by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Times Mirror, January 11-14, 1996 and March 16-21, 1994 respectively.

**Question:** How much have you heard or read... regarding Bill and Hillary Clinton’s past involvement in the Arkansas real estate development called Whitewater? Would you say you’ve heard or read a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

**Source:** Surveys by CBS News/New York Times, January 18-20, 1996 and January 15-17, 1994 respectively.
A significant portion of the public believes there has been a cover-up

**Question:** Do you think President Clinton has participated in a cover-up of the Whitewater situation or not?

- **YES:** 37%
- **No:** 42%
- **DK:** 21%

**Source:** Survey by CBS News, latest that of January 16-17, 1996.

**Question:** Do you think Hillary Clinton has participated in a cover-up of the Whitewater situation or not?

- **YES:** 49%
- **No:** 34%
- **DK:** 17%

**Source:** Survey by CBS News, latest that of January 16-17, 1996.

**Question:** Do you think the Clinton Administration is knowingly covering up information about Whitewater that could be damaging to the President or Hillary Clinton?

- **No cover-up:** 16%
- **Yes cover-up:** 61%
- **DK:** 23%

**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Pew Research Center, January 11-14, 1996.

Most would like the First Lady to testify before Congress, though the investigation is viewed as partisan sniping

**Question:** Do you think Hillary Clinton should testify at the Congressional Whitewater hearings, or don’t you think it’s necessary?

- **Should testify:** 63%
- **Not necessary:** 28%
- **DK:** 9%

**Source:** Survey by CBS News, January 16-17, 1996.

**Question:** When Republicans in Congress criticize Hillary Clinton about Whitewater, do you think they are doing this more because they care about ethics, or more because they are looking for political gain?

- **Ethics:** 13%
- **Political gain:** 78%
- **DK:** 9%

**Source:** Survey by CBS News, January 18-20, 1996.