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IN THE LOOP

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Senior Attorney
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Washington, DC

IN THE LOOP, is a broadcast fax sent to members of the **RNC Majority Fund**. Regularly scheduled on Monday to present the "**Monday RNC Briefing**," it is also used to present late breaking news, both political and legislative, as events occur.

The RNC Majority Fund is a newly created RNC program designed for the business community and it is the goal of the Republican National Committee, through the creation of this program, to bring the best of our Party's supporters together for a constructive, consistent and continuing dialogue that will strengthen the decision making process among our Party's leaders. We encourage participation by anyone who shares our opposition to high-tax, big government, anti-business policies and shares our belief in lower taxes, less spending, fewer regulations and pro-growth policies.

To contact **IN THE LOOP** or the **RNC Majority Fund** please call Felicia Frederick at (202) 863-8556 or at FAX (202) 863-8634

✓

MONDAY RNC BRIEFING

February 20, 1995

This week's briefing focuses on the House Republicans' *Contract With America*. Wednesday is the midpoint of the *Contract*'s 100-day timetable.

FYI

The Do-Something GOP Congress

"[B]y Feb. 8, the House already had held its 100th vote; it took until April 13 to reach that number last year."

— *USA TODAY*, 2/15/95

The Ways and Means to End Welfare As We Know It

"Thirty years ago, President Lyndon Johnson launched his 'War on Poverty' saying it would be an 'investment' that would 'return its cost many fold to our entire economy.' Since then, the U.S. has 'invested' \$5 trillion on means-tested welfare. But far from ending poverty, the welfare state helped halt a steep 20-year decline in the poverty rate and fostered a culture of malignant dependency. This week may be remembered as the beginning of the end of the welfare state. Yesterday, a House Ways and Means subcommittee approved a bill that would end a 60-year-old federal entitlement to welfare."

— *WALL STREET JOURNAL* EDITORIAL, 2/16/95

Rowland Reaps Rave Reviews Reducing—Not Reinventing—Government

"Keeping his pledge to make government smaller, Gov. John G. Rowland delivered a budget today that for the first time in more than three decades reduced Connecticut's spending from the previous year. In his proposal, Mr. Rowland called for the elimination of 2,200 state employee positions, a 25 percent cut in welfare programs, the consolidation of 31 state agencies into 14 and a delay in the payment of the state debt. ... Mr. Rowland's vision of the downsizing of state government was paired with plans to loosen restriction—the unfunded mandates—that the state places on municipal governments, to allow them more flexibility in their governing."

— *NEW YORK TIMES*, 2/16/95

The Democrats' Dilemma

"It's reasonable for Democrats to question whether Clinton is the man to pull them out of the ditch. Over the past two years, he fatally diluted his reform message with a series of policy and personal blunders. Today, the president's timidity in responding to the Newt world order is inviting the intellectual (and perhaps ultimately electoral) challenge he faces from Gephardt and other Democrats noisily asserting their independence. But Democrats who blame all of their troubles on the president are delusional. ... The critique of the traditional Democratic agenda that Clinton leveled as a candidate still offers the most persuasive analysis of the party's travails. His failures in implementing an alternative agenda underscore the difficulty of remaking the party."

— *RON BROWNSTEIN, LOS ANGELES TIMES*, 2/13/95

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<i>Republicans Favored Over Democrats</i>	

Monday RNC Briefing

February 22, 1995

CALENDAR

- Feb. 22 Congress returns from its Presidents Day recess.
22 Midpoint of the *Contract With America's* 100-day timetable.
23 GOP-TV's "Rising Tide" focuses on the crime legislation approved by the House and the balanced budget amendment.
CONTACT: Ashley Barron (202) 863-8769
28 Balanced budget amendment vote scheduled in the Senate.
28 Primary elections are held in Illinois.
Mar. 3-7 National Association of Counties holds a legislative meeting in D.C.
7-9 National Conference of Lieutenant Governors hold their spring meeting in D.C.
14 National Policy Forum's "Listening to America: A Neighborhood Meeting," is hosted by NPF Chairman Haley Barbour. The one-hour monthly broadcast is available via satellite and cable.
CONTACT: Ashley Barron (800) 458-4479 or (202) 863-8825

The Monday Briefing is produced by the Republican National Committee. For more information, call (202) 863-8825. To submit material for publication, fax it to (202) 863-8773.

