



Pol 008

Kaiser/Harvard/KRC

NATIONAL ELECTION NIGHT SURVEY

- * The Voters' Health Care Agenda for the 104th Congress
- * Public Understanding of the Major Entitlement Programs and the Federal Budget

November 1994

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL:
12:00 P.M. EST, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1994**

**Robert J. Blendon, Sc.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Health Policy and Management
Harvard University School of Public Health
(617) 432-4502**

**Contact: Matt James, Vice President
Communications and Media Programs
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, California 94025
(415) 854-9400 Fax: (415) 854-4800**

TABLE 1

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN DECIDING 1994 U.S. HOUSE VOTE Voters Nationwide	
VNS	Kaiser/Harvard
Total Voters	Total Voters
1. Health care	1. Health care
2. Crime	2. Crime
3. Econ./jobs	3. Taxes
4. Taxes	4(t). Education
5. Deficit	4(t). Abortion
6. Clinton job	6. Econ./jobs

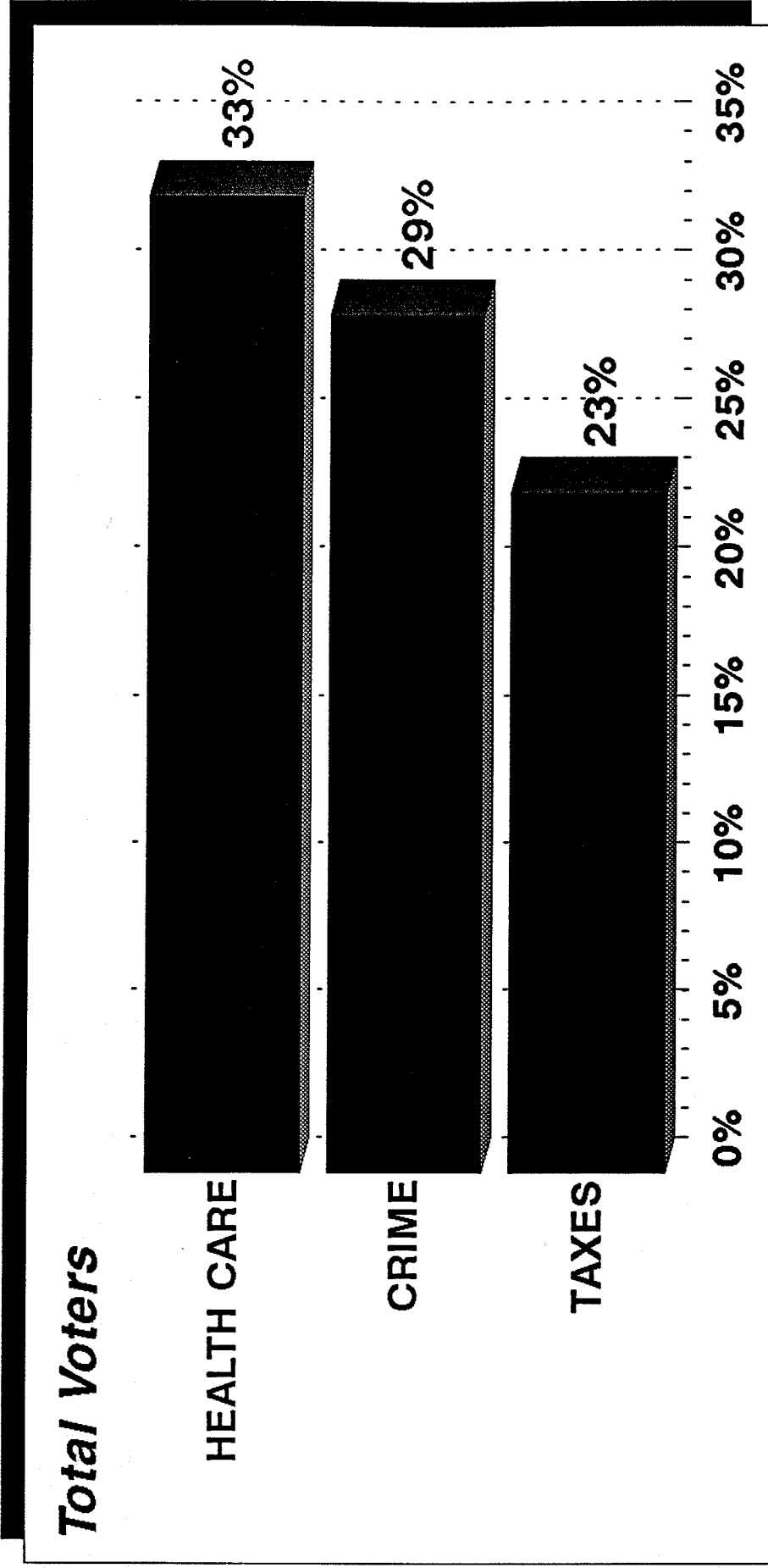
Source: Voter News Service and Kaiser/Harvard Surveys 1994

