

VIEWPOINT

Let Shah face charges

By **GERRY LANDSBOROUGH**
Herald columnist

Crisis brings out the worst and the best in all men and all nations. The Iranian crisis is no exception.

Some American television stations are breaking with the war cry of "remember the hostages." Exactly what such sentiments are expected to arouse, other than hate is indeed debatable.

Some enterprising souls in the States have come up with a Khomenei dart board; again the purpose of such a pastime is certainly not peace-inducing.

When it comes to propaganda, the so-called "truth" is anybody's guess. All countries are guilty of propaganda and all countries have their own forms of espionage.

The latest reports on the deposed Shah of Iran show

Daycare to be studied

Halton region will be undertaking a \$22,000 regional day care study, slated for completion in 1980, despite objections from several councillors.

Oakville Coun. Laurie Mannell opposed the study last Wednesday, pointing out the region has "already had at least three day care studies and nothing's been changed".

The study was defended by Burlington Coun. Walter Muikewich, chairman of Halton's health and social services committee, who said the study would go far beyond previous staff reports.

Coun. Joan Allingham, also from Burlington, suggested the \$22,000 "should be put directly into the day care system", agreeing with Coun. Mannell that council had all the demographics it needed on day care.

him to be a totally immoral ruler along the lines of a Hitler. The Savak, the secret police force of the Shah, apparently used extreme torture methods including the torturing of children in order to make the parents talk. In the final months just before the revolution, the Shah, under pressure from U.S. President Carter, did try to end some of the more excessive methods of the Savak, but by then the end of his regime was already looming.

However, here's where the propaganda comes into the picture. The United States supported the Shah's government. It was American technology that built Iranian oil wells; it was American know-how and ingenuity that brought Iran, through the government of the Shah, out of the middle ages and into the twentieth century.

If Americanism stands for such degradation and immorality so totally offensive to the Iranian way of life, why have so many Iranians chosen to be educated at American Universities? America and her close allies present a culture which represents the heights of man's virtues and the depths of his vices. There is no way of having one without the other.

The evidence offered by Iranian students holding the hostages strongly suggests that espionage played a role in the American embassy. However, in order to fulfill its role as protector to her people, both at home and abroad, the

United States had to be aware of what is happening in other nations, especially those opposed to the individual freedom that life in America offers.

If President Jimmy Carter took half or all of the gold reserves from Fort Knox and sought refuge in another country, what would the position of the American government be?

In all likelihood, they would not take innocent people hostage against their will and use blackmail as a bargaining position for justice. If the allegations against the Shah are well-founded (aside from propaganda), then he should face some kind of international tribunal.

Senator Ted Kennedy has jumped into the picture by condemning the Shah, and I believe such condemnation throws mud over the United States itself. You cannot extend the hand of friendship to those in power and, to the same former friends, offer the heel of your boot when deposed and still remain credible to the world at large.

The United States of America is a great nation and, despite its weakness, offers to its people, in an idealistic but nevertheless sought-after creed, individual freedom and happiness that is without equal anywhere in the world today.

It is ironic that the very nations whose hands are quickest to grab hand-outs - food,

financial support, technological know-how, etc. are the very same ones who take with one hand and declare they can stand on their own, while leaning on the American crutch that supports their whole being.

Though America is probably not without fault in this Iran mess, the only path that can be followed is to offer the Shah asylum in a country that cannot afford to yield to blackmail.

Meanwhile, if a neutral country can be agreed upon, let the Shah face charges of taking public funds. If it proves true, let the stolen monies be returned to the people of Iran. That is justice, but to send the Shah himself to face death is merely revenge.

Espionage is a very dirty business. All countries engage in it and none can stand blameless. But even within those boundaries, the methods used by Iran to focus attention on this matter - blackmail, threats, kidnapping - receives condemnation from all nations of the world for such methods cannot be condoned.

If the charges are true, let their monies be returned to them by settlement in a world court, but first they must release the hostages because in the name of freedom for all nations living in democracy, the United States of America cannot afford to back down to violent threats or blackmail.



About PetroCan

Staff comment

by **Richard Petrashek**

John McDermid, Conservative MP for Brampton-Georgetown and his near-sighted contemporaries in the federal government want to sell the profit-making section of PetroCan to the private sector.

Why?

They contend that private enterprise can do a better job for Canadians than a state-owned agency.

Mr. McDermid defended his plans to sell PetroCan at a debate two weeks ago sponsored by the Committee for an Independent Canada.

The oil industry in the United States is dominated by American companies. Following the logic of the federal Conservatives, that should mean that Americans are faring better than countries which have a state-controlled oil industry.

The last six years have seen the U.S. suffer through two severe oil shortages that were accompanied by massive oil price increases.

In many states, individuals found themselves either spending long hours in gas line-ups or not receiving any gas at all because they didn't make an appointment the day before with the station manager in their neighbourhood. Still others found there were days when they could get no gas because their licence plates were odd-numbered and it was an even-numbered gas day.

CITIZENS ENDURED

During those difficult periods endured by citizens of the U.S., the oil companies were making massive windfall profits, none of which was returned to the American consumer.

Just south of the U.S. is a country that chose an alternative route.

Since the Forties, all the production, refinement and retail sale of oil in Mexico has been handled by PEMEX, a state-owned monopoly.

At no time since the inception of PEMEX have Mexicans had to endure oil shortages, long gas line-ups or massive price increases.

More importantly, any profits made by PEMEX were used by the government for resource exploration or improved servicing.

In recent years, we have seen Mexico grow in stature in the world community through new oil finds and an improved standard of living.

Would Mexico still be in such an enviable position if its oil industry was controlled by the private sector?

In the past week we have seen a number of developments that paint a dark picture for the coming winter.

Exxon, known as Esso in Canada, has reported that, should there be an oil shortage this winter as a result of developments in the Middle East, the company might divert oil shipments headed for Canada to the United States.

Following that announcement, Prime Minister Clark admitted that an oil shortage this winter is a very real possibility.

To compound the situation, we have had reports warning us to expect a 25-cent per gallon increase in the price of gasoline.

In the light of all these announcements, it would appear that the government should not be considering how best to sell off the profit generating portion of PetroCan, but rather exploring how to expand its control so that Canadians will be able to reduce their dependence on OPEC nations and American oil giants.

The route that Prime Minister Clark and his Tory government choose to take will decide the fate of future generations of Canadians for a long time to come.

At a time when energy is the most important issue in the world, can we afford to allow our fates to rest in the hands of private industry?

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JOHN 15:7
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