



OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
1600 CAMPUS ROAD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90041-3314

94 JAN 14 P4:56

January 12, 1993

Dear Bill,

Congratulations on your trip. So far, it looks like a triumph, and it also looks as if you're having a little fun too. You deserve it with all the nasty Republican attacks going on here at home.

Whether you desire it or not, I'm afraid that 1994 is going to be a highly partisan year for you. I've attached some suggestions for your State of the Union speech that I think might help you position yourself for the year. I hope that you and your speech writers find some of them useful.

I've also included bound galleys of Jim Fallows' new book on Asia, *FACING THE SUN*, that he gave me for you. You might want to browse through it before your meeting with Hosokawa. I also think that you'd enjoy inviting Fallows over for lunch or dinner to discuss his ideas. As you probably know, he was a Carter speech writer before he became a journalist and author. I have also included a draft article by Glen Fukushima about the state of our relations with Japan and about Hosokawa's visit and the lack of progress in the Framework talks. I think that you might want to ask Strobe to conduct a critical review of our Japan policy, once he gets into his new post.

Needless to say, I was pleased that Chris has recognized Strobe's abilities and promoted him. I spent time with Strobe and Chris on the day of the announcement here in LA, and the chemistry between the two seems good. I hope that over time Strobe might be able to bring in more people of our generation into State, starting with Policy Planning--people like Mike Mochizuki, Glen Fukushima, Steve Schlesinger, and others. As Strobe has shown, our generation can do the job, if given the chance.

I've also enclosed a few thrillers that I read over Xmas, including one set largely in Arkansas. Tell me to stop, if I overload you with this stuff. I guess that you can always make a pile by your bed. Once I get to Helsinki, I doubt that I'll be able to pass along as many books anyway.

Sid Blumenthal recommends that you give a short televised address to the nation on your trip, and I agree. The more you can be seen as the world's leader, and the more you explain directly to citizens what you've accomplished abroad and why it's important to them at home, the better for you politically.

I'll be in town for a few days at the end of the month. Perhaps, we'll connect.

All the best on the State of the Union. Ruth sends a hug.

Derek



cc 1/14
Mark Beason
David Briggs
John Padgett
Jhe Per



OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90041

INTERNATIONAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER
DIRECTOR, DEREK SHEARER
(213)259-2539
FAX (213)259-2734

Jan. 11, 1993

To: President Clinton

From: Derek Shearer

Re: State of the Union themes and related items

You should talk about your successes of the past year, as well as about what you plan to accomplish in 1994--along the lines of Richie Rothstein's article in the American Prospect; it's a good guide for your speech writers.

Above all, you should strike a populist, pro-middle class tone. 1994 is an election year, and as you know from the bitter Republican attacks on you and Hillary over White Water, they are not going to be nonpartisan. You need to start building up your progressive electoral coalition for the coming electoral battles and for the health care fight.

Here are a few specific suggestions:

(1) Remind citizens about the Earned Income Tax Credit, and urge those who are eligible to apply.

You might even want to say that you're putting in an IRS hotline to inform people how to apply.

I recently met with the leadership of Alinsky organizing groups active in many states, and urged them to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit with their members. I suggested that they get religious leaders to give a sermon on a Sunday in March about Rewarding Work and urge their flock to apply for it. I also think that you should devote one of your Saturday radio messages in March to explaining how to apply for the credit.

(2) Remind citizens about Motor Votor, and urge them to make sure ~~that it is being~~ implemented in their states. You should relate Motor Votor and increased registration at home to your theme of enlargement of democracy abroad.

(3) Remind citizens about the Family Leave Act. Give some moving stories about the difference that it has meant in the lives of some working families. You might want to say that you have asked Secretary of Labor Reich to make certain that all working families know their rights under the law. Labor ought to be doing much more public outreach through its Womens Bureau on the act.

(4) Remind workers and managers that you are supporting pioneering efforts to work more cooperatively and more creatively. Cite your Future of the Workplace conference in Chicago last August, your support for a peaceful resolution to the American Airlines strike, and perhaps United's employee ownership plan.