TABLE 2

WHAT VOTERS SEE AS TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS (1992) AND FOR THE NEXT CONGRESS (1994)	
1992 -- for the next President and Congress	1994 -- for the next Congress
1. Economy/jobs	1. Health care
2. Deficit	2. Crime
3. Health care	3. Taxes
4. Taxes	4. Deficit
5. Education	5. Education
6. Foreign policy	6. Economy

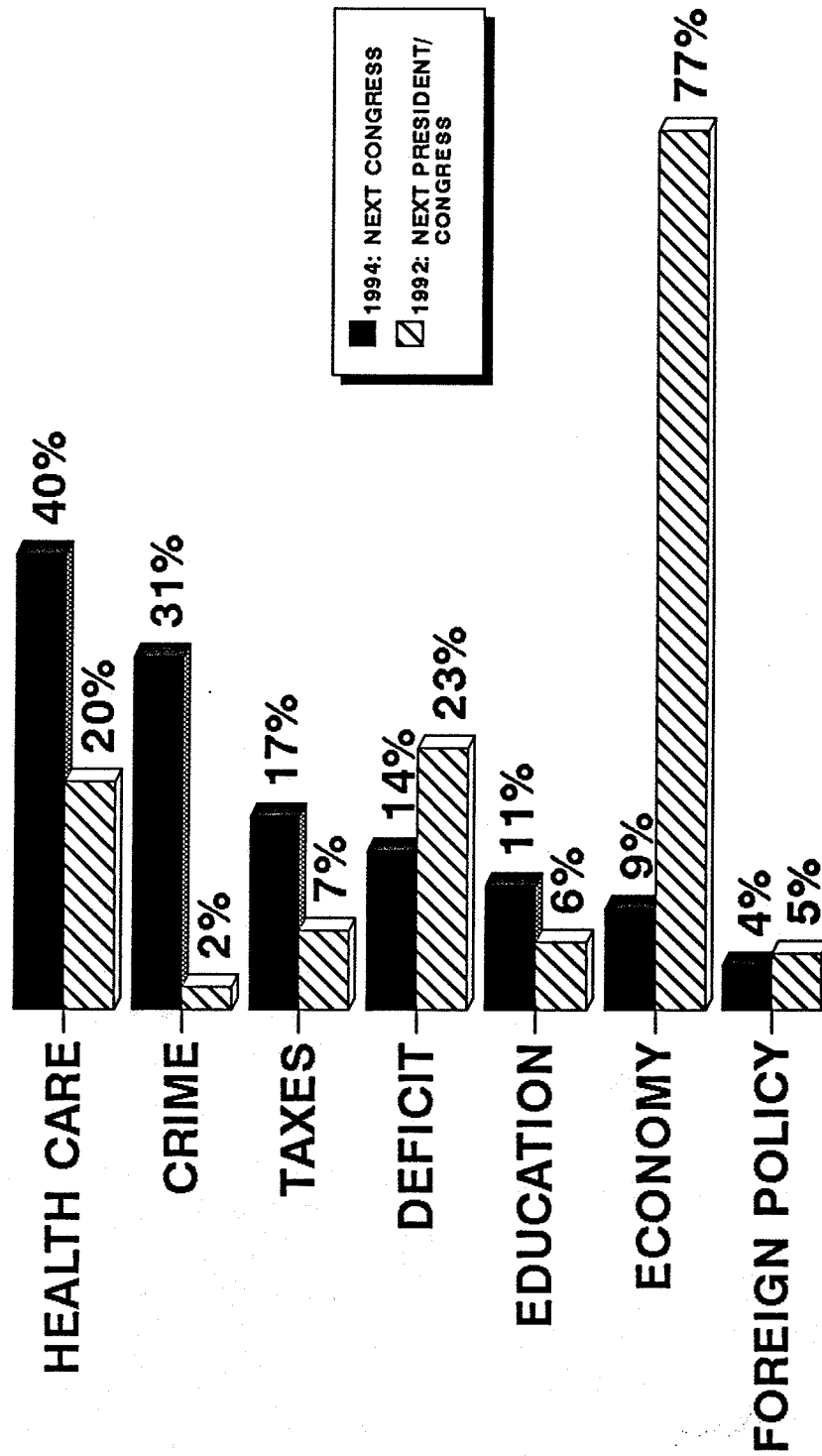
Source: Kaiser/Harvard Surveys 1992 and 1994