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Capitol Hill Watch

Last Week:

- ✓ Senate continued debate on the balanced budget amendment.
- ✓ House passed (241-181) the National Security Revitalization Act. Key provisions include: prohibiting placement of U.S. forces under foreign command in U.N. operations, reducing the United States' share of U.N. peacekeeping costs and urging the administration to speed entry of Eastern European countries into NATO.
- ✓ The House Judiciary Committee approved on a voice vote a private property rights bill. The legislation allows property owners to claim compensation from the federal government whenever an agency action diminishes the value of their property's fair market price by 10 percent or more.

This Week:

The Senate is scheduled to continue consideration of the balanced budget amendment.

The House is scheduled to consider a measure to allow the self-employed to deduct health insurance costs (H.R. 889); the Department of Defense supplemental appropriation bill (H.R. 845); a reconciliation bill (H.R. 845); the Paperwork Deduction Act (H.R. 830); and the Regulatory Transition Act (H.R. 450).

FOCUS: The Contract With America at 50 (days)

"Passage of the crime measures gave the new GOP majority its fifth major victory less than halfway through the 100 days in which it promised votes on the Contract With America."

— Kenneth Cooper, Washington Post, 2/13/95

"House Republicans are on a roll and Democrats can't find the votes to stop them."

— Bob Schieffer, CBS News, 2/8/95

GOP Accomplishments in the First 50 Days

Wednesday, Feb. 22, marks Day 50 of the *Contract With America*. At the halfway point, House Republicans have accomplished more than any Democrat-controlled Congress in the previous 40 years.

Monday RNC Briefing

February 20, 1995

Opening Day Reforms: Ending 'business as usual' in Congress

On its first day in office, the new Republican majority began delivering on its promise to change the way Congress does business and cut government down to size. On bipartisan votes, the House enacted the first installment of the *Contract With America*, "A Bill of Accountability." The GOP reforms:

- ✓ Make Congress more open and accountable. The House voted to live under the same laws it imposes on the private sector, limit committee and subcommittee chairmen to three terms and the speaker of the House to four terms, ban ghost voting in committee and authorize the first full public accounting of the House in history.
- ✓ Eliminate waste and inefficiency. The House voted to eliminate three committees, 25 subcommittees, one-third of committee staff slots and all special-interest service organizations.
- ✓ Ensure Congress cuts spending. The House voted to require a three-fifths majority to raise income taxes and implement an "honest-numbers" budget so spending increases will no longer be labeled "cuts."

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act: Ending the fed's shakedown of state & local government

H.R. 5 ensures that state and local governments (and ultimately taxpayers) will no longer be saddled with costly unfunded federal mandates. The bill, which passed, 360-74, establishes procedural roadblocks to keep bills imposing unfunded mandates greater than \$50 million from being considered on the House floor, requires federal regulators to consider the cost-benefit impact of new regulation and allows judicial review to ensure compliance.

Balanced Budget Amendment: Reining in the cost of government

By a 300-132 margin, the House approved—for the first time ever—a balanced budget amendment. By holding federal spending growth to just 3 percent instead of the projected 5.4 percent increase, Congress can balance the budget by the year 2002 without touching Social Security or raising taxes. The Clinton budget projects deficits of nearly \$200 billion for the next 10 years.

Line-Item Veto: Eliminating pork from the budget

H.R. 2 gives the president the authority to eliminate wasteful spending and special-interest tax breaks buried in appropriations bills. The bill passed, 294-134. Forty-three governors have the line-item veto. Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson has used the line-item veto 1,500 times. Thompson's office estimates that this power enabled the governor to reduce taxes by \$850 million and cut \$143 million in wasteful spending.

Taking Back Our Streets Act: Taking aim at violent criminals

The House approved six crime bills aimed at correcting serious flaws in the Clinton crime bill.

- The victim restitution bill, requiring criminals to pay full restitution to their victims for damages resulting from their crimes, passed, 431-0.
- The exclusionary rule bill, allowing the use of evidence seized without a valid warrant if authorities acted "in good faith," passed, 289-142.
- The prison construction bill, authorizing \$10.5 billion for states to build more prisons, passed, 265-156.
- The criminal alien deportation bill, streamlining the deportation of criminal aliens after they serve their sentences, passed, 380-20.
- The habeas corpus appeals bill, limiting endless appeals of death-row prisoners, passed, 297-132.
- The police-or-prevention block grants bill, giving local officials maximum flexibility to administer \$10 billion for law enforcement programs, passed, 238-192.