(5) On health care, read a few of the heart rendering letters that Hillary has received to make the issue more emotional and personal.

(6) On the Information Super Highway, you should link this to education and to competitiveness by pledging to make computer literacy a goal of your administration, and to implement it through public-private partnerships. You should announce a goal of some ratio of computers to students for every secondary school in the country.



-2-

Perhaps, you can get Bill Gates of Microsoft to make a pledge of money or support to a project in California to purchase enough computers to meet the desired ratio in all California public schools. David Packard might also sign on, but I'd start with a call to Bill Gates. If he'll sign on, then invite him to the State of the Union and have him sitting with Hillary or someone so that he's noticed.

For most people, the talk about the Information Super Highway seems to translate into more movies or sporting events on the tube, or better home shopping. You have to explain that if done right, and linked to computers and CD-ROM readers in schools, that it can be an essential building block of the post-Cold War economy and of the economy for the 21st Century.

(7) Obviously, you'll mention GATT and NAFTA, but this won't mean much to your potential voters unless you relate it to jobs. I also think that you should repeat what you said in Brussels about environmental and labor standards being essential in the next round of trade talks.

You might want to announce that you're adding a Deputy USTR position for international labor standards, and one for environmental matters.

(8) You should promote the Jobs Summit, of course, but you also must suggest how you'll make more good jobs a reality by coming back to your investment agenda. Ending welfare as we know, and providing good jobs for the middle class, requires an investment program, especially something like a new national high-speed rail network. It should be a goal, even if we can't finance it right now.

(9) Explain your trips to Asia for APEC and your European trip to NATO not only in security terms, but in terms of helping to establish a new post-Cold War order that will help bring into being a new middle class in Russia and Eastern Europe, and in China and other emerging Asian countries. Point out that if market institutions can take hold in Russia and China, then they can develop middle classes which will buy our goods and provide good jobs for Americans--and, of course, countries with a strong, thriving middle class have more stable democratic institutions.

(10) Stress the importance of American leadership in both Europe and Asia, to make the prospects of world middle class more likely, and finally link the Clinton agenda for a revived middle class at home to us having the moral and economic strength to provide this world leadership at this crucial time in world history.

The speech should have an underlying theme of restoring and enlarging the American middle class--and working with our democratic allies to create a new world middle class.

American leadership--and specifically, your leadership is the key ingredient to moving forward with this agenda in 1994.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

3/20

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 17, 1995

95 MAR 17 P5:02

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO:

Senator Bob Kerrey (D-NE)

Contact: Cindy Dwyer (202)224-4425 or Mary Sherman (202)224-3393
(Kerrey is traveling in Nebraska today. They will be able to locate him.)

DATE:

As soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Doug Sosnik and Linda Moore

PURPOSE:

To discuss options for the 1996 Nebraska Senate race.

BACKGROUND:

As you may know, Senator Jim Exon (D-NE) announced today that he will not seek re-election next year.

Speculation on the Democratic side is now focused on Governor Ben Nelson, who won a second term last year in a landslide. Nelson is widely viewed as the strongest candidate the Democrats could field. Kerrey, however, has encouraged the DSCC not to publicly pin the hopes of winning this race on Nelson's entry, but instead to point out that Nelson leads a strong field of contenders. Other possible Democratic candidates are: Lt. Gov. Kim Robak, businessman Mike Fahey and Speaker Ron Withem. Governor Nelson's entry in the race is a strong possibility and he would almost certainly clear the field.

It is rumored that Kerrey and Nelson do not have a good relationship which could make it difficult for Kerrey to recruit Nelson for the seat. Kerrey may opt instead to wait and see what the Governor decides to do.

There is a large field of Republicans eyeing the race including State Auditor John Breslow who recently switched to the Republican party after running unopposed as a Democrat in the November election. Other possible Republican candidates are: Reps. Doug Bereuter and Bill Barrett, Jan Stoney, who challenged Senator Kerrey in November, Omaha Mayor Hal Daub and investment banker Chuck Hagel.

TOPICS OF
DISCUSSION:

You may simply wish to ask Kerrey for his advice and offer to help in any way you can.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

Kerrey may suggest that you call Nelson. If he does, we think such a call would be a good idea.