TABLE 1(a)
MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN
DECIDING 1994 U.S. HOUSE VOTE



Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994.

TABLE 2(a)
VOTERS' TOP PRIORITIES
FOR NEXT CONGRESS (1994) AND
FOR NEXT PRESIDENT/CONGRESS (1992)



Source: Kaiser/Harvard Surveys, 1992 and 1994.

TABLE 3

**VOTERS' VIEWS ON WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN DEVELOPING
A HEALTH CARE REFORM PLAN NEXT YEAR**

	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrats in House
Members of Congress	56%	70%	45%
President Clinton	18%	9%	20%
Neither/Other (vol.)	13%	11%	10%
Both together (vol.)	8%	2%	13%
Don't know	6%	7%	3%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 4

**CHANGE IN VOTER SUPPORT FOR CONGRESS ENACTING
A MAJOR REFORM OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

Compared to six months ago...

Position hasn't changed	...	43%
Less supportive of major reform		31%
Reasons for being less supportive:		
The government wouldn't do it right	49%	
The reform alternatives were worse than the way the system is now	19%	
Health care reform is too expensive	10%	
Less worried about your family's own health care now	9%	
There's less of a health care crisis now	3%	
Other (vol.)/Don't know	10%	
More supportive of major reform		18%
Reasons for being more supportive:		
More worried about my family's own health care now	55%	
There's more of a health care crisis now	31%	
Other (vol.)/Don't know	14%	
Don't know		8%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 5

**VOTERS' VIEWS OF WHAT THE NEXT CONGRESS SHOULD DO
ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM**

	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrat in House
Enact a major reform bill	25%	17%	45%
Make modest changes in the health care system	41%	46%	28%
Leave the health care system alone	25%	31%	14%
Other (vol.)	3%	1%	7%
Don't know	5%	5%	6%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 6

**VIEWS ON WHETHER IT'S BETTER TO HAVE THE HEALTH
INSURANCE SYSTEM RUN BY THE GOVERNMENT OR
PRIVATE INSURANCE COMPANIES**

November 1994

	March 1993 Adults	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in house	Voted for Democrat in house
Private insurance companies	39%	55%	66%	33%
Government	41%	24%	11%	42%
Neither/No difference (vol.)	9%	15%	13%	19%
Don't know	11%	7%	10%	6%

Source: Marttilla & Kiley/Harvard/Robert Wood Johnson Survey 1993
Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 7

**WHAT WORRIES THE VOTERS MOST ABOUT
HEALTH CARE REFORM IF CONGRESS TAKES ACTION**

	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrat in House
There will be too much government bureaucracy	36%	40%	25%
The quality of health care for you and your family will not be as good	22%	24%	24%
You will not be able to choose the doctor or hospital you want	20%	17%	21%
You will have to pay higher taxes	9%	9%	10%
None/Other (vol.)	7%	3%	15%
Don't know	6%	8%	5%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 8