Monday RNC Briefing

February 20, 1995

National Security Revitalization Act:

Clinton's FY 1996 budget cuts defense spending \$10.6 billion below the 1995 level. Yet, Clinton has deployed U.S. forces on more peacetime and humanitarian missions per year than ever before, jeopardizing the combat-readiness of the military. The GOP bill, which passed, 241-181, last week:

- Establishes an advisory commission to assess the nation's military needs;
- Prohibits the placement of U.S. troops under U.N. command;
- Cuts the United States' share of U.N. peacekeeping costs from 32 percent to 20 percent;
- Urges that Eastern European countries be assisted in the transition to full NATO membership.

What's Ahead: The next 50 days

The second half of the House Republicans' *Contract With America* promises to be as productive as the first 50 days.

Regulatory Reform: Rolling back the regulatory tide

H.R. 9, the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act reduces excessive government regulation, upholds private property rights and streamlines compliance with regulations.

Legal Reforms: Restoring fairness to the legal system

H.R. 10, the Common Sense Legal Reform Act, provides concrete steps to restore efficiency and fairness in the civil justice system. The legislation includes a "loser pays" measure, honesty in evidence requirements and products liability reforms.

Welfare Reform: Giving hope to the nation's poor

H.R. 4, Personal Responsibility Act, offers compassionate approaches that promote personal responsibility, require work and strengthen families. The bill addresses the welfare crisis by attacking the growing illegitimacy crisis, ensuring welfare doesn't become a way of life, expanding state flexibility and ending system abuses.

Term Limits: Restoring the citizen legislature

Every poll reveals a vast majority of Americans support term limits. House Republicans guarantees a vote on term limits measures.

Tax Reforms: Restoring fairness to the tax code

H.R. 6 (the American Dream Restoration Act), H.R. 9 (the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act), H.R. 11 (the Family Reinforcement Act) and H.R. 8 (the Senior Citizens' Equity Act) contain numerous tax provisions that foster savings and investment, help America's families and alleviate the tax burden on seniors. The changes include a \$500-per-child tax credit, marriage penalty tax relief, increasing the Social Security earnings limits that punished seniors who continue to work beyond age 65, lowering capital gains and fostering small business investment in equipment. The House will vote on spending reductions and other measures that cover the cost of the *Contract With America's* tax revisions.

Monday RNC Briefing

February 28, 1995

SURVEY SUMMARY

MAJORITY HAVE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF CONGRESS

TIMES MIRROR POLL OF 1,209 ADULTS CONDUCTED 2/12/95

Clinton's Overall Job Rating

Approve 44%
Disapprove 44%

Clinton will be regarded as...

An unsuccessful president 34%
A successful president 18%

Impression of Congress

Favorable 54%
Unfavorable 37%

Impression of Contract With America

Favorable 42%
Unfavorable 19%

In passing its programs, the GOP Congress will be...

Successful 61%

Unsuccessful 20%

What should be a higher priority?

Taking steps to reduce the deficit 56%
Cutting taxes for the middle class 37%

REPUBLICANS FAVORED OVER DEMOCRATS

WIRTHLIN GROUP POLL OF 1,001 ADULTS CONDUCTED 2/8/95

Do you consider yourself a...

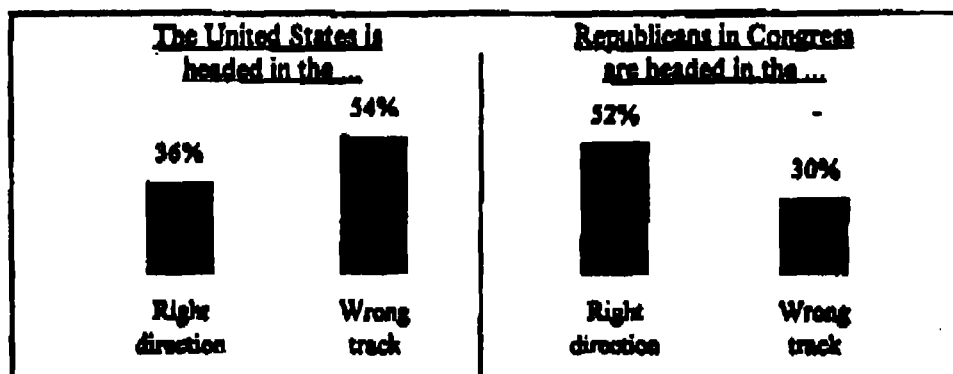
Republican 44%
Democrat 38%
Independent 15%

Which party can best handle...

