

**INTERVIEW WITH HOWARD SCARROW  
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**November 22, 1988**

**Dr. Hartzell:** Interview with Howard Scarrow, Department of Political Science, Tuesday, November 22, in my office.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Where's Dave Tilley these days?

**Dr. Hartzell:** Quinnipiac College.

**Dr. Scarrow:** I'd forgotten all about him until I see his name there.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Let's go through a few of these questions, your name, department, rank or position now.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, now, Howard Scarrow, Department of Political Science, and I'm a Full Professor.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Right, what year did you come to Stony Brook?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Ah, it was January 1963

**Dr. Hartzell:** January.

**Dr. Scarrow:** It was mid-year and that's why this is my twenty-fifth year, I've just been notified. Also, another thing, Karl, you endure and much remember, this very day, twenty-five years ago, you know where you were? I was attending an Executive Committee meeting of the faculty, then I was Faculty Secretary or something, I remember you came in and said the President was shot.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Is that right.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Am I right on that?

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, I think I was there.

**Dr. Scarrow:** I know you are the one who relayed the message to me, but then the problem, I wasn't, I'm wondering did I come, therefore, I must have come in January, well, wait a minute, that's right, because you asked me when I came, that was January 1963, he was shot in November 1963, by which time I had assumed the august position of

Secretary of the Faculty, and we were, that gave me entrée, that made me part of the Executive Committee. And I very much remember we were sitting in this library in its old configuration, and you had been called from the room presumably by a phone call, and you came and announced to those of us who were sitting there that the President had been shot, and I think we dismissed the meeting at that point, yep.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I remember I wrote a little statement, and it was put on the bulletin boards. And Dave Tilley told me subsequently that that statement did more to make the students look differently at the administration, more favorably than anything that had happened up to that point.

**Dr. Scarrow:** That's interesting.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I remember the students wanted to plant a tree somewhere out in one of the dormitory, I think it was G Dorm, they wanted to plant a tree outside the cafeteria, I think, and I went out there and stood with them.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Incredible what an impact that thing had on all of us.

**Dr. Hartzell:** It had a tremendous impact.

**Dr. Scarrow:** I remember last night as we were watching a program on Channel 13, I asked Rowena and also my son who is home now, what if the President was shot today, what if it were Bush or Reagan or anybody, would there have been that impact. It's hard, we'll never know until it happens again, but there was something about that period that was just incredible.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I think that Kennedy had gotten across to the American people a certain kind of idealism with respect to the country and what was expected of the citizenry primarily from his inaugural address, and we were all caught up in that, euphoria isn't quite right, but caught up with the spirit. Now, I don't think that, in some ways Bush has not gotten across yet, I think he may, it depends on how he handles himself. Reagan's being shot and the way he took it came close to getting across to the country that here's a individual who is courageous and humorous, doesn't take himself too seriously. But

these kinds come out in ways and under circumstances you don't, you can't foresee. You came in January 1963.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Right.

**Dr. Hartzell:** How old were you at the time?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, let's see, if I've been here twenty-five years and I'm sixty, I guess that made me 35, wow, a youngster; and I came from Michigan State. And the reason I had started to live here was that I had a Social Science Research Council Fellowship to take me to Canada. I didn't want to give that up, so we had spent the fall semester doing research in Ottawa and then we came down here. And so when I had visited in the spring of 1962, I visited at Oyster Bay. So when I arrived, I came to the campus at Stony Brook. Martin Travis drove me out here in the spring, anyway I had seen bulldozers at work so I wasn't totally

**Dr. Hartzell:** Who was responsible primarily for your coming here?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, it was Martin Travis, I was his graduate assistant at Duke University, and so when I learned that he was chairman, actually I had occasion to correspond with him when I thought he was still at Stanford and the thing got forwarded to him, and he wrote me, by the way I'm here at Stony Brook, which, of course, I'd never heard of, actually it was in Oyster Bay but etcetera, etcetera. And he said, I'm chairman and would you like a job. And, well, I thought about it, and as I said, I was at Michigan State, there were several factors there I didn't particularly like, and also it wasn't one hundred percent certain I was going to get tenure, so I had to sort of say, well, do I take a chance, do I want to go or not. So, I had to, I said, well, why don't I look at it anyway. Frankly, I thought Long Island and Staten Island and Manhattan Island were more or less synonyms for skyscraper country. And, of course, I came out and saw Martin's beautiful home in Oyster Bay and saw that Long Island was indeed not the same as Staten Island or Manhattan Island and so that sort of convinced me. Also the weather was beautiful, a day like today, rather than the cloudy midwest, so everything combined to make me think, my Gosh, maybe I should do this. So I accepted the position with the *caveat* that I could

continue my plans to go to Ottawa, which I was going to spend the fall semester there. So that's how it happened, sort of providential series of accidents really.