**VOTERS' VIEWS ON WHETHER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR
STATE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN
CHANGING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrat in House
State governments	54%	62%	46%
Federal government	32%	24%	44%
Neither/Other (vol.)	9%	9%	5%
Both together (vol.)	3%	2%	1%
Don't know	3%	3%	4%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 9

**VOTERS' VIEWS ON WHAT CONGRESS SHOULD DO ABOUT
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrat in House
Guarantee health insurance coverage for all Americans	38%	26%	52%
Make a start by covering some groups who do not have health insurance	36%	45%	33%
Don't try to see that more people have health insurance	20%	21%	12%
Other (vol.)/Don't know	6%	9%	3%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 10

**VOTERS' VIEWS ABOUT WHICH GROUP SHOULD BE COVERED FIRST
IF WE CANNOT PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE TO ALL**

	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrat in House
Children	40%	37%	38%
Working people who are currently uninsured	24%	27%	18%
People who need long-term care	12%	17%	10%
All low-income people	9%	5%	17%
Other (vol.)	3%	2%	5%
None (vol.)	3%	3%	1%
Don't know	10%	9%	12%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 11

VOTERS' VIEWS ON WHICH WAY OF IMPROVING THE PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR CONGRESS TO ENACT

	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrat in House
Require every employer who offers health insurance to provide a choice of at least three health insurance plans	29%	31%	21%
Require every employer to contribute part of the cost of health insurance for all of their employees	27%	26%	31%
Outlaw pre-existing condition clauses	18%	18%	18%
Require every employer to make health insurance available to all of their employees, without requiring that the employer contribute part of the cost	15%	10%	19%
Other/None (vol.)	3%	4%	3%
Don't know	9%	12%	8%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 12

VOTERS' WILLINGNESS TO PAY MORE IN PREMIUMS OR TAXES TO GUARANTEE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS

	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrat in House
Would personally be willing to pay more, either in higher health insurance premiums or higher taxes	51%	43%	69%
Would not be willing	39%	48%	22%
Don't know	9%	9%	8%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 13

WHAT VOTERS SEE AS TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT CONGRESS

