

# Editorials & Comments

## Racism Contributes To Oil Crunch

by Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Editorial Writer

The traumatic five month Arab oil embargo in 1973-74 was characterized by higher prices for gasoline and other petroleum products, shortages, long lines at the gas pump, shorter vacation plans, reduced driving speed limits, the closing of thousands of gas stations, and of course more inflation.

Today, with the ousting of the Shah and the emergency of Ayatollah Khomeini as the leader of Iran, the United States is caught in the grips of yet another oil crisis - a world day of two million barrels of oil per day for over six weeks. What may be even more significant is that "The true dimensions of the potential crisis," Newsweek says, "has yet to sink in on Congress or a public grown openly skeptical after years of energy false alarms."

Furthermore, our southern neighborhood, Mexico, found a vast sea of proven oil reserves estimated to be 26 billion barrels; yet the United States is able to import only 500,000 barrels daily. One result of these recent developments in our own with the United States' economic reveals, is that gasoline prices have risen by an average of two cents per gallon since December and some local gas stations have started closing on weekends because of gas shortages.

A primary cause of the oil crunch, past and present, had been the long-standing racist policy and attitude of the United States toward the developing nations.

For example, the deposing of the Shah in Iran, and more importantly the loss of a vital oil supply even if only temporarily, was caused by an "Ugly American" approach to the Iranian people. Since the Shah's modernization plan was compatible with the United States' economic and geopolitical interests, he was given full support even when he denied the human rights of many. Secondly, until November 1978, the U.S. Embassy in Iran did not have even one staff specialist in Iranian religious affairs nor any contact with the Shah's major political opponent, Ayatollah R. Khomeini. And some supposed Middle East experts who knew the Shah well have admitted little knowledge of, nor interest in the Iranian people and culture.

Our difficulties in getting imported oil from Mexico's new-found oil deposits stem from a similar kind of contempt and disrespect of our southern neighbor. This was evident in a statement by a high-ranking Mexican diplomat. He said, "We want the Americans to stop thinking...that we are just a dumb, poor little country to the south."

### Paternalistic Attitude

While our paternalistic attitude as a nation toward Mexico goes back

many years, we don't have to look very far to find examples. First, President Carter's election year

commitment to a "new era" of neighborly cooperation was never implemented. Instead, paternalism

continued. Angered too over the U.S. failure to sell Mexico natural gas has led Mexican officials to declare that in addition to a fair price for their oil, they want to re-open negotiations on their purchase of natural gas and some help with their massive social and economic problems.

Undoubtedly, Mexico was listening when Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica, told the U.N. delegates from the world's poorest nations in 1975 that a new international economic order was necessary. Specifically, he said, "I suggest that OPEC... changed the fundamental equations of economic power as decisively as did the Industrial Revolution."

This very brief account represents just two examples of how our behavior and attitude as a nation toward the developing nations is a major factor in our inability to buy crude oil at a fair market price and thus not compound our already existing inflation problem.

Ironically, many black-owned businesses such as gas stations, and many industries - plastics for

### Serious Crisis

example - that employ blacks and use petroleum in their products may be facing a serious crisis with the oil shortage. Thus, the racism that helped create the oil shortage in the U.S. also hurts black Americans as small business people and as workers in certain industries.

Therefore, it's imperative that America begin to practice the human rights, the brotherhood of man and the equality of all that it so often preaches to others if it hopes to gain the confidence of many other nations. In so doing we can serve our own self interest by finding more oil available to us at a fair market price.

We must however realize that brotherhood means sharing our technological know-how not just exploit the resources of other nations for our own benefit but also to be for the benefit of the cooperating nation.

In effect, the sooner America begins to show the dignity and respect that is due to any and all national states, the sooner our

domestic oil crisis will begin to resolve itself. America, let's try to do this, first because it's morally

the right thing to do and secondly it's necessary that we do it.



## Jobs Plentiful Or Scarce?

by Dr. Maggie Nicholson  
Special To The Post  
Are jobs plentiful or scarce? The answer lies with the person who wants the job. Will you wait for a certain job or will you accept the first one that comes your way if the need is great or is it necessary to keep one's pride?

I'm thinking about a young man right after World War II. Jobs were scarce and he was fresh out of college, nothing in his field to do, but he was determined to have a job, so he bought a second hand washing machine and put it on his parents' back porch. Everytime he'd hear of a new baby he would go by to get the job washing the baby diapers. The news spread fast and soon he was able to rent an old store front and he put three machines in. After a while he was able to buy the building and then he fixed it up and filled it with machines. By this time his job came after he had finished college. His business was a thriving one so he hired someone to take care of his business while he took his professional job. It was easy for everyone to give him the best of references because he was ambitious and productive as well as a person who knew how to work with people in a job that not even the mothers of the babies wanted.