**Dr. Hartzell:** How did you know Martin?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, he was at Duke University when I was a Ph. D. graduate student, and I was assigned to him as his grader, I graded a couple of papers for him. He didn't work me very hard, for which I was very grateful. But, so we met a Duke, and then he left Duke and went to Stanford and then from Stanford he came here.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Was Waldo Beach at Duke?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yes, he was, he was indeed, I remember the name and the religion part.

**Dr. Hartzell:** He just retired.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Oh, has he.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I knew the family, and I knew his older brother, and his middle brother. Number 6, or number 5, anybody else interview you when you came?

**Dr. Scarrow:** No, well, I remember I had dinner with Harry Kalish when I came out, the three of us had dinner. Harry was one of the salespersons who tried to convince me what a great place this was. That was a lot of fun.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Stan Ross?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Stan, I'm trying to think, I don't think, maybe I did meet Stan Ross, but, of course, he was just professor of history then, he wasn't in his administrative job until later. I probably did, my recollection of Stan is so strongly influenced by his subsequent activities that I sort of blurred out whether I met him at that one visit or not.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Okay, all right, let's see, you're talking about a visit in 1962.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yes, that would be the spring

**Dr. Hartzell:** Oh, Stan

**Dr. Scarrow:** Maybe he wasn't even here then.

**Dr. Hartzell:** He wasn't here then, neither was I.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Okay, all right, that's right, it was this tremendous turmoil with Lee, was that his name, in fact, I think that more or less all Kalish and Martin talked about

while I, I was sort listening to the infighting or whatever you want to call it that was going on at that point. Yes, that's right, it was just the transition period, very much so, but

**Dr. Hartzell:** You came in the winter of 1963.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yes, you must have come just in the fall.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I came in September of 1962.

**Dr. Scarrow:** September of 1962, yes, you have been here only three or four months by the time I arrived, yeah, well.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Have you explained the 6 to your

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, I think why did I come, it was a combination of positive attraction here, plus the negative factors at Michigan State, not the least of which was the lousy weather. I think being a Michigander I know precisely what the Michigan winters are like, so that was one factor. Then, as I say, the uncertainty of whether I'd get tenure, I had to sort of take a chance on that, conceivably I would have, conceivably I wouldn't have, but

**Dr. Hartzell:** Did you come with tenure?

**Dr. Scarrow:** I came and that was one of the factors, understandings, I don't know if it was formally, but the understanding was that that would be implicit, that I would get it ultimately. As a matter of fact, I remember discussing this with a colleague at Michigan State whether I should come or not, and he said, and he's still there, Joe Schlesinger, he said, you know, tenure is a fiendish device invented by universities to keep people at the university, because the worse thing that can do to the person but the best from the point of view of the university is give people tenure, because it immediately sets in inertia, why do I want to leave. But as long as you don't have tenure, you're just uncertain enough that you're willing to take chances, to go places, and it seems to me, oh, there's another thing, plus the fact that the salary was going to be considerably more, I think I was earning \$4,500 at that point, which was a fairly good salary in those days. I had a friend of mine at Ann Arbor who was making only \$4,000; we both had graduated the same time, Michigan State salary was \$500 more than beginning instructor level, and by that

time I was an assistant professor, and so I think I got out here some fantastic salary like \$6,500 or \$7,000. I don't know, but exponentially it just seemed an incredible increase when you were thinking in terms of maybe a \$50 increase one year, or maybe if you're really good you get \$100 or \$200, my Gosh, all of a sudden your salary practically doubles. So all those things sort of combined to say, well, let's take a chance and go out.