DATE OF
SUBMISSION:

March 17, 1995

ACTION:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

John P -
Should we
go for the
pres? Not

January 13, 1995

MEETING ON THE CHANGING ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

DATE: Saturday, January 14, 1995
LOCATION: Camp David
TIME: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, dinner to follow
From: Bill Galston

Feb
Chair
Eugene Auer

I. PURPOSE

You will meet with a group of individuals (see attached list) to discuss the changing role of government.

II. BACKGROUND

This meeting was scheduled in response to your statement that the disagreement over the appropriate role of government was one of the principal issues of contemporary politics and your request that Bill Galston organize a meeting to discuss the changing role of government in America. Please see background memo in briefing book for more information.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached list.

IV. PRESS PLAN

No press coverage or photo opportunity.

Gov't → priv
→ taxes
→ social security
→ value

Gov't → cut
taxes
gov't
crime
very
early

Demagogue → less, more effect
→ crime, well, my
→ who goes?
→ flat tax
→ two superannuities

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

Page 2 - Briefing Memo

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- * Enter room and greet invited guests. (3:00pm)
- * Bill Galston will convene meeting after greetings. (3:15pm)
- * Invited guests will speak briefly on topics related to the changing role of government. Please see attached agenda for details on presentations. Bill Galston will moderate. (3:15-6:00pm)
- * Guests have been invited to a buffet dinner with you and the First Lady following the meeting. (after 6:00pm)

VI. REMARKS

No formal remarks, informal discussion.

**Invited Guests
Meeting on the Changing Role of Government
Camp David
January 14, 1995**

David Osborne

Al From (DLC)

Alan Brinkley (Columbia)

Paul Starr (Princeton)

Stephen Carter (Yale)

Theda Skocpol (Harvard)

Robert Putnam (Harvard)

Alan Wolfe (Boston University)

Benjamin Barber (Rutgers)

Harry Boyte (Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota)

Os Guinness (Trinity Forum)

Will Marshall (Progressive Policy Institute)

Eddie Williams

Page 2 - Attendees

Administration Attendees

The Vice President

Leon Panetta

Secretary Cisneros

Don Baer

Bill Galston

George Stephanopoulos

Bruce Reed

Elaine Kamarck

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1995

Draft

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Leon Panetta, Robert Rubin

FROM: Gene Sperling

On the minimum wage, there are three decisions that must be made: 1) whether to support a minimum wage increase; 2) if so, how much to increase it; and, 3) when to announce any decision. After several meetings and significant consultation with the Hill, the NEC has come to a single recommendation on the first two issues, while timing still represents a fairly open issue that must be resolved.

I. BRIEF BACKGROUND: The Federal minimum wage is currently \$4.25 an hour. The minimum wage had been frozen at a nominal level of \$3.35 per hour from 1981 to 1990. In 1990, Congress voted to raise the minimum wage by 90 cents -- in two 45 cent stages -- from \$3.35 to \$3.80 in 1990, and from \$3.80 to \$4.25 in 1991. The real value of the minimum wage is now above its value from 1988 to 1990, but is below its value for every other year going back to 1955.

The minimum wage has two important purposes. First, the minimum wage raises the bargaining power for low-wage workers who are not represented by a union and have low skills. The minimum wage may also have a "ripple" effect, whereby wages of workers earning somewhat more than the minimum wage are increased to maintain internal wage standards. As a result, the minimum wage helps many poor and moderate-income families. The second purpose of the minimum wage is that it induces firms to train their workers and take a high-value added/low turnover strategy.

II. EMPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTIONAL EFFECTS: The potential effect of a minimum wage increase on employment has been the principal argument raised in opposition to such an increase. While the potential employment effects of a minimum wage increase surely need to be considered, the weight of the empirical evidence suggests that the effect of a moderate raise from its current level is likely to be negligible. Laura Tyson points out that while there is no respectable case for the large job loss figures used by some special interests, there is respectable economic literature that would show a small, marginal job loss. However, Laura and others found most compelling the variety of recent studies examining the effects of raises in the federal minimum wage both across the nation and in particular states, as well as the effects of raising state minimum wages above the federal level.