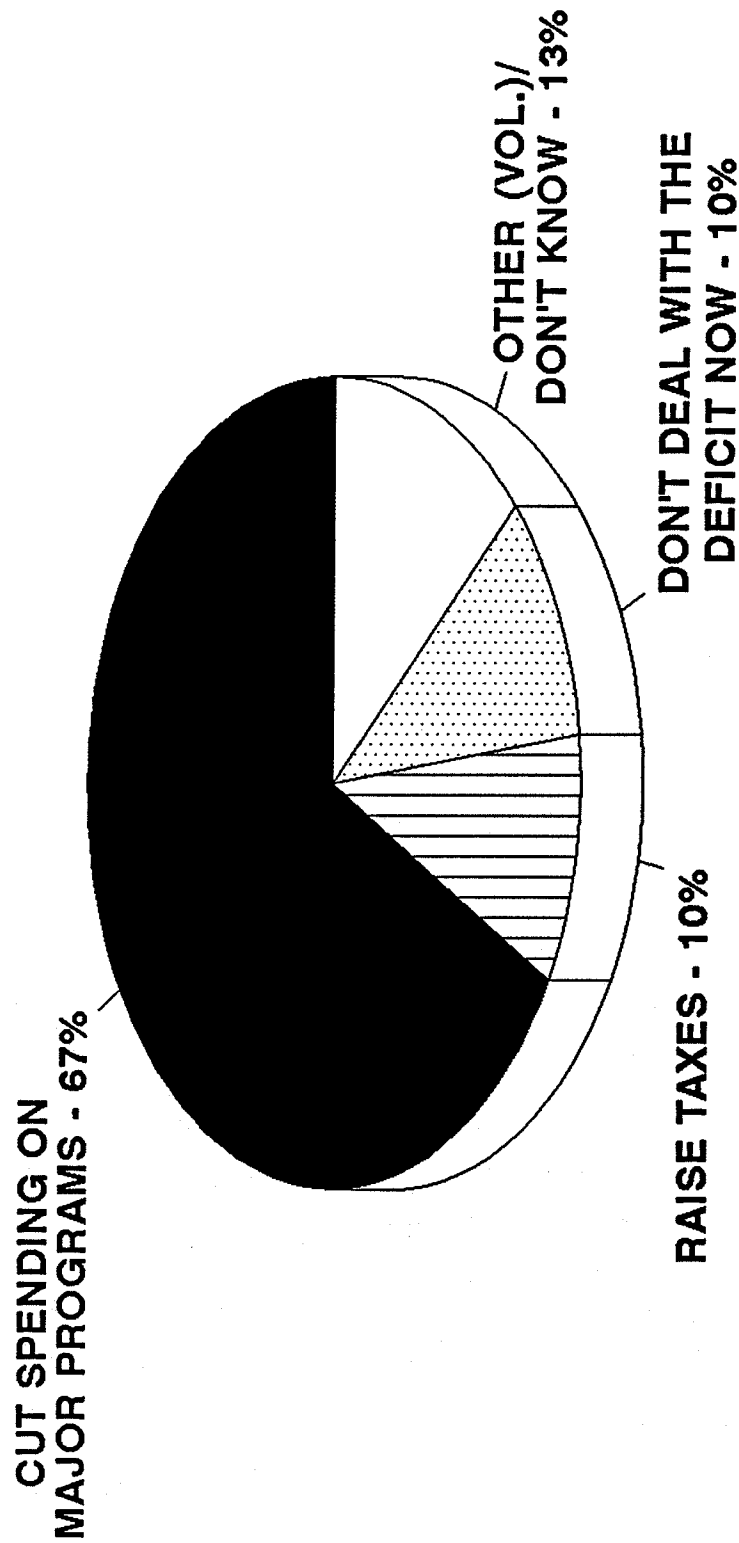
Total Voters

- 1. Health care**
- 2. Crime**
- 3. Taxes**
- 4. Deficit**
- 5. Education**
- 6. Economy**

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 14

WHAT VOTERS SAY CONGRESS SHOULD DO TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT



Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey, 1994.

TABLE 15 a

**VOTER SUPPORT FOR 25 SELECTED POLICIES
TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT**

	% of voters who favor the proposal		
	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrat in House
STRONG TO MODERATE SUPPORT			
Having people over age 65 who earn more than \$50,000 a year pay more for Medicare than other seniors	71%	69%	73%
Decrease spending on food stamps	55%	60%	54%
Decrease agricultural price supports	53%	50%	56%
Decrease defense spending	53%	40%	64%
MODERATE OPPOSITION			
Paying doctors and hospitals less for the care they provide to seniors under Medicare	48%	44%	55%
Decrease spending on public housing	45%	50%	43%
Decrease spending on unemployment compensation	43%	44%	42%
Increase the proportion of Social Security benefits subject to federal income taxes	42%	40%	47%
Decrease federal aid to cities	39%	47%	33%
Decrease spending on AFDC	39%	49%	27%
Increase the retirement age for Social Security from 65 to 67	39%	44%	28%
Increase Social Security or employer taxes	35%	27%	44%
Limiting the tax deduction for employers' contributions to their employees' health insurance	32%	38%	27%
Requiring people to pay a larger share of nursing home costs before federal assistance begins	32%	38%	24%

(continued)

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 15 b**VOTER SUPPORT FOR 25 SELECTED POLICIES
TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT (continued)**

	% of voters who favor the proposal		
	Total Voters	Voted for Republican in House	Voted for Democrat in House
STRONG OPPOSITION			
Decrease or eliminate tax deduction for charitable giving	29%	29%	29%
Decrease or eliminate tax deduction for home mortgages	27%	32%	24%
Reduce the annual cost of living increase in Social Security	26%	34%	18%
Decrease federal aid for college student loans	24%	26%	22%
Increase the federal income tax	23%	20%	31%
Increase taxes on gasoline and heating oil	20%	15%	25%
Decrease federal aid to education	19%	18%	21%
Decrease spending on Social Security	17%	21%	13%
Decrease spending on Medicaid for the poor	17%	17%	15%
Decrease spending on Medicare for the elderly	8%	5%	10%
Decrease veterans' benefits	7%	8%	8%

Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

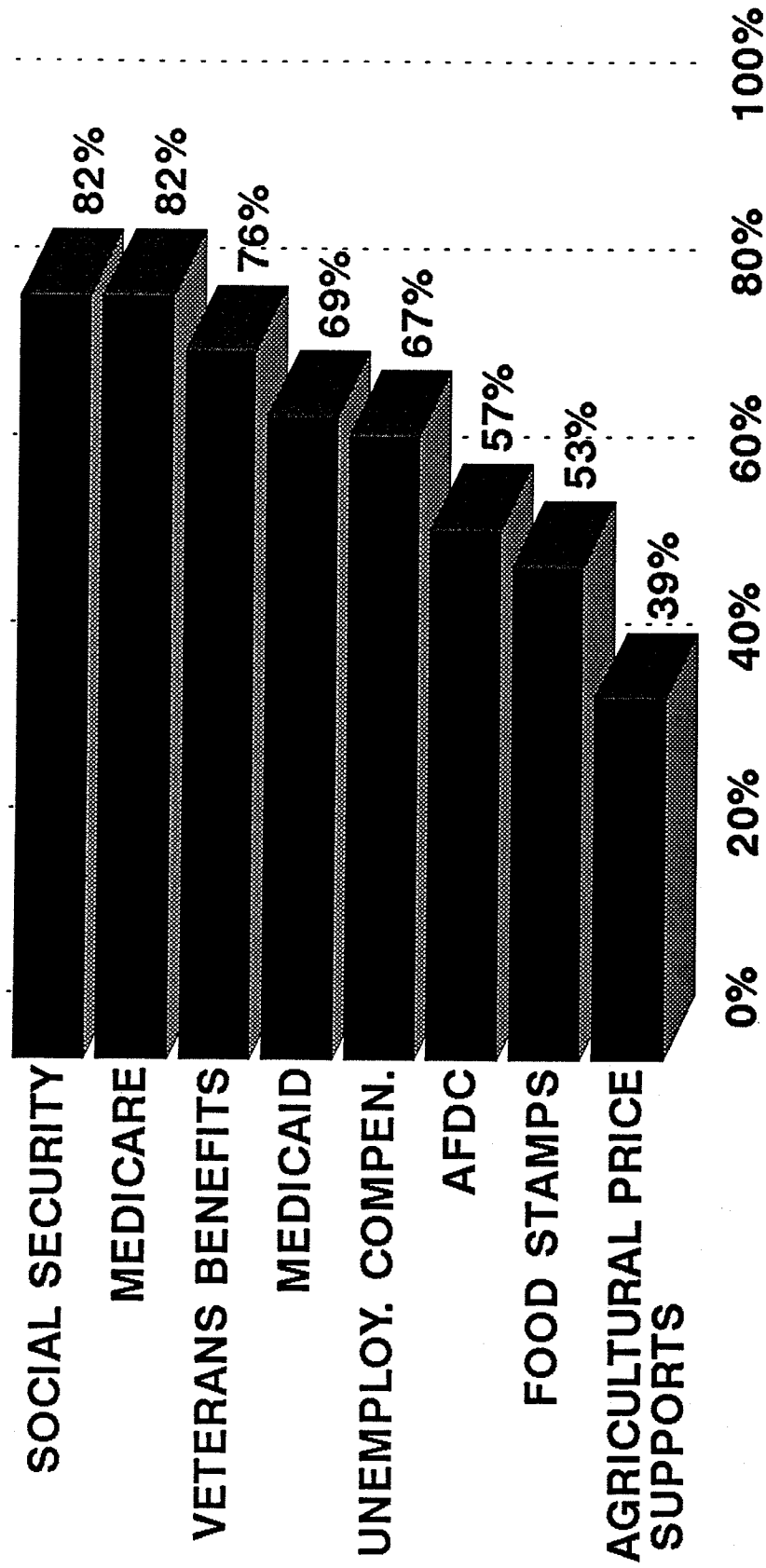
TABLE 16

**VOTERS' PREFERENCES ON SPENDING CUTS AFTER BEING TOLD THAT
ONE IN THREE DOLLARS SPENT BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GO TO
SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID**