**Dr. Hartzell:** So all those factors

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, but one, knowing someone like Martin here, so it wasn't completely strange; two, sort of the excitement of a totally new, after all Michigan State was founded the first land-grant colleges, 1845 or whatever it was, and that place is thoroughly established with 30,000 people even then, now it's more like 50,000. And you were part of a huge institution, you never got to know anyone, you hardly knew people in your department, you had about 30 or 40 people you didn't even meet. You come out here and you meet everybody, everyone is in one building, all departments are in one building, and it was just such a totally new experience, it was sort of a challenge. So that and then plus the salary, and then the uncertainty of tenure and whether all combined.

**Dr. Hartzell:** What was your understanding of the purposes behind the creation of Stony Brook.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, I remember that very vividly because they were, Harry Kalish and Martin told me how it started out to be a teachers college then the mandate was totally changed, and that was behind the ..... and their coming out here and that was behind some of the turmoil at the time, some people had been recruited and their understanding that it was going to be a certain kind of college and then all of a sudden it was to be a graduate center with a totally different mandate. Although I had no illusion as to what the mandate was by the time I was on board, it was going to be a graduate center.

**Dr. Hartzell:** One of the four centers.

**Dr. Scarrow:** One of the four centers, in fact, frankly that was one of the positive aspects, had it been its original purpose of a four year college that wouldn't have been nearly so attractive to me, so that was a plus.

**Dr. Hartzell:** What were your impressions of Stony Brook when you first came?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, as I have indicated it's smallness was such a change. We'd have lunch together and that means history, economics, sociology, English and everybody else would sit around the table and that was it. And that was such a wonderful experience.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Where was the table?

**Dr. Scarrow:** It was in a small room over in what is now the Humanities Building, but was sort of a faculty lounge, lunchroom with a coffee pot, round table, not, probably could fit in this room very nicely, not that everyone came at once, but because we had staggered lunch hours, but you could always find a group of six or eight people representing six or so departments, and you got to know people outside your, in fact you had to, because I did. Martin and I were the only two members of Political Science when we started out. Merton Reichler, he, I guess he was the third one. That was it. So it was hardly a big deal to have lunch with other people, you'd almost have to just be definition. So I think that was the overwhelming impression of its intimacy, which by the way extended to social occasions too, most notably social occasions. Faculty play reading groups, I remember; do you remember those, were you part of those?

**Dr. Hartzell:** I never participated.

**Dr. Scarrow:** They were just wonderful; in fact some of my, the fact that I know Natalie and Ed Fiess so well today, or Tom Irvine, they all stem from the play reading groups. And Feingold, Arnie and Jean Feingold, all those people I never would have met had it not been for those play reading groups, and to this day we remain very good friends. So that was the kind of thing that never had happened and presumably never would happen at Michigan State any more than it happens, Karl, at this University today. I mean that is the price we pay for bigness, nothing to do about it, but it

**Dr. Hartzell:** Well, I wonder.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, maybe you can try to do something about it, but it will never recapture the days, I mean people's living rooms aren't big enough to have a play reading group where all the faculty is invited. You just have to do it another way. But, so those were my overwhelming impressions.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Did you ever come to Planting Fields?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Only, the first graduation was held there, the June of 1963, which I guess was perhaps the last graduation that was held there, or maybe there's one

**Dr. Hartzell:** I think they had two there.

**Dr. Scarrow:** They had two there, so I went to those, but only in the graduation. Of course, I have been subsequently back because of Martin's summer institute, but I never went there as part of this University.

**Dr. Hartzell:** We had the head of the British Consulate as speaker in 1963 from New York.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Uh, huh, I do remember that. The other thing, of course, that I remember, is, Karl, just the smallness, the fact that the library is now where the lunch room is. Your office was off the library. That was the administration building, and then that building housed library, administration, political science, history, economics, English, sociology, and I guess everything except the natural sciences. That is just an incredible fact when I look at this place today, and look at the lunchroom, and particularly your office because sometime the executive committee would meet in your office.

**Dr. Hartzell:** It was over across the hall.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, yeah, now we need a whole building just to house the bureaucracy, which you and your ..... manage to do quite well. I don't know if there's a story in that or not, I'll leave it up to you.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I'm trying to find Ann Jansen, my secretary, I don't know where she is now. I'd like to interview her. What events or persons or experiences stand out in your mind?