	<u>GOP</u>	<u>Dems</u>
Reforming welfare	50%	35%
Balancing the federal budget	50%	27%
Restoring the American dream	46%	32%
Reducing crime	45%	31%
Improving ethical standard	45%	27%
Reducing unemployment	44%	42%

Do you consider yourself a...

Conservative 57%
Liberal 37%



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MONDAY RNC BRIEFING

February 27, 1995

This week's briefing focuses on the balanced-budget amendment. The Senate has scheduled a final vote on the amendment for Tuesday. The House overwhelmingly approved the amendment last month, 300-132.

FYI

Is There a Doctor in the House?

"[A]s Republicans celebrated their first 50 days in power today, halfway to their promised deadline for overturning two or three generations of Democratic ideals, the Democrats remain in a slump, strung out between post-election shock and a chronic inability to get with the program."

— *NEW YORK TIMES*, 2/23/95

Why Republicans are Tackling Regulatory Reform

The House voted last week to impose a temporary moratorium on new federal regulations while Congress completes a thorough overhaul of the government's regulatory system. The House begins consideration of the *Contract With America's* comprehensive regulatory reform bill this week.

- ✓ The *Regulatory Plan and Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations* released by the Clinton administration last November describes 4,300 additional regulatory actions the administration plans to pursue in 1995 and beyond.
- ✓ Regulations cost the economy an estimated \$600 billion, or \$6,000 per household, in 1994.
- ✓ The Office of Management and Budget estimated in 1991 that Americans spent more than 6.5 billion hours filling out forms and compiling records for the federal government.
- ✓ Regulators ordered a Kansas City bank to install a Braille key pad on its drive through ATM, presumably to aid any blind drivers.

Merrill Practices the Politics of Performance

"You want welfare reformed? Last week, he [Gov. Steve Merrill] proposed *eliminating* it in New Hampshire, to be replaced with a job-placement and community-work program. He has just presented a budget that, for the first time in three decades, actually decreases state spending from the previous year. In a state without a single broad-based tax, he has cut three other taxes and eliminated two more."

— COLUMNIST GERALD SEIB, *WALL STREET JOURNAL*, 2/22/95

Welfare Undermines Work Ethic

"In 1960, more than 60 percent of the households in the lowest income group were headed by people who worked. By 1991, this figure had plummeted to about 33 percent, and only 11 percent of household heads worked full-time year round. For far too many Americans, the welfare system is no longer a safety net, it is a hammock."

— REP. CLIFF STERNS (R-FLA.), *WASHINGTON TIMES* OP-ED, 2/23/95

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Monday RNC Briefing

February 27, 1995

CALENDAR

- Feb. 27 RNC Chairman Haley Barbour addresses the public issues forum "Town Hall Los Angeles."
- 28 Chairman Barbour, California Gov. Pete Wilson and San Diego Mayor Susan Golding sign the 1996 Republican convention site/city agreement in San Diego.
- 28 Balanced budget amendment vote scheduled in the Senate.
- 28 Primary elections are held in Chicago.
- Mar. 2 GOP-TV's "Rising Tide" focuses on balanced budget amendment.
- CONTACT: Ashley Barron (202) 863-8769
- 3-7 National Association of Counties holds a legislative meeting in D.C.
- 4 Indiana Federation of Republican Women (IFRW) holds a campaign college in Indianapolis.
- CONTACT: IFRW (317) 635-7561
- 7-9 National Conference of Lieutenant Governors holds their spring meeting in D.C.
- 10 RNC conducts an African-American candidates seminar in D.C.
- CONTACT: Eunice Thomas (202) 863-8545
- 11 RNC conducts a Nuts & Bolts candidate training seminar in Jackson, Miss.
- CONTACT: Joe Jaso (202) 863-8667
- 14 National Policy Forum's "Listening to America: A Neighborhood Meeting," is hosted by NPF Chairman Haley Barbour. The one-hour monthly broadcast is available via satellite and cable.
- CONTACT: Ashley Barron (800) 458-4479 or (202) 863-8825