I am also thinking of a young lady before World War II who was out of work in another city. She had only enough money to pay one month's rent, put the lights on and turn the water on. She bought one case of coca cola and fifty pounds of ice, she used a wash tub for a refrigerator. She gave up her room and she was living in and moved in the back of the store, so one rent could do for both.

If the business did not succeed she would have the building



Dr. Nicholson

for a later date. Well every one saw she had guts to have made this undertaking, so they bought all of the sodas that first day. The next morning she increased her purchase and in a short time she had a store well stocked and was an outstanding business woman. I ask you, are jobs scarce or plentiful? Maybe it's a state of mind. Do you want to work? Do you want a job? If some one got the job that you think you should have had, get another one. Most times it turns out better you and also makes you become ambitious. A person said once that he never hired a person who did not follow up the job with a second call or try. That made him know that the person wanted the job.

When I was a little girl a peddler would come out in the country with his store on his back. A few years later a five and ten cent store was opened in the city. He had proof that the ladies needed and would buy these gadgets. You could see stores of the people with most anything that was used. Most of them owned their homes, be they small or large, but when the old heads passed the property up. Some sold it for little or nothing and blew it

to the wind while others kept theirs improved and profited.

Are jobs scarce or plentiful? Depends on what your state of mind is. Listen, the United States is receiving fifty thousand people from Cuba. There are the Boat people and all of the other people who are coming to our shores and are getting jobs. Are they all getting white collar jobs? Well, a news broadcast said that professional people like Drs. and others were accepting such jobs as janitors. I wonder in a few years they will hang out their shingles and hire their kin. What about the people who helped to till the soil, build the skyscrapers and railroads? There are those who instead of making jobs, they take two or three of the better paying jobs to keep them on top of their kin. They try to keep up with the Charles and the Joneses, with no thought or care how those who look up to them fare. They will gladly tell them what the welfare will do for them. Not caring that it takes their pride away. Yes I apply for food stamps. They were not worth the time it took to stand in line; I sent them back finally. The last time was a test case to see if they do what they said.

About the Boat people of Des Moines, Iowa, the Governor said there were almost no refugees on welfare, almost every one has a job and over one third own their homes. How did this happen I ask, when we hear so many say they can't get a job? Williams, a black community leader urged Iowans to open their hearts in the super markets to donate food, found shelter for about ten and ran a one man taxi (so states a local paper), for Iowa's newest minority. He called it "poor helping the poor." Now the Governor is asking the people of Iowa to take fifteen hundred more, so now Williams is resentful and is quitting.

## TO BE EQUAL



### Race Relations-How Much Progress?

Is the glass half-full or is it half-empty? That's the age-old dilemma of social analysts. Do you stress the amount of progress made, or do you stress the limited nature of that progress?

These musings are inspired by a public opinion poll conducted by Louis Harris and Associated on behalf of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The brunt of the survey results are that there has been a change for the better in the attitudes of the white majority toward black people.

The study found that a majority of whites don't believe blacks are "moving too fast." A majority of whites whose children are being bused to integrated schools are pleased with the result. The majority of whites say they don't mind having black neighbors. And a majority of whites back affirmative action - without, however, "rigid quotas."

Some of the results regarding white attitudes should be suggestive to policy-makers. For example, corporations holding back on promoting blacks to supervisory positions should know that only one out of ten of the whites surveyed objected to having a black supervisor.

Congressmen trying to sabotage court desegregation decisions should take notice of the considerable white support for school integration, at least as revealed in the Harris survey. A handful of extremists in a handful of cities have garnered the headlines with resistance to desegregation, but the Poll suggests that the white majority has accepted integrated schools as being here to stay.

So the positive aspect of this survey lies in the fact that it reveals significant changes in white opinion, changes that policy-makers in both the public and private sectors must take into account. The Poll provides evidence for the proposition that more strenuous efforts to bring equality to black people will be accepted by the white majority, and thus there is no excuse for not pressing ahead with such measures.

But I can't go overboard on stressing that this Poll's glass is half-full, for I am only too aware of the fact that the glass of racial progress is also half-empty. Despite the NCCJ's optimistic conclusion that the country is not in a regressive period of race relations and that "a period of real progress is now imminent," I have my doubts.

For one thing, the gap between white opinions and white actions is still enormous. Overt racism is out of fashion, so people may be more likely to tell poll-takers they don't mind having black neighbors. But when it comes to housing discrimination, racism is demonstrably still rampant.