**Dr. Scarrow:** Well,

**Dr. Hartzell:** Incidentally, what particular part of political science is your special interest?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, at that time and it still is to some extent, comparative politics, European politics, Canadian politics, politics outside the United States.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Probably following the elections in

**Dr. Scarrow:** Very, very much so, I've subsequently become more oriented toward American politics, but certainly at this time that was what I was hired for, and because other people were teaching the American stuff. But on the question of what events, what persons, what experiences, of course, from the early years I suppose one thing that stands out in my mind was that, we talked about Dave Tilley, from the very beginning this campus had a problem with students, and I think ultimately it's a problem that we've never gotten rid of. But this is almost a commuter college, I mean, that people live in their own homes on the weekends and use this, so that's just a problem we're stuck with to this day. But I remember you, Karl, asking me to, I forget what the mandate was, but it had something to do with, oh, student behavior or something like that. And I think two things were operating here, and I'm combining this with what's happened in the next two or three years after that, perhaps even after Dave Tilley left. We were getting into a drug culture which I didn't realize we were getting into. But coming out from Michigan I couldn't quite figure out what was a national trend and what was peculiar to eastern Long Island, where I happened to end up. I now realize that that was just part of a national trend getting started. Also, even and now it's coming to me, before the drugs it was just this whole sexual revolution which was taking place. I mean, my Gosh, when I went to school and Rowena went to school at Michigan State from which we came, there were parietal hours, there were, where you, men had to get out of the dormitories, and all this, and that's a big campus, but that was the midwest. And now the sexual revolution started east and went, and it took the midwest a little time to change in the way ultimately we all have. But I think those were certain scandalous, so-called scandalous things which were

taking place here, so parents were complaining. And, of course, coming from my own background at Michigan State and this was a state university too, I took what was undoubtedly called the conservative position that this was the norm and anything outside, this had been done for hundreds of years this way, it was still being done this way in places like Michigan State, why wasn't it being done this way out here. Well, the answer I think became obvious as we now see coed dormitories and everything else. But we were sort of the first wave of that, and you, as administrative officer, were stuck with seeing this wave. I don't know if you knew what hit you or not; I certainly in retrospect did not know what hit me. And then as I say, three or four years later you got the same thing with drugs. Then again, I didn't know, couldn't quite see this in its global perspective, which from the standard points of 1988, it's easy to put that in more of a perspective. But, at the time, when you're living through it, it's tough. And Tilley was stuck with that too. I mean he was, people like me expected him to enforce a type of behavior which we expected, yet was obviously going out of style starting from the end of eastern Long Island or maybe it's San Francisco and eastern Long Island, they sort of converged and finally caught up with the rest of the country.

**Dr. Hartzell:** One of my frustrations was that I was here with the responsibility and the kind of vague authority, but only until a president could be found, and I never knew from one year to the next when that would happen.

**Dr. Scarrow:** That's right.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I did not feel that I could take strong measures, by that I mean firing Dave Tilley, in whom I didn't have confidence.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, I suspect you didn't.

**Dr. Hartzell:** If I had been president with full authority, I certainly would have gotten somebody of a different kind from Dave.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Of course the question is would he have been any more successful. I don't know, maybe, but

**Dr. Hartzell:** I don't know either, but David and I didn't always see eye to eye.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Because like you, I blamed Dave at the time. Maybe I should have, I don't, but I have more of a historical perspective on it now, maybe it wasn't his fault, maybe it was something just happening.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Well, we were getting a lot of unfinished business from the home.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, precisely.

**Dr. Hartzell:** And I didn't quite realize to start with the kind of people we were getting in terms of the extent to which they were not housebroken, we were getting that kind of person.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah. To this day the dormitory life is, as you know, continues to be a problem on this campus. And when you look at it from that perspective, we just wonder how much was Tilley's fault and how much was these forces over which no one apparently can have complete control, but it's very hard to judge what went on there.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I had something to do with on one occasion with the Suffolk Police, and talked with them in connection with a case that we had. And I happened to be standing next to a chap in the narcotics squad, he asked me if we had any drugs on the campus, and I said to my knowledge we don't, that was 1963. He said, well, you will, it's coming out from the city, and we certainly did five years later.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, well.