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Editor
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Managing Editor
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Capitol Hill Watch**Last Week:**

- ✓ Senate continued debate on the balanced budget amendment.
- ✓ House voted (276-146) to suspend most regulations issued since Nov. 20 and to bar agencies from imposing new rules through the rest of this year.
- ✓ House approved (262-165) a \$3.21 billion supplemental defense spending measure, which would require offsetting cuts from domestic programs.
- ✓ House voted (381-44) to extend the health insurance tax deduction for the self-employed.
- ✓ House Appropriations subcommittees completed work on \$17.5 billion in budget cuts.
- ✓ House Republicans introduced a health insurance reform plan designed to make it easier for individuals and small business to buy and keep insurance. The plan is supported the National Federation of Independent Businesses, National Association of Manufacturers, National Retail Federation, Chamber of Commerce, Mutual of Omaha, New York Life and Self-Insurance Institute.

This Week:

The Senate is scheduled to vote on the balanced budget amendment on Tuesday.

The House is scheduled to consider regulatory reform measures, including H.R. 1022 (Risk Assessment/Cost Benefit Analysis), H.R. 926 (Regulatory Flexibility Act Amendments, Regulatory Impact Analysis and Protection Against Regulatory Abuse) and H.R. 925 (Private Property Rights).

Monday RNC Briefing**February 27, 1995**

FOCUS: The Balanced Budget Amendment

"Our plan will cut the deficit in half within four years and assure that it continues to fall each year after that."

— *Bill Clinton, Putting People First, June 1992*

"By submitting a swollen \$1.6 trillion budget that produces an unbroken line of \$200 billion deficits, President Clinton has declared surrender on the No. 1 economic issue of our time."

— *Columnist Donald Lambro, Washington Times op-ed, 2/20/95*

Clinton Drops the Budget Ball

Clinton's budget proves once again that he, despite all his promises, is unwilling or incapable to resist demands for more spending from special-interest groups. His budget would require additional federal borrowing of nearly \$1 trillion over five years and shows \$200 billion deficits for the next five years, rising to more than \$322 billion in 2002. While the administration claims that spending is under control, Clinton's budget increases spending by \$73 billion from FY 95 levels.

Why America Needs the Balanced Budget Amendment

Only a constitutional amendment provides the ironclad discipline needed to restore fiscal responsibility. Even if this Congress was able to stop deficit spending, there would be nothing to prevent future Congresses from spending irresponsibly. The only long-term solution to America's growing fiscal crisis is the balanced budget amendment. The amendment is a compact with the future that previous politicians were unable or unwilling to make. Members of Congress need to start thinking about the welfare of future generations—not just future elections.

By holding the growth of federal spending to just 3 percent instead of the projected 5.4 percent, Congress can balance the budget by the year 2002 without touching Social Security or raising taxes.

Republicans have already passed fiscally responsible measures like unfunded mandates reform and the line-item veto. House Republicans and like-minded Democrats overwhelmingly approved the balanced budget amendment last month, 300-132.

Balanced Budget Amendment Gains Momentum

Tomorrow the Senate is scheduled to vote on the balanced budget amendment. Nearly 8 out of 10 Americans support the balanced budget amendment. It's time for Democrat senators to choose between supporting the will of the American people or the interests of Bill Clinton.

The press reports that five Democrat senators remain undecided on the amendment: Sens. John Breaux (D-La.), Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), Wendell Ford (D-Ky.) and Sam Nunn (D-Ga.). Except for Conrad, all voted for the balanced budget amendment in 1994. The press also reports that the measure is just one vote shy of the 67 votes needed. Any one of the five Democrats could make the difference.

This weekend, after weeks of silence on the issue, President Clinton attacked the amendment. Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) said, "If the president was on our side on this important issue, we would win without a fight" (*Washington Times*, 2/28/95). Clearly, while Clinton claims he heard the voters' message in November to reduce the size, scope and cost of government, he refuses to listen. Tomorrow we will see who lines up with Clinton and the big spenders, and who listened carefully to what the voters said on Nov. 8.

