

Carter's job performance rated negative

United Press International
NEW YORK — President Carter's job rating dropped again in the eyes of the American public and it may go down still further because of rejection of a government-endorsed coal contract, the Harris Survey says.

The poll released Monday had rated negatively by people of all political philosophies, and for the first time, he was given bad marks in his native South and among liberals.

The Harris organization said that in a nationwide survey of 1,510 adults, 58 percent gave Carter a negative rating for overall performance and 41 percent gave him a positive mark.

This was down from the 49 percent to 47 percent negative rating the president got in January. Carter's best marks in the Harris Survey were recorded in April of last year — a 69 percent to 27 percent positive rating.

The Harris group cautioned that the poll was taken before striking coal miners voted on the administration-backed coal contract. With rejection of the pact, the organization said, "it is likely that the president could slip even below the current lows recorded in this survey."

Sixty-nine percent of those interviewed gave Carter negative marks for his handling of the economy while 27 percent were positive.

The president also was given a 60 percent to 32 percent negative score on his relations with Congress, and 59 percent to 36 percent negative rating on "restoring confidence in government" — a sharp reversal from the 48 percent to 47 percent positive rating of January.

On his dealings with Russia, Carter scored 52 percent to 34 percent negative; his handling of the Panama Canal treaties was 59 percent to 26 percent negative; and his tax proposals drew a 50 percent to 34 percent negative rating.

Only on his Middle East efforts did Carter score positively — 46 percent to 45 percent — but this was well below the 57 percent to 35 percent positive rating of January and the 63 percent to 29 percent score in the peace euphoria of last November.

More weather forecast details goal of research

United Press International
PHILADELPHIA — The recent winter storms that have dumped awesome amounts of snow in the Northeast and Midwest and the raging rainstorms along the Pacific Coast underline the best and worst of weather forecasting.

Meteorologists have warned residents about impending conditions well in advance of the approaching storms.

But when it comes to predicting specific conditions while a storm is in progress, well talk to the people in Boston who have found lately that the best way to leave the house is out the second-story window.

Drexel University meteorologist Carl Kreitzberg says it is almost impossible right now to predict how intense storms will behave from hour to hour.

He says that ironically, forecasters are better equipped to predict overall conditions for the next two or three days than specific conditions over the next two or three hours.

Kreitzberg and other Drexel meteorologists are working on a system to erase the so-called "blind spot."

"The development or decay of a system cannot be handled right now," he says. "But I think we will see significant improvement in detailed short-range forecasting by the early 1980s."

Developing a solid, short-range forecasting system won't be easy because the science of weather forecasting is immensely complicated.

Weather observers around the world gather information on the atmosphere's initial condition — data such as wind, temperature, pressure, precipitation. This information is fed into National Weather Service (NWS) computers which predict atmospheric changes based on physical laws of motion. The huge NWS computers do not have the capacity to digest all this material more than a few times a day.

Kreitzberg is devising a method to feed atmospheric data into computers every hour.

"We're working on smaller scale features and refining forecasts downward," he says.

The movement toward more accurate short-range forecasts has already begun. The weather service has installed 50 mini-computers throughout the country to provide rapid data collection.

He says the NWS Severe Storm Center in Kansas City will be using his system on an experimental basis next spring.

"It is difficult to anticipate and document what will be gained," he says. "I wouldn't want the Severe Storm Center to use my forecast while they were still in the experimental stage because people's lives depend on it. Just as you don't want to go to the airport and try out an experimental craft."

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