**Dr. Hartzell:** At any rate, okay.

**Dr. Scarrow:** I certainly remember that incident. In fact, as I talk about it, it came to mind that it indeed started out as the sexual revolution and five years later it was the drug revolution.

**Dr. Hartzell:** What individuals stand out in your mind, students or faculty or

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, I certainly have had occasion to remember the first student I had in my class, that was Lenny Spivack, who is now earning \$800,000 a year, I understand, so

**Dr. Hartzell:** Is that right.

**Dr. Scarrow:** So my chairman tells me, they tried to hit him up for some alumni contributions. But I was impressed, my Gosh, what a quality of student we have at this place, did I ever make the right decision coming from Michigan State, which got the lower end of the students, many of the brighter students went to the University of Michigan. And wow, these students were just crackerjack students. And so I certainly I remember

**Dr. Hartzell:** Do you have Lenny's address, by any chance?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, the Alumni, just call over there, he was president of the Alumni Association, and he is still very active in alumni affairs.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I want to get him interviewed.

**Dr. Scarrow:** He lives in Manhattan, he can afford to live there. so I certainly remember that.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Did you have anything to do with local government here on the Island?

**Dr. Scarrow:** No, not local government. I certainly remember the, I was pretty active in school board politics, and I remember the big meeting that we had in our gymnasium when the two districts merged. It was the Stony Brook school district and the Setauket school district, it merged so you had to have a meeting of everybody. And the University Gym was the only place that could accommodate all those people, and then after the meeting also we would elect a new school board, and so, perhaps I shouldn't say it, but I was very active in those of us who had a pretty good idea of the kind of school board we wanted, and particularly with regard to whether or not the then superintendent Gelinas would be appointed the new superintendent of the amalgamated school district, and there were those of us, I suppose he would refer to them as the University crowd, sort of preferred that it was time to bring in outside blood, and we knew that that school board election would be determining whether, who got appointed to the new supervisory post from outside or whether it would be Gelinas, and that was one of the most exciting moments of my life to see our side come out. I mean, Gosh, you must have had 500 or 600 people in the gym that night, and we mobilized our supporters well, and we won.

And that's when Stan Ross, by the way, was one of our candidates. We had a slate of candidates that we campaigned for, and interesting enough, everyone won except Stan Ross, Stan Ross was the one person, we ran six people -- Bill Crawford, Monda Roberts, and I forget who else, maybe it was Wayne Davis, we tried to get a fairly representative group, and many of whom had served on one or the other school boards -- and we put Stan Ross, but perhaps reflecting, the community made a little circle that the University was taking over so he was the only University person on that slate, and he got defeated. But in any case enough of them won so that they did indeed get outside and got Francis Roberts to be then the first superintendent.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Did you know that I was one of three to recommend to the Board the candidates.

**Dr. Scarrow:** I may have known that at one time, I've forgotten.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yeah, I was the one who recommended Stan Roberts, even though, I mean Fran Roberts, even though he was not previously a superintendent, that was supposed to be the case.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Uh, huh, he came out of the high school in Maryland.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes.

**Dr. Scarrow:** So, that was a great moment in, I say the life of the University, well, it happened in the gymnasium, but the life of the total community.

**Dr. Hartzell:** What did you think about the reaction of the community to the University.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, it was sort of funny. In one case, in one sense there was no town-gown problem like I thought there would be because there was no mixture at all. So on the one hand this University just doesn't exist as far as the area goes, but on the other hand there was no doubt about it that when it came to proposals, this is in John Toll's days, do you remember that wonderful meeting that was held over to the local school where John Toll wanted to build University housing up around the highway, and the conservationists after whom the junior high school is named, um, Murphy, Bob Murphy

got up and made this wonderful speech where he invoked the Old Testament about the, remember that, the rough places shall be made smooth and the crooked places straight because the State of New York came and Murphy started to name all the plant species which had been around this area, the State of New York came and just leveled and made the rough places smooth and the crooked places straight, and the audience just roared shouts of approval. And now they want to go up there and build some other monstrosities, etc., etc. Well, no doubt that as the University began to impact upon the local community with things like that, and of course it is still going on where we're wanting to build housing and that's being disputed. There is no doubt that the University had Ferd Giess around that made a political career about being anti-University. I must say what has, as I am sure you will agree, what has done more than anything else to quiet that antagonism is the Fine Arts Center. Once that came on line and the wonderful music and drama and activities which are free virtually, many of them are free or for a token amount, right here at the doorstep, that antagonism and the hospital too, I mean that antagonism is tempered a great deal from what it used to be when there didn't seem to be an plusses, just a lot of minuses. I'm sure you can answer that question much better than I for those early years.

