

ECONOMICS, LABOR & BUSINESS

the country, funneled back to the government to shore up the trade balance or pay for programs such as highway maintenance.

Stiff gasoline taxes—especially levies designed to catch up to the sharp July 1979 OPEC oil price hikes—would surely inconvenience some drivers, particularly in North America. But, say the authors, the oil cartel's latest 1980 price hikes are reminders that heretofore low gasoline taxes helped make such increases bearable and possible.

SOCIETY

*The Chinese
in America*

"Chinese in the United States: A Century of Occupational Transition" by Haitung King and Frances B. Locke, in *International Migration Review* (Spring 1980), Center for Migration Studies, 209 Flagg Pl., Staten Island, N.Y. 10304.

During America's frontier boom from 1850 to 1880, the sight of pig-tailed Chinese men panning northern California's streams for gold became common. Yet, beginning in the 1870s, opportunities for immigrant Chinese in the New World narrowed, and their descendants are still underrepresented in some white-collar occupations.

*During recessions,
anti-Chinese feeling in
America grew.
California magazines
such as The Wasp
urged immigration
bans during the 1880s.*



The Oakland Museum

SOCIETY

Nearly 50,000 Chinese laborers landed in California during the Gold Rush of the 1850s. According to Locke and King, of the National Cancer Institute, many quickly found work laying railroad track or serving as cooks in mining camps. But in 1870, as California's white and Chinese populations grew, the U.S. economy nosedived. Competition from white jobseekers drove the more affluent Chinese into businesses with minimal overhead and labor costs (e.g., grocery stores). Others took less sought after jobs as houseboys, waiters, and laundrymen. Through 1920, the proportion of American Chinese employed in these "personal services" rose from 40.9 to 58 percent.

White racism and the boom-and-bust course of the U.S. economy in the late 19th century prompted Congress to bar Chinese immigration in 1882, 1892, and 1902 (a ban that continued until 1943). But beginning in the 1930s, reports of Japan's brutal invasion of China softened American prejudice. Moreover, growing numbers of U.S.-born Chinese had adopted American ways. As a result, career opportunities widened. Finally, highly-educated Chinese refugees streamed to the United States following the Communist takeover in 1949. By 1970, the proportion of Chinese working in personal services had plummeted to 7.1 percent (still higher than the 2.3 percent figure for whites). Chinese employed in manufacturing more than doubled, from 7.6 to 17.3 percent. And the proportion of professionals jumped from 2.2 to 21.2 percent, surpassing the figure of 17 percent for working whites. Today, higher percentages of Chinese men hold college degrees than do white or black males.

Chinese are still overrepresented in some fields. In 1970, 83 percent of Chinese men in personal services worked in food services—chiefly in restaurants—compared with 24 percent of white males. Relatively few Chinese are salaried managers and administrators. And most Chinese professionals work in technical areas such as science and engineering—which the authors suggest stems from the language obstacles facing many educated immigrants who might otherwise have become lawyers or teachers.

The Public and Abortion

"Shifts in Abortion Attitudes: 1972–1978" by Helen Rose Fuchs Ebaugh and C. Allen Haney, in *Journal of Marriage and the Family* (Aug. 1980), National Council on Family Relations, 1219 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55414.

After rising steadily during the 1960s, pro-abortion sentiment declined during the 1970s, report University of Houston sociologists Ebaugh and Haney.

Polls measuring approval of various justifications for abortion show that public support peaked shortly after the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions legalized the operation. That year, between 81 and 91 percent of respondents supported abortion for "hard" reasons—protecting a mother's health, ending a pregnancy caused by rape, and guarding against children with serious birth de-