In order to reduce the federal deficit, the biggest spending cuts should come in areas other than Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	65%
In order to reduce the federal deficit, the biggest spending cuts should come in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	10%
We should leave the federal deficit alone and not make major spending cuts in either area	12%
Don't know	13%

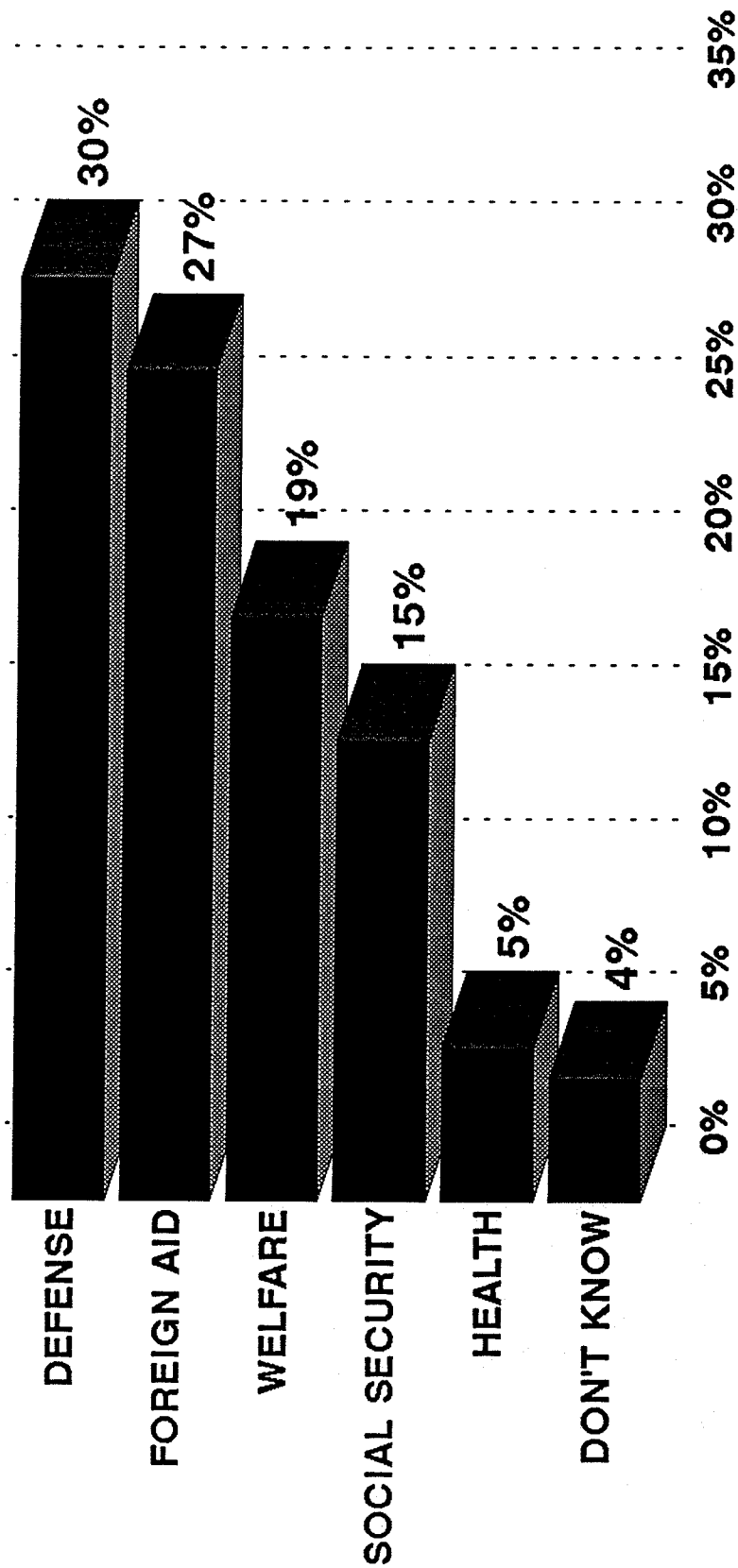
Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey 1994