**Dr. Hartzell:** well, I think Ward Melville was also a very strongly in favor of the University, even though he didn't like the architecture. Well, let's see, have your expectations worked out.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yes, I would say that everything I expected and no doubt more has come here. I don't see how anyone who came that time couldn't answer that in a positive way. I can see perhaps someone who's come ten years ago when they were told about departments going to be expanded and so forth, only to have budgets cut back, but anyone who came in the early '60's, I don't see what more they could have expected than what's happened.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Right. Did you have any connection with Albany?

**Dr. Scarrow:** No, I never had, except the only time, Karl, when I was secretary, I don't know if you remember this, we had as our commencement speaker, we had a private plane chartered and I went up and accompanied him back, we flew up to Albany, picked him up, he got in the plane, turned around and came back, landed at the, now, who would that have been, was there, I don't think it was Boyer, anyway, maybe it was an interim Chancellor that first couple of years, before Boyer came.

**Dr. Hartzell:** It wasn't Galbraith, was it? Remember when we had commencement out in front of the library.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, it might have been. But I know that I flew up, apparently his schedule was such that he could only, if he could fly down, and we had to charter a plane. So I flew up in this little Piper Cub-type plane and greeted him, we got on the plane, turned around and came back.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I don't remember.

**Dr. Scarrow:** That would have been

**Dr. Hartzell:** Was he somebody do you think from the University.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Oh, I think he was like the acting Chancellor, something like that.

**Dr. Hartzell:** It wasn't Sam Gould.

**Dr. Scarrow:** It was Sam Gould.

**Dr. Hartzell:** It was Sam Gould.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yes, it was, yes. That could have been the commencement of 1964.

**Dr. Hartzell:** He came in 1964.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Okay, it would have been the following year then. But that's the only contact I had with Albany, a very short one indeed.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Okay. Can you get into the development of the department in its expansion, what particular branches of political science are we involved in.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, I think the big turning point in my department was when Joe Tannenhouse came as chairman, and I was on the recruitment committee that got him from the University of Iowa, and he came with some very definite ideas about what could

be what he called the cutting edge of political science, so he cut out, he articulated one area in particular which he was interested in at the time, and he called, it's gone by various names, but I think the most generic term would be political psychology, examining persons political judgments in terms of psychological factors, or indeed for a while he's even called them biological factors. But in any case, I think our department is still known for that emphasis. In fact, Milton Lodge just told me yesterday he got another \$100,000 from the National Science Foundation, so we've had a lot of money come in from outside funding for this type of thing, and to the extent that our department is known nationally for a particular emphasis, it would indeed be that.

**Dr. Hartzell:** The psychology of

**Dr. Scarrow:** Of political decisionmaker, particularly voter, ordinary people, how they form political judgments and all of which is then manifested in their voting choices.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Do you do any polling.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Very little in the terms of sample survey polling, it's more based on the cognitive process, as I say there's a very close relationship with psychology. In fact, some of our departments are very close for that reason, so it's survey responses so much as based on psychological theories based on just how people respond the questions. Although oftentimes the way people do respond to questions is a day to day ..... to try to figure out the psychological processes. I must say I'm not a good one to ask, this isn't my own interest or specialty, but in answer to your question, the strength of our department and when that happened that was in Joe Tannenhaus when we recruited him in 1969, and academic year 1969-70 is when he came, and he had a great impact on the department, which is still there.