For example, studies of the federal minimum wage examined the effects of a 90 cent increase in two increments over a two-year period. One of the state studies examined the effects of New Jersey recently raising its state minimum wage by 80 cents, from \$4.25 an hour to \$5.05 an hour; another examined the effects of California increasing its minimum wage 90 cents from \$3.35 an hour in 1987 to \$4.25 an hour in 1988 (which would equal \$5.20 in 1993 dollars). All of these studies found that the minimum wage increases did not reduce employment opportunities. (These studies were conducted by David Card, Alan Krueger, Larry Katz.)

An important point to note about the minimum wage is that while there may be some who are teens or just providing a supplement to a family living comfortably, most are people who are either sole earners for their families or are providing vital support to help maintain a middle income existence. Indeed, 36% of minimum wage workers are the sole earner in their family, while the average minimum wage worker provides nearly 50% of the income in their household.

While increasing the minimum wage does help many people at the bottom of the economic ladder it is also, as mentioned above, important for families where a second income is keeping them barely in the middle class. For example, 43% of minimum wage earners are in the bottom 20% of income, 45% are in the middle 60% -- and only 12% are in the top 20%. Only about one-third of minimum wage earners are teens while two-thirds are adults. Some argue against the minimum wage because it is not as targeted as the EITC toward working poor families. Others find it to be a positive point that an increase in the minimum wage would have such a positive effect on both working poor and middle income households.

III. RECOMMENDATION

NEC Recommendation: The general recommendation from your economic advisors as well as Leon Panetta, George Stephanopoulos and Pat Griffin was to call for a 75 cent increase over two years -- 50 cents the first year and 25 cents the second year -- bringing the minimum wage to a total of \$5.00. The rationale for the two-stage increase to 75 cents is based on both our best estimate of what is sound economically, as well as representing a reasonable political starting point for a minimum wage proposal. From a political perspective, the most important single issue is the degree of support we can gather from Congressional Democrats for our proposal. Several people believe that the best chance for passage is a single 50 cent increase. Pat Griffin believes that we should just go with a single 50 cent increase. Some, such as Gene Sperling, believe that even if we want to end up at a 50 cent increase proposal, we should start with the 75 cent increase so that we have room to bargain and still pass a 50 cent increase. Leon believes a single 50 cent increase has the best chance for passage, but is open to the notion of starting higher to give us bargaining room.

The only other difference is that George Stephanopoulos would prefer to add indexing to the 75 cent increase. Secretary Reich is generally supportive of indexing, but not sure he supports it if it is done from only a 75 cent increase.

a) **Economic Rationale:** As mentioned above, the economic literature demonstrates that there is good evidence that a minimum wage increase under 90 cents does not have negative employment consequences. While a \$1 increase may still be in the ball park, our feeling is that we would be on stronger footing if our increase was within the levels where the recent economic studies by Katz and Krueger showed no negative employment impact. Furthermore, at \$5.00, the national minimum wage would still be below the highest state minimum wage levels -- New Jersey at \$5.05 and Hawaii at \$5.25.

There was also agreement among most of the economists on the NEC that 75 cents in one year might be too steep and that we were on sounder ground dividing it between 50 cents and 25 cents. Furthermore, a 50 cent increase immediately puts the minimum wage level back up to where it was when the last minimum wage increase passed in 1991. The additional 25 cents increase puts the number up to an even \$5.00. While some may have found a 75 cent minimum wage increase to be small by historical standards, the minimum wage increase you call for must also be considered in the context of the dramatic increase you proposed and signed for the EITC.

b) **Political Rationale:** As mentioned above, you must consider your recommendation both in terms of the statement it makes and the degree your proposal increases the chance of passage. A higher minimum wage increase is likely to be more satisfactory to those who most support the minimum wage increase -- organized labor and some progressive Democrats. The AFL-CIO calls for a \$1.50 increase -- with three 50 cent increases plus indexing. Sabo and seven Democratic co-sponsors called last year for an increase in the minimum wage to \$6.50, while denying employers a tax deduction for excessive compensation (more than 25 times the lowest compensation paid any other employee). Kennedy also supports a minimum wage increase close to the AFL-CIO recommendation. On the other hand, several Democrats in the Senate have expressed some reservations about proposing a minimum wage increase, and would feel better if we kept the increase to a lower level.

