

Contact: Thomas Riehle
Telephone: 202-463-7300
Email: thomas.riehle@ipsos-reid.com

For Immediate Release
July 30, 2001

MONDAY MORNING REPORT

Every Monday, Ipsos-Reid U.S. Public Affairs, an independent polling and public policy research firm, releases findings from the Ipsos-Reid Express weekend survey of a representative sample of 1,000 adults nationwide. This survey was conducted Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 27-29, 2001. The margin of error is +/- 3.1%.

Industry Credibility: When is an Oil Executive Like a Congressman Who Says the Young Woman is Just a Close Family Friend?

There are some excuses that, even if true, are not worth making. For example, when they hear "a Congressman say he is just a close family friend with a much younger woman he spends a lot of time with," most Americans have serious doubts (61%) and another 27% have at least some doubts about whether the story is true. Only 10% have no real doubts about it. That's strikingly similar to the number who don't believe it when they hear "an oil company executive say the reason energy prices are going up is the world energy shortage."

Reality TV shows would be the survivor in a credibility contest with the Congressman and the oil executive. When Americans hear "a reality TV show like Survivor claims the winner is determined by a vote among the contestants, with no pressure or influence exerted by the show's producers," only 44% have serious doubts, although 38% have some doubts, and just 14% have no real doubts.

In the area of food safety, when it comes to the reassurances of a government official on the safety of genetically engineered food products, about half (51%) report only some doubts, with few expressing serious doubts (28%) OR no doubts at all (20%).

Research Credibility: When is Stem Cell Research Like Star Wars?

From the promise of stem cell research to the effectiveness of missile defenses, when it comes to complicated science and engineering issues in public policy, the public appears ready to give the experts the benefit of the doubt. In each case, about half express no real doubts that the experts will succeed in what they say they can do, and half do have doubts (although very few express serious doubts).

On Hearing This, Do You Tend to Have Serious Doubts, Some Doubts, or No Real Doubts? (Totals do not add to 100% because "don't know" or "not sure" responses are not shown)			
	Serious Doubts	Some Doubts	No Real Doubts
A Congressman says he is just a close family friend with a much younger woman he spends a lot of time with.....	61	27	10
An oil company executive says the reason energy prices are going up is the world energy shortage	59	30	11
A reality TV show like Survivor claims the winner is determined by a vote among the contestants, with no pressure or influence exerted by the show's producers.....	44	38	14
A U.S. government food safety official says a food product is safe and healthy to eat, regardless of the controversy over it being a genetically engineered product	28	51	20
Military experts say they can build a missile defense system that will shoot down incoming missiles	17	34	47
Medical researchers say that by using stem cells from embryos that would otherwise be discarded by fertility clinics, they will be able to find new treatments for diseases such as Parkinson's disease	11	33	53
From the Ipsos-Reid Express Survey July 27 through July 29, 2001 with a representative cross-section of 1,000 adults nationwide. The margin of error is +/- 3.1% in 19 samples out of 20.			

	Serious Doubts	Some Doubts	No Real Doubts
A Congressman says he is just a close family friend with a much younger woman he spends a lot of time with.....	61	27	10
An oil company executive says the reason energy prices are going up is the world energy shortage	59	30	11
A reality TV show like Survivor claims the winner is determined by a vote among the contestants, with no pressure or influence exerted by the show's producers.....	44	38	14
A U.S. government food safety official says a food product is safe and healthy to eat, regardless of the controversy over it being a genetically engineered product	28	51	20
Military experts say they can build a missile defense system that will shoot down incoming missiles	17	34	47
Medical researchers say that by using stem cells from embryos that would otherwise be discarded by fertility clinics, they will be able to find new treatments for diseases such as Parkinson's disease	11	33	53

From the Ipsos-Reid Express Survey July 27 through July 29, 2001 with a representative cross-section of 1,000 adults nationwide. The margin of error is +/- 3.1% in 19 samples out of 20.

**Job Performance: Public Split on Bush Performance Overall;
A Toxic Reaction to Bush's Performance on the Environment.
How Does the Performance of Congress Compare?**

President Bush earns roughly 50-50 ratings for his job performance. Along with ambivalence there is a lack of passion in the public's ratings. Most ratings cluster near the middle of the scale (he's doing good, but not excellent, or he's doing only fair but not poor).

Taxes are Bush's strong point, with the overall balance of opinion positive as 56% rate his performance on taxes to be excellent or good. These surveys were conducted before most Americans received a tax rebate check.

Bush gets just average scores on defense and education, and below average scores (lower than his overall job performance ratings) on foreign policy and the economy. The environment is Bush's downfall. Americans hold a decisively negative impression of Bush's handling of environmental issues—34% positive and 61% negative. The environment is the only issue on which a significant proportion of Americans express strong negative feelings about Bush's performance (on the environment, 30% rate Bush's performance as poor).

Congress gets lower scores. The image of Congress is very faint. Few Americans have strong impressions one way or the other about Congress, but the balance of opinion overall for Congress rates lower than Bush's ratings overall or on any particular issue except one. The public feels Congress is performing its duties overall about as well as Bush is handling the environment—not well.