**Dr. Hartzell:** What else in the department, Martin is

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, Martin is international law, although I must say that right now if you look at it from the full historical perspective as opposed to the last two or three years, the emphasis in the department has not been in international or comparative politics area, and this was not accidental, it was a conscious decision of which I took some part, even



though my own interest was in comparative politics. It was pretty obvious that we weren't going to be a huge department like say University of Michigan or Michigan State, which could have area specialists -- Africa and Asia and Europe and so forth, South America -- and that's sort of like a bottomless pit, once you start down that road, you're never going to be able to complete it and wouldn't it be better to use your limited resources to develop more manageable and, I think probably we've taken that too far now because now I think now if we could do some of these decisions over knowing there are going to be budget constraints in later years, I think those decisions would have been different because we always figured, well, we can always hire when we need someone in this area, someone in that area. Well, of course, when you only have one line and how are you going to use it, then some of those other considerations get pushed aside. So, as a result I think we are fairly weak in the international comparative area now. In fact, I know we are. Our major areas of strength have, I think, have come with our

[end of side 1]

**Dr. Hartzell:** All right, can you go back.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Now, major areas of strength, the question is had I gotten to the Joe Tannenhaus thing?

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, I think you had.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Oh, okay, well, other than that, other than Joe Tannenhaus political psychology, our major areas of strength have come with our association with Harriman College and what might be called public administration or public policy, urban studies, planning, that kind of thing where we've cross listed a number of courses and also recruited faculty in common, sort of joint appointments. Lee Koppelman has been a conspicuous part of that; he's taught courses for either our department or the Harriman College for at least, I think he came in the late '60's, about that time, and right now, of course, he's sort of full-time.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Full-time now and does that mean that he has given up his position as the Bi-County

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, no, he's still chairman of the Bi-County Planning Board, although he's no longer head of the Planning Department of Suffolk County; and as I understand it, those, I gather that's not quite a paid position or there's something about to the extent that he gets any money from one, he's going to subtract it from the other because he vigorously denies that he's double-dipping, but exactly what the financial arrangements are, I'm not quite sure; but he is, he continues to head of the Bi-County Planning Commission for the whole Island.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Do you have any feeling about the impact of the Governor's office on this campus.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, I suppose my feeling is one which a number of people share, and it may be based on, I don't know if it's based on hard evidence or not. But, Karl, as you know, having started this University in the days of Rockefeller, it's hard to appreciate the strategies of the current Governor, and I, certainly he has not been a conspicuous friend of the SUNY system. And I get the feeling that we are pretty much a stepchild in his list of priorities. Much of this goes back to, again, I go back to my roots in the midwest where public education is a very honored thing, and the fact that people go to a private college you wonder why you go to those inferior schools. And then you come to New York, and it's just the opposite. Why would you go to a public university when you can go to Hofstra or C. W. Post, attitudes which are just bizarre, but I think it's reflected in the politics of this area and Cuomo

**Dr. Hartzell:** He's a graduate of St. John's.

**Dr. Scarrow:** St. John's, just thinks that if you don't go to a private school, and of course the taxpayers support the private schools in a way that just is bizarre to a midwesterner coming from those great big ten schools, and without trying to excuse Cuomo I think Rockefeller was the exception.

**Dr. Hartzell:** He was a Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, well, I know he was, a school for which I have fond memories, but he was able to see, for some reason, despite coming from Dartmouth, he was able to

see there is nothing wrong with a public university. Indeed, he, the big ten and the University of California, where was New York, and Rockefeller had the vision, but

**Dr. Hartzell:** So did Heald of the Ford Foundation, the Heald Report. And Rockefeller, I think, took that report and made it a guide for him.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yes, the only thing if you want to bad, the only thing you could say bad about Rockefeller, I'm sure of the word bad, because he may have had to do it, but what strangles this campus is the fact that we have 40 parts of the SUNY system. I mean all these colleges, all politically spread out over the whole state, and so that the total budget for the SUNY system looks incredibly large until you realize that it's going to support many small four-year colleges or community colleges which probably should, don't earn their money but politically have to be maintained because they come from legislative districts or senatorial districts. And I suppose when Cuomo looks at the total amount of money which we are spending on higher education, he sees, my god, that's a hell of a lot of money. But in a state like Michigan or Ohio, that money is spent on just two major campuses, Michigan State and Ann Arbor with a few satellites, Western Michigan, but it's not the huge number that we have here. And also Western Michigan didn't get started until Michigan State and U of M were 100 years old. I mean, and Ypsilanti didn't get started until after World War II.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Or Flint.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Or Flint, and those are just sort of, even Flint is just an administrative arm of the Ann Arbor campus; I mean it's sort of the extended classroom, we'll provide the faculty, etc. etc.; they are not autonomous administrative units each with its own clout in the capital. So for those historic reasons New York is just sort of stuck with a ..... system.

