

# Interviewees on bias

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"I've been aware for some time of the problems that Jewish people have had to face and I see that they don't have the same kinds of restrictions or problems to face anymore, and I think the same will happen for all races. It just will happen because people are maturing. It's kind of discouraging and I wouldn't want to be on the other side of the fence but it will happen."



Patrick Wilson, newspaper employee: "It all depends on how you define racism. Now the way that Andy Young defines racism we're all racist. You're a racist."

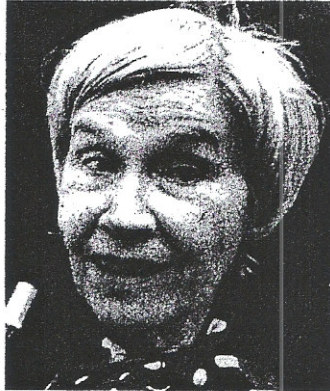
"Now if you mean one race hurting another race, that's what I consider racism this has not affected me because I have not consciously hurt anyone, nor have they hurt me. I have had no problems personally. I interact with people."

"I hope we will be able to overcome it. I am never quite sure when it come to human emotions. You can never tell how the human animal is going to react. I would hope so but I cannot honestly stand here and say that I think it is going to be resolved. I cannot say that. I hope it will be, though."



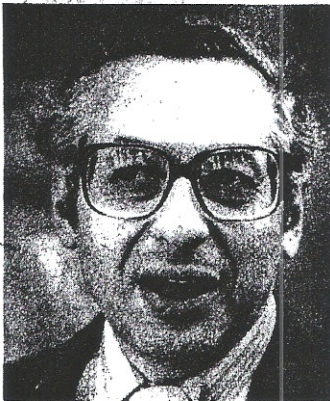
David Silverman, restaurant owner: "I feel that racism has done a lot of harm for this country. If people could get along it would be a much better world. I try to be good to everybody. It (racism) hasn't had any personal effect on me, but I see it around me. I see it affecting other people."

"It's going to be a long haul but I think we will overcome racism in this country. We are going to have go."



Unidentified school teacher: "As far as racism is concerned, sir, I have employees and I'm white and they're black and I love them and they love me and we get along beautifully and we're great friends and that's it."

I never had any racism in my youth. I don't know how racism has affected the country. I can't speak for the country, I can only speak for myself. And this I can tell you we're all human beings. We're all people of God. God made you and me and him all the same way."



Marvin Klein, salesman: "Well, I don't think anybody completely conquers it. That's pretty hard to do. But I think racism has affected this country tremendously, as I'm sure everyone agrees. But I think the country has gone a long way towards improving it, now. I think there are some big strides being made."

And I think that if we can keep up this progress, maybe in 30 or 40 years probably, maybe it will be a different story all the way around for everybody."

I think that probably I just came about it from the fact that I was able to have empathy for the other person, what it would feel like to be the other person — feelings for someone being put down because of their race and just feel what it would be like in the other person's shoes and start changing my attitudes so that I don't put anybody down that way."



Linda Irving, secretary: "Racism, I would say has affected me quite a lot, especially living in Chicago. As you know, I'm sure, Chicago's having a lot of racial problems, especially now."

"I would say that I grew up fairly liberal, as far as racism is concerned. It wasn't forced upon me to hate blacks, you know what I'm saying. So, it wasn't too hard for me to be flexible, you know what I mean."

"But I still run into a lot of my friends who are very prejudiced and very down on anyone — Puerto Ricans, everybody. That part of it has been hard because a lot of times when you start an argument with somebody trying to stick up for you guys — you guys, that's terrible, but you know where I'm coming

from — people really come down on you hard. When you get called, whatever — nigger-lover, whatever — just like I'm sure people say the same thing to you guys."

"I think it's possible to conquer racism in this country but honestly, it's going to take a damn long time. Look how long it's taken already just to get to this and this is really nothing — it really isn't for how advanced we supposedly are. So, I think it can happen but it's going to take a lot of people changing and an awful long time."



Gail Stockholm, West Coast writer: "I go along with his answer. I do think it's a serious problem for our country. I wish that everyone could say that it is not a problem and that they had not experienced the hurt. I think there's a lot of hurt out there."

"If racism is not resolved, I don't think the country will be here."

## Jewish community not monolithic

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Israel but is becoming more rational, just and informed. He pointed out, "I think there is a much deeper questioning of these issues than before" and added "there isn't the automatic reaction (to go along with Israel) anymore."

Senator Ribicoff objects to the attempt by some Jewish leaders in the U.S. to give carte blanc support to all Israel policy. "The idea is, if a U.S. Senator can question the policies of the Israeli government, he has the same right and duty to question the policies of the Israeli government if he doesn't agree with them," he said.

This balanced view of Israel, its policies and treatment of the Palestinian people is also manifest inside Israel.

Recently, 360 Israeli professors and intellectuals signed a petition appearing in a Tel Aviv newspaper and reported on in American newspapers

prompting Prime Minister Menachem Begin to make more concessions in the search for a just Middle East Peace.

The petition also supported an Israeli war veterans movement that challenges Begin's policies. The veterans recently staged a rally inside Israel that attracted 25,000 people opposed to Begin's position.

The petition stated "the government policy is not leading to compromise and peace but to the loss of friends and the increasing of Israel's isolation."

The support of the Prime Minister among the religious Jews of Israel is also taking a turn.

Three hundred religious Israelis recently wrote him saying that from the standpoint of the Jewish religious view seeking peace is more important than continued occupation of the West Bank because of its religious importance.