Good thoughts do not automatically result in good actions. Some of the people who responded positively to the questions in the poll may act in a discriminatory manner or may tolerate discrimination by others. The survey may depict a progressive majority, but the facts indicate it is at best a silent majority indifferent to backing opinions with action.

The survey also shows a yawning gap between the way whites and blacks perceive issues of concern to blacks. For example, three out of four blacks say that without quotas, affirmative action won't be implemented. Only a fourth of whites agreed. Whites tend more than blacks to credit major institutions like government and business with concern for black advancement.

## Reading The Polls On Racial Issues

by Bayard Rustin  
Special To The Post

For quite a number of years I have preferred personal observation to supposedly scientific polls. When I participated in the early Freedom Rides and other civil rights demonstrations in the South I did not need a computer print-out sheet to inform me that a majority of whites hated black people. My own "unscientific" experience taught me that America suffered from a kind of ingrown racism, that manifested itself in the widespread discrimination and repression of blacks. And I needed no sophisticated economic studies to prove to me that the majority of blacks attended wretched schools, lived in sub-standard housing, and earned considerably less than their white counterparts. Polls, even with their record of unreliability, have a political impact in our society, an impact that cannot be ignored.

A recent study on racial issues commissioned by the National Conference of Christians and Jews serves as a perfect example of the power and controversial nature of polls. According to the survey, a majority of whites - 71 percent to be precise - believes that "after years of discrimination, it is only fair to set up



special programs to make sure that women and minorities are given every opportunity to have equal opportunities in employment and education." Based on this and other findings, the Conference concluded that "a period of real progress is now imminent." All this provoked an outpouring of criticism from several highly respected black leaders. One important black community spokesman claimed that the survey results "do not square with actual behavior." Another civil rights leader noted that the study's conclusions are "not true and totally inconsistent with what we find in our day-to-day lives as blacks and professionals." And still another suggested that the study might be used to justify

"going along with the status quo of racism."

In my view, the controversial study - like so many other pseudo-scientific polls - is a mixed bag. Critics who point out that the poll may be used to paint an overly rosy picture of race relations seem to have a point. Allow me to give you an illustration: The headline on the New York Times story reporting the survey results read "White Majority Found to Favor Affirmative Action for Blacks if Quotas Are Not Rigid." From this, a casual reader might conclude that all is well, that the last vestiges of racism have finally disappeared. But the survey contained other results, many of which I found shocking. Among the most disturbing features of the study were the following results: 40 percent of whites still believe that blacks have considerably less ambition than whites; 36 percent agree that blacks simply want a free ride, a welfare hand-out; and 35 percent tenaciously cling to the idea that blacks are inherently less intelligent than whites. To conclude that racism in America has largely vanished and that new breakthroughs are on the horizon strikes me as a bit premature. Although, the National Conference of

Christian and Jews certainly makes no such claim, the survey results, if surgically dissected and reassembled, can be used to justify complacency and unwarranted euphoria about the condition of black people.

As a mixed bag, the survey also contains some good news, news which should not be ignored. Like numerous other studies - I can think of last year's CBS News-New York Times poll, and several surveys completed by the National Opinion Research Center, General Social Surveys, and the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research - the Conference study documents a slow but rather consistent shift in white attitudes toward blacks. Every poll I have seen in the last few years shows that a significantly larger number of whites now accept the idea of open housing, equal employment opportunity, continued welfare assistance to the poor, and even various forms of meaningful affirmative action.

Again, I hasten to restate my skepticism about polls, but I think I can reasonably assert that my own limited experience confirms the findings of the pollsters. There has been a change in racial attitudes,

and the change has been more than merely cosmetic. Racism, of course, has not died, but it has taken a beating. To deny the existence of positive change is to deny

hope. And to deny hope is to risk lulling black America into a state of desperation, and apathy. A demoralized movement is the weakest movement of all.

### Ambassador Young To

### Represent President Carter

President Jimmy Carter has named Ambassador Andrew Young to be his Special Representative at the Australian-American Week celebrations in Australia in early May. Ambassador

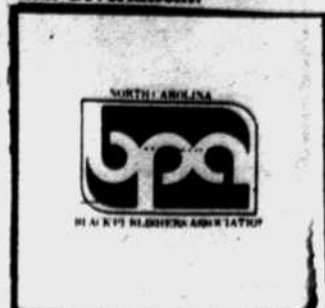
Young was invited to be the guest of honor at these annual celebrations by the Australian-American Association. While there Ambassador Young will

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consult with the government of Australia on international issues of importance to Australia and the United States. Ambassador Young will be accompanied by Mrs. Young.

During his trip he will visit Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. After these annual celebrations by the Australian-American Association, he will be a joint guest of the Association and of the Australian Government.



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