TABLE 17
VOTERS KNOWLEDGE OF WHICH
PROGRAMS ARE ENTITLEMENTS



Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey, 1994

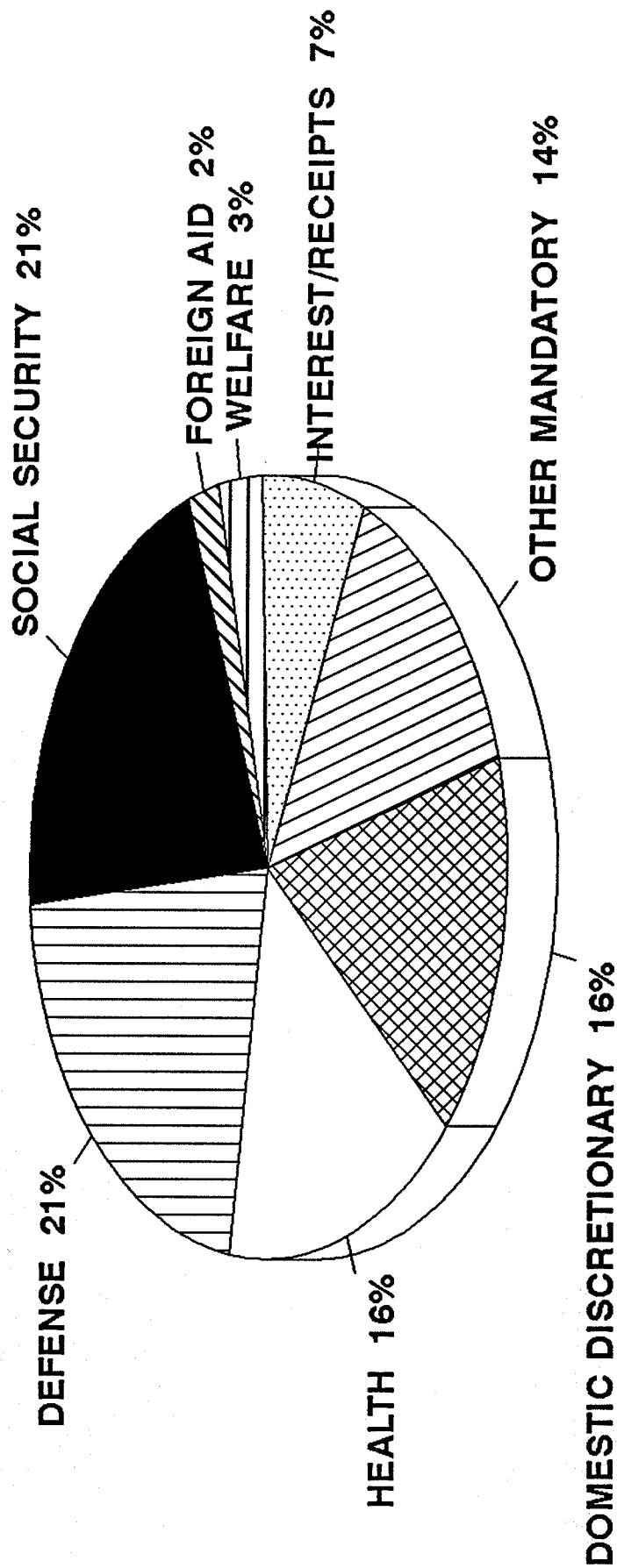
TABLE 18-1
WHAT VOTERS SAY IS THE LARGEST
FEDERAL EXPENSE TODAY



Source: Kaiser/Harvard Survey, 1994.

TABLE 18-2

1993 FEDERAL BUDGET



TOTAL = \$1,408 BILLION

Source: Congressional Budget Office 1994