The New Jersey public clearly feels that the present energy crisis and gasoline shortage is not real but has been created by the oil companies. According to the latest New Jersey Poll, conducted between January 30 and February 5 by the Eagleton Institute of Rutgers University, only 8% of New Jerseyans believed that the energy crisis was real while 74% felt that the oil companies were holding back supplies of oil and gasoline. An additional 12% thought that the energy crisis was real but that the oil companies were also holding back. The remaining 6% had no opinion.

When asked if specific people or groups were to blame for the energy crisis, respondents were again critical of the oil companies. Almost three-quarters of those surveyed—71%—said that the oil companies were "very much to blame." An additional 19% felt the oil companies were "somewhat to blame," with only 6% responding that the companies were "not at all to blame." The remaining 4% had no opinion.

President Nixon and the Congress also came in for considerable criticism for their role in the energy crisis. Nixon was held "very much to blame" by 37% and "somewhat to blame" by 39%. The comparable figures for Congress are 24% and 47%.

Some blame for the energy crisis was attributed to the Arabs—21% said they were "very much to blame" and 47% said "somewhat to blame." The Israelis, on the other hand, were much less criticized—only 10% saying they were "very much to blame" and 38% "somewhat to blame."
Despite claims by some oil company officials that the environmental movement prevented them from acquiring sufficient resources of gas and oil, New Jerseyans were much less willing to hold environmentalists responsible for the energy crisis. Only 10% called the environmentalists "very much to blame" and 39% called them "somewhat to blame."

When asked if the general public was to blame for the energy crisis, only 9% said the public was "very much to blame" and 42% said "somewhat to blame." Almost half the respondents--45%--held the general public "not at all to blame." Despite the fact that the public appears to be deeply suspicious of the role the oil companies have played in the present energy crisis, most people still favor permitting the oil companies to build oil refineries and storage facilities in their localities. Almost half--49%--were in favor of such construction, 38% were opposed, and 13% had no opinion on the subject.

There is no doubt the energy crisis and the resulting gasoline shortage is perceived by most people to be a major problem. When asked what they thought were the two or three most important issues facing New Jersey, 55% mentioned either the energy crisis or the shortage of gasoline. The gasoline shortage, however, was more likely to be mentioned by respondents in some parts of the state than others. Among all respondents from all parts of the state 32% specifically mentioned the gasoline shortage as an important problem. In the central counties of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset, and Monmouth 42% named the gas shortage as a problem. In the northeastern part of the state--Bergen, Essex and Hudson counties--only 30% volunteered the gas shortage as a serious problem for the state. In the remaining northern counties--Sussex, Warren, Passaic, Morris and Union--35% mentioned the gas shortage. In the southern part of the state--Burlington, Ocean counties and south--the smallest percentage--25%--of respondents named the gas shortage as an important problem.

The Ninth New Jersey Poll was conducted by telephone from the Eagleton Institute of Politics in New Brunswick, N.J. A scientifically selected random sample of 1226 New Jerseyans 18 years of age or older were interviewed.
Who do you think is to blame for the energy crisis?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very much to blame</th>
<th>Somewhat to blame</th>
<th>Not at all to blame</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oil companies</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabs</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentalists</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israelis</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General public</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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TO: POLITICAL REPORTERS
FROM: STEPHEN SALMORE
SUBJECT: THE NEW JERSEY POLL, RELEASE #1, NINTH POLL, MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, 1974

The questions on which this release is based are as follow:

"A number of different groups and people have been blamed for the energy crisis. I am going to mention some of the different people and groups. I want you to tell me whether you feel they are very much to blame, somewhat to blame, or not at all to blame for the present energy crisis. Do you think that (...) is very much to blame, somewhat to blame or not at all to blame? (START LIST AT DESIGNATED POINT,*"

The Congress
The oil companies
The general public
The president
The Arabs
The Israelis
The environmentalists

"In light of the current situation, would you be in favor of or opposed to having an oil company build a refinery and storage facility in your locality?"

*In order to avoid the list being read in the same order to respondents, each interviewer was asked to start at a different point. This was used to avoid any bias due to one person or group always being mentioned first.