**Dr. Hartzell:** The ones in California are relatively autonomous, San Diego, Davis, Irvine, Santa Cruz and so on.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, but they

**Dr. Hartzell:** Even though they have come along long after Berkeley. But you had a standard set at Berkeley and New York never had a standard.

**Dr. Scarrow:** That's right, you had something to anchor in as the burgeoning of the campuses, and we started from zero so that

**Dr. Hartzell:** Heald was a graduate of Michigan and he understood what the need for public education, public higher education after World War II, he's really responsible for the establishment of the University.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Is he, I didn't realize that.

**Dr. Hartzell:** He appointed a Commission under Owen D. Young on the need for a public state university, and that commission's recommendations he forced through against the opposition of the private institutions.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, I'm sure. I think the private institutions

**Dr. Hartzell:** Well, I think

**Dr. Scarrow:** Think that does it, Karl.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, do you have any reaction to John Toll's tenure or my tenure?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well,

**Dr. Hartzell:** From the administrative side.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, no, I think, Toll, I was, you can always criticize people, that's easy, undoubtedly Toll was a builder, and you got to give him credit for that, and I think people do. I mean, he was very successful in getting money. Whether or not, it's so easy to Monday morning quarterback, I suppose the worst thing you can say about Toll, and from the perspective of 1988, is that the quality of students under his leadership continued to decline and it, I don't think he realized that ultimately your graduate programs are going to be based on your undergraduate programs, and if you can't attract good undergraduate students, whatever it takes to attract them, whether a football team or dormitory facilities or something, that ultimately you are going to pay the price. And I think now we're beginning, well, we have, we are paying the price in terms of, we are the only campus who can't get undergraduate students to come. Binghamton, other

campuses, they are turning them away. Why aren't they coming here, and the answers lie in decisions which were taken way back a long time ago in terms of expenditures of resources.

**Dr. Hartzell:** What decisions?

**Dr. Scarrow:** Well, for example, why are we finally building a field house. I am sure Toll, with his persuasive efforts, could have gotten that over something he did get. I mean, I'm just, those were the days of wine and roses to quote former Governor Carey. But why build a field house when I can get two more physicists to make this into a world class, world famous; and he made that decision and maybe he was right in some sense. In the short run he was right, but in the long term I think those decisions could have been based on the recognition that if you don't have a good undergraduate class that attracts people and loyal alumni too, because that's where you're getting your alumni. There's a lot of things that I don't think Toll realized. I'm not sure perhaps I would have realized it either, but on the other hand I wasn't being paid to make those decisions. So there are plusses to his tenure, there's no doubt, but on the other hand, I'm sure decisions could have been made which would have made this place into a first class undergraduate institution as well as a first class graduate institution.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I think there's a matter of give and take between faculty and students, and we are a little too close to home for people who want to send their children away or children who want to go away from home.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, there are some things no President can, that's one, that no President can do anything about, that's a given, and, but I still think that decisions

**Dr. Hartzell:** Then there's another thing: I look back at Wesleyan, which is my *alma mater*, I think in terms in some of the teachers that I had. I remember them quite clearly. Well, if your teachers live in New York City and are out here a couple of days a week, that's a different story. And if there is very little faculty life or exchange of ideas, trade in ideas on the part of the faculty on the campus, there's not so much to attract them to stay on the campus. I think we've got to work on that.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, we do. And we've come a long way. I mean, things have improved, I think, quite dramatically since John Toll left on a number of counts, the physical appearance of the campus. Jerry Schubel has done great at restoring the faculty dining room, having convocations, I mean all those things. They are little things but you see John Toll he never, he couldn't be bothered.

**Dr. Hartzell:** He was too busy with the large structure which we needed.

**Dr. Scarrow:** That's right. Well, this is fun to talk about this. I didn't realize I'd be able to say so much, Karl. You have to have someone sort of press buttons.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, you have it back in the computer memory.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, gee, you have a nice view here, it's a nice office, all Connecticut, you can see it well today.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Right, it's nice.

**Dr. Scarrow:** Yeah, okay, Karl, nice to see you again.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Thanks a lot, good to see you.

[end of interview]