

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, Aug. 5, 1985

August

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. I had an interesting evening, recently. I talked with a dozen high school teachers from across the country. We talked about the history courses being taught in our high schools. And we discussed today's high school students and how they compare with those of a generation ago, in the 1950s and 1960s. Are today's young people more conservative, or more liberal, than their parents were as youngsters? In a minute, we'll hear what the teachers had to say.

These teachers were on Long Island as William Robertson Coe Fellows in order to attend the 21st annual Institute of American Studies. The Institute is directed by Dr. Martin B. Travis of the political science faculty of the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Later in the program, we'll hear from Dr. John W. Pratt, associate professor of history at Stony Brook, who conducted the 1985 summer program, as he has several others.

Let's start by listening in on my conversations with the teachers. We talked in a great old mansion in Oyster Bay, the former Coe estate known now as the Planting Field Arboretum. The conversation was recorded by our microphone on location and you may hear some background sounds. We started out talking about teaching facts and expressing opinions in the classroom.

TAPE/SIDE 1 - 000 - AFO's voice: "Dominic J. Minione..."  
to...

TAPE/SIDE 1 - 335 - John Stiever's voice: "Definitely. They're very good students." (Quick cut to AFO's voice: "David S....")

AFO LIVE:

11:00 With ~~ME~~ is Dr. John Pratt, who worked with the group this summer. Dr. Pratt, I heard you tell the group as the session was nearing its end: "We've tried to give you a little challenge." How does a history professor challenge a dozen bright high school teachers?

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INTERVIEW DR. PRATT:

- Subjects covered
- Teachers' interactive contributions

14:00

We're going to take a short break. We'll return in a moment to talk some more with John Pratt, and we'll hear a few more high school teachers from around the country.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle. I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Dr. John W. Pratt, associate professor of history, who has been conducting a fellowship program this summer at Stony Brook for a dozen high school teachers from around the United States. Dr. Pratt, we were talking about the teachers' contributions to the Coe Fellowship program through the formal academic experience. I assume the exchanges continue throughout leisure activities as well.

INTERVIEW JOHN PRATT:

- Teachers bringing contemporary issues into classrooms
- Relating to historical activities
- More local history being taught?

**22:00** TAPE/SIDE 1 - 335 - AFO's voice: "David S. Slade is from  
Rancho High School in Reno, Nevada."

to...

TAPE/SIDE 1 - 432 - Helen Bradley's voice: "Definitely. Their parents do have a big influence on them." FAST CUT

TO AFO LIVE

CONCLUDE INTERVIEW WITH JOHN PRATT:

- What makes good teachers?
- How do programs like the Institute help teachers?
- Do the teachers contribute to university programs?

29:00

OUTRO