Advocates who argue for a higher number increase state, that since the chance of passage of the minimum wage with the present Congress is considered small by some, the proposal should at least accomplish the political goal of being satisfactory to labor. An argument for going for a lower number -- 50 cents -- is that it would be small enough to lessen intense opposition from some business groups, while responding to the concerns of some Democrats who feel that an increase in the minimum wage goes against the "new Democrat" message. Furthermore, Pat Griffin and others felt that a 50 cent proposal had the best chance of passage.

We felt that a two-stage 75 cent increase without indexing made the most sense from a political perspective as well as an economic perspective. First, while a 75 cent increase would be unlikely to satisfy organized labor and the most ardent supporters of the minimum wage, it would meet your campaign promise of making up the lost value due to inflation since the last minimum wage increase while adding 25 cents to spare, and it seems to be a level that could hold most Democrats in Congress together. Finally, to the degree that a one-time 50 cent increase represents the proposal with the best chance of passage, a 75 cent proposal gives us some negotiating room.

IV. INDEXING: The proposal that was considered for indexing would tie the minimum wage to the wages of the median worker or the 25th percentile worker. These standards are preferable to indexing to the CPI because they would avoid contributing to an inflationary cycle that could result if the CPI was used. The arguments for indexing are that it would protect the value of the minimum wage without making Congress continually have to seek new legislation. Politically, Republicans who oppose indexing would be put in the position of having to support indexing the capital gains tax cut for well-off Americans while opposing indexing for wages for workers at the lowest wage levels.

Nonetheless, the NEC and White House staff felt that a 75 cent increase was adequate without indexing. The arguments against it were the low chance of passage, the risk that it would be perceived as inflationary (even with our attempts to index to a measure other than the CPI), and the concern that the perceived benefit to workers would not be large enough to overcome the political downsides. Furthermore, even strong advocates of a stronger minimum wage increase might not support an indexing proposal because they would fear that indexing after only a 50 cent or 75 cent increase would lock them into too low of a level for the future. Bob Rubin also stressed that while business groups would oppose us on a minimum wage increase, if indexing were added it would add significant intensity to that opposition that would work against us on this as well as other business-related matters.

V. SUB-MINIMUM WAGE:

The NEC also discussed the issue of adding a sub-minimum wage for teenagers. There was a three-year trial subminimum wage in the 1989 minimum wage increase, (15% less for teens for up to 6 months), but the results were that it was hardly used for several reasons -- including recordkeeping requirements. Because the impact was so minimal, some might claim that we should go ahead and do this. Yet, the decision of the NEC was that in light of that de minimis impact, there was no economic rationale to justify the problems a subminimum wage proposal would create with those likely to support passage of a minimum wage increase.

VI. ARGUMENTS AGAINST NEC RECOMMENDATION: Despite the fact that the NEC was virtually unanimous in its recommendation, we wanted to give you "cons" -- the opposing arguments you are likely to hear for either not increasing the minimum wage or, on the other hand, calling for a larger increase.

- **Hurts New Democrat Message:** Some Congressional Democrats believe that this works against the "new Democrat" message -- as an increase in the minimum wage is perceived as a traditional Democratic/labor agenda item and is likely to be vigorously opposed by small business. Arguing against this concern is the fact that while there will be intense small business opposition, polls consistently show that 70% of Americans support an increase in minimum wage. Other Democrats concerned about the minimum wage have argued that if we do propose a minimum wage that we package it together with other policies designed to increase wages for working Americans.

- **Will Create Opposition without Creating Strong Support:** A 75 cent increase is likely to run the risk of stirring strong small business opposition without generating strong support from organized labor which is likely to feel it is far too low. Arguing against this is the degree that we can work with Democrats to work together to draw a line on the side of working Americans, against Congressman Arney and others who strongly oppose this popular issue.