Monday RNC Briefing

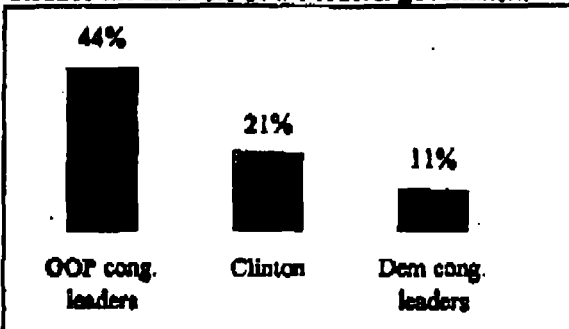
February 27, 1995

SURVEY SUMMARY

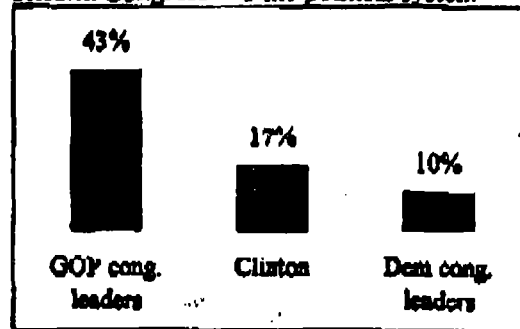
WHO HAS THE BEST IDEAS TO ...

TOMPA MIRROR CENTER POLL CONDUCTED 2/12/95

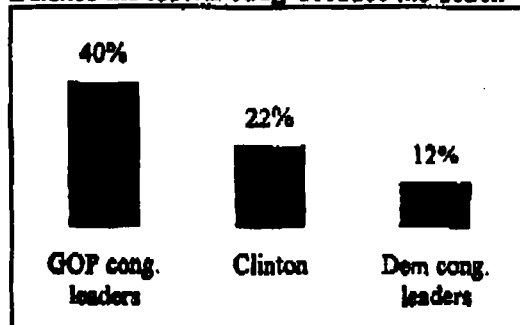
Reduce the size/role of the federal government



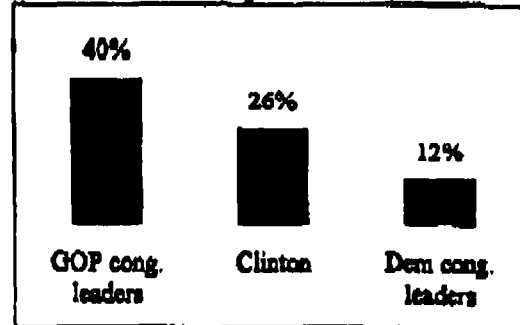
Reform Congress and the political system



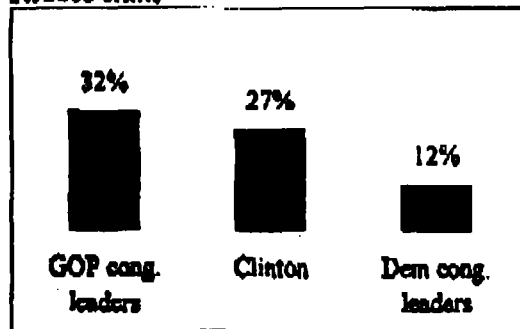
Balance the federal budget/reduce the deficit



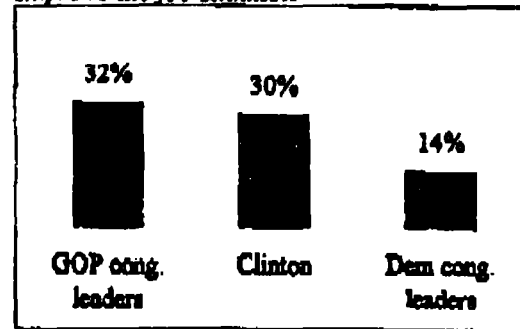
Reform the welfare system



Reduce crime



Improve the job situation



The Bottom Line

"These 50 days have been particularly grim for Democrats as they watch Republicans push through their agenda. Democrats controlled both houses plus the White House for two years and failed to move big legislation like health care or welfare reform. And their own leaders blocked the kind of internal reforms that are popular and that Republicans are now getting credit for."

— *New York Times*, 2/23/95