**Rate the Job President Bush is Doing When It Comes to Handling Each Area, and
Overall Job Performance for Bush and for Congress
(Totals do not add to 100% because "don't know" or "not sure" responses are not shown)**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>TOTAL Excellent /Good</u>	<u>TOTAL Only Fair /Poor</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
Taxes	20	36	56%	42%	25	17
Defense issues	15	36	51%	44%	31	13
Education	11	39	50%	44%	29	15
OVERALL FOR BUSH	16	35	51%	48%	31	17
Foreign policy	12	33	45%	51%	32	19
The economy	10	33	42%	54%	34	21
The environment	6	28	34%	61%	31	30
OVERALL FOR CONGRESS	2	34	36%	62%	50	11

From the Ipsos-Reid Express Survey July 27 through July 29, 2001 with a representative cross-section of 1,000 adults nationwide. The margin of error is +/- 3.1% in 19 samples out of 20.

Political Credibility: When is the Democratic Patient's Bill of Rights Like the Republican Patient's Bill of Rights, and Vice Versa?

After months of a stand-off in Washington between competing plans being promoted under the broad banner of a Patient's Bill of Rights, all that has resulted is public confusion. Almost half of all Americans have some doubts about each plan, about one-quarter have serious doubts, and about one-quarter have no real doubts in each case. Neither side has the upper hand when it comes to using the differences in the competing Patient's Bill of Rights approaches to gain a partisan political advantage.

On Hearing This, Do You Tend to Have Serious Doubts, Some Doubts, or No Real Doubts? (Totals do not add to 100% because "don't know" or "not sure" responses are not shown)			
	<u>Serious Doubts</u>	<u>Some Doubts</u>	<u>No Real Doubts</u>
The Republican Party announces a so-called Patient's Bill of Rights plan to improve the health care system for patients (asked of half the sample)	29	47	24
The Democratic Party announces a so-called Patient's Bill of Rights plan to improve the health care system for patients (asked of half the sample)	26	50	23
From the Ipsos-Reid Express Survey July 27 through July 29, 2001 with a representative cross-section of 1,000 adults nationwide. The margin of error is +/- 3.1% in 19 samples out of 20 for questions asked of all 1,000 adults. In this case, half of the sample was asked about the "Republican" plan and the other half was asked about the "Democratic" plan. The margin of error for each half sample is +/- 4.4%.			

Of Course Cal Ripkin Really Did It

Americans are not so cynical when it comes to sports heroes doing heroic things. Most believe the story of Cal Ripken's success at this year's baseball All Star game rings true, and fewer than 1-in-10 skeptics express serious doubts about it.

On Hearing This, Do You Tend to Have Serious Doubts, Some Doubts, or No Real Doubts? (Totals do not add to 100% because "don't know" or "not sure" responses are not shown)			
	<u>Serious Doubts</u>	<u>Some Doubts</u>	<u>No Real Doubts</u>
A well-liked sports hero in the last year of his career does very well in his last all-star game and is named the most valuable player, and league officials say it was an honest accomplishment.....	8	31	57
From the Ipsos-Reid Express Survey July 27 through July 29, 2001 with a representative cross-section of 1,000 adults nationwide. The margin of error is +/- 3.1% in 19 samples out of 20.			

**Trust Trends: The Losers are HMOs, the Media, Wall Street and Business,
But the Computer and Internet Industries Hold Their Own on Trust;
Trust in Honesty and Integrity of President is Up, Compared with 5 Years Ago**

Managed health care continues to plumb new depths of public skepticism, with 3-in-5 Americans saying they have less trust in health insurance plans and HMOs than they did five years ago.

The bad news media and two of its biggest sources of bad news (the declining averages on the stock market and the growing number of businesses and major corporations announcing layoffs) are also targets of skepticism. In each case, the public is more than 4 times more likely to say their trust is declining rather than increasing compared to five years ago. Ironically, the big exception is the sector that is among the worst of performers recently—the computer and Internet industries.

Pundits predicted the U.S. Supreme Court's image would be tarnished by its involvement in the election of George W. Bush. Others have said the public would not believe some of the too-good-to-be-true stories coming out of sports, and begin to doubt the integrity of major sports events (were they being scripted to make for a better story for television?) While neither is gaining in trust, most people say their level of trust in the Supreme Court, and in the integrity of major sports events, is not much different today than it was five years ago.

A lot of Americans (41%) say they have more trust in the honesty and integrity of President Bush than they did in the President when Bill Clinton held the office five years ago. That is far more than report increasing trust in any other institution. A significant minority (32% of all Americans, and 50% of Democrats) say they have less trust in the honesty and integrity of President Bush compared to Clinton.

**Do You Have More, Less, or the Same Amount of Trust in Each,
Compared to Five Years Ago?
(Totals do not add to 100% because "don't know" or "not sure" responses are not shown)**

	More Trust	Same Trust	Less Trust
Health insurance plans and HMOs	9	30	60
The news media	11	41	48
Businesses and major corporations	10	44	45
The stock market	9	44	43
The U.S. Supreme Court	12	56	30
Major sports events, that they are honest contests and not fixed	13	56	28
The computer and Internet industries	29	38	27
The honesty and integrity of the President	41	25	32

From the Ipsos-Reid Express Survey July 27 through July 29, 2001 with a representative cross-section of 1,000 adults nationwide. The margin of error is +/- 3.1% in 19 samples out of 20.

Ipsos-Reid has been tracking public opinion around the world for more than 20 years and has become a leading provider of research and advisory services to private, public, and not-for-profit organizations in over 50 countries. It is a member of the Paris-based Ipsos Group, ranked among the top ten research groups in the world.