- **Unfunded Mandates:** An increase in the minimum wage does affect some state and local governments who do pay the minimum wage for some jobs and therefore could claim that this is an unfunded mandate.

VII: TIMING: The main timing question is whether or not to announce your minimum wage decision in the State of the Union.

Pro:

- The State of the Union allows you to directly make your case over the heads of the special interests to the general public on an issue where the general public is with us.
- The State of the Union allows you to blend the minimum wage in with an overall strategy to raise incomes for working people.
- There has been considerable speculation about how we are going to decide this issue -- waiting past the State of the Union continues that process -- going earlier may distract from the build up to the State of the Union.

Con:

- A minimum wage increase in the State of the Union might be treated as a major news item that could distract from the basic messages in the State of the Union.
- There is still time to announce it prior to the State of the Union (though it would have to be almost immediately) or after it as a way of keeping our economic story going or building up to rewarding work for the welfare working session.
- There is some evidence of increasing anxiety about doing this among Congressional Democrats.
- There was general agreement in the last NEC meeting that this announcement should be in the State of the Union -- though there exists today significant disagreement on this issue within the White House.

→ consumption of school of
thought. Culture
of violence and
hatred

✓
Jesse Jackson

violence -

→ Oklahoma crisis -
another opportunity to
show some defusing
leadership.

→ Crisis aimed
at all those who
have convinced
people that govt
is enemy. Stereotyped
"angry white male"
America has
been very good to
white male

→ Can't dignify
'angry white male'
= logical
conclusion of politically
violent rhetoric

→ directed at
school of thought

→ not valid.
Not justified.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4127195

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

95 APR 22 P3:58

22 April 1995

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT
CC LEON PANETTA
FROM HAROLD ICKES (WJ)
RE Telephone call from Jesse Jackson

Last night (Friday) Jesse Jackson telephoned me from Boston to say that he very much wanted to speak with you before you speak in Oklahoma City on Sunday. He stressed that this bomb was not aimed at the federal workers, but, in his opinion, was aimed at you, your administration and what you stand for. He wants to discuss an overall thematic response in the context of hate and division in the country in general, and the so-called "angry white male" in particular.

He can be reached today (Saturday) at 617-864-1200. His home in Washington, D.C. is 986-0050.

Keep a good
file on this

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

3.22.96

copy sent to

Hayne Williams

Photocopy from

San Francisco Chronicle
March 19, 1996

Clinton Still Shines in California

HOWS
liked
it lady

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Political Writer

Hillary Rodham Clinton may court controversy as much as votes, but in California, the first lady retains impressive levels of support and has little effect on her husband's chances for re-election, a new Field Poll shows.

In contrast to other national public opinion polls that show her popularity fading, the Field survey released yesterday found that 49 percent of voters in the Golden State view Hillary Clinton's job performance favorably, compared with only 24 percent that hold a negative impression.

Perhaps the poll's most surprising finding is that although 41 percent of Republican voters have little regard for her contributions, 27 percent of opposition party members believe that she has done a solid job as first lady.

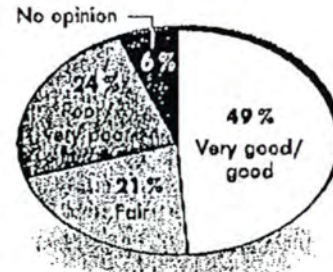
No Effect on Vote

And in what may prove to be a positive sign for Bill Clinton's re-election chances, 80 percent of the voters surveyed said that whatever their feelings are about Hillary

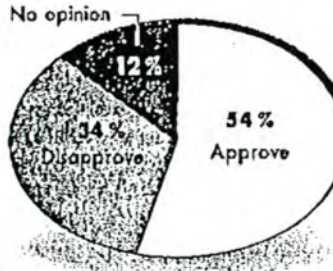
Clinton, it will have no effect on who they cast their ballots for in November.

FIELD POLL/ HILLARY CLINTON

■ Hillary Clinton's job rating as first lady



■ Opinion of Hillary Clinton's role in husband's administration?



The poll was conducted February 21 through 25 by the Field Institute. The telephone survey of 417 California registered voters has a margin of error of plus or minus five percentage points.

CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

"What this shows is that people are separating Bill from Hillary," said Mark DiCamillo, director of the Field Poll. "So that no matter what they feel about Hillary, it won't have a big effect on their voting decisions in the fall."

Last month, an Associated Press poll found that nearly 43 percent of Americans expected the continuing Whitewater probe to have a "serious long-term" effect on President Clinton's future, with more than half of the respondents saying they believed that Mrs. Clinton was hiding something from federal prosecutors.

And in other surveys, the first lady's approval rating dropped nearly 20 points after she received an avalanche of media coverage for her ties to the Whitewater real estate venture and her alleged role in the firings at the White House travel office.

However, the Field Poll, conducted February 21 through 25 among 417 registered voters in California, showed that they approve of Hillary Clinton's role in her husband's administration by a margin of 54 percent to 34 percent. The voter survey has a margin of error of plus or minus five percentage points.

"She's the kind of person that draws sparks, but what's interesting is that no matter how much heat she takes, it doesn't appear to hurt Bill Clinton," pollster Mervin Field said.

Not surprisingly, Hillary Clinton's popularity is highest among Democrats and women, with nearly 70 percent of all party members voicing support for her. And 55 percent of women held a favorable view of her, regardless of party affiliation.

Positive Role Model

"In California, which has a majority of working women, it shows that Mrs. Clinton is a very positive role model," DiCamillo said. "They are embracing Hillary Clinton as one of their own because they see her as a professional, well-educated woman and mother. Clearly, California is one of the states where you would want to send Hillary if you were looking for votes."

Although the latest poll showed that her support has slipped some since 1993, twice as many Californians say that they like her than dislike her. However, nearly a third of all respondents said they have no opinion about her, a finding that has changed little in the past three years.

Among the 19 percent of state voters who said Hillary Clinton's role would have an effect on their presidential vote in November, 12 percent said they would be less inclined to vote for the Democratic incumbent. However, men and women as well as Democrats and Republicans were nearly even in their assessment that Hillary Clinton would make little difference in the general election.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

3.22.96

Mrs. Clinton Still Shines in California

Poll shows she's liked as first lady

By Kenneth J. Garcia
Chronicle Political Writer

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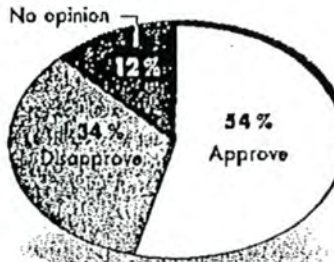
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CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

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And in other surveys, the first lady's approval rating dropped nearly 20 points after she received an avalanche of media coverage for her ties to the Whitewater real estate venture and her alleged role in the firings at the White House travel office.

However, the Field Poll, conducted February 21 through 25 among 417 registered voters in California, showed that they approve of Hillary Clinton's role in her husband's administration by a margin of 54 percent to 34 percent. The voter survey has a margin of error of plus or minus five percentage points.

"She's the kind of person that draws sparks, but what's interesting is that no matter how much heat she takes, it doesn't appear to hurt Bill Clinton," pollster Mervin Field said.

Not surprisingly, Hillary Clinton's popularity is highest among Democrats and women, with nearly 70 percent of all party members voicing support for her. And 55 percent of women held a favorable view of her, regardless of party affiliation.

Positive Role Model

"In California, which has a majority of working women, it shows that Mrs. Clinton is a very positive role model," DiCamillo said. "They are embracing Hillary Clinton as one of their own because they see her as a professional, well-educated woman and mother. Clearly, California is one of the states where you would want to send Hillary if you were looking for votes."

Although the latest poll showed that her support has slipped some since 1993, twice as many Californians say that they like her than dislike her. However, nearly a third of all respondents said they have no opinion about her, a finding that has changed little in the past three years.

Among the 19 percent of state voters who said Hillary Clinton's role would have an effect on their presidential vote in November, 12 percent said they would be less inclined to vote for the Democratic incumbent. However, men and women as well as Democrats and Republicans were nearly even in their assessment that Hillary Clinton would make little difference in the general election.

Robbie M...

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