

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, Aug. 12, 1985

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. Science and technology have traditionally been credited with advancing the progress of civilization. The Greeks celebrated the solar trip of Prometheus, returning to Earth with the fire that gave human beings a major tool needed to control our destiny. But the same fire that heats matter and permits its re-shaping also can destroy. Was Prometheus, then, to be celebrated or cursed?

It is in this frame of reference that Bentley H. Glass in his newest book has approached the nature of biological science and its impact on human society. Dr. Glass is distinguished professor emeritus at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Retired from his active campus teaching and research, he continues busy at the age of 79 as director of the History of Genetics Program at the American Philosophical Society. His new book, titled Progress or Catastrophe, is his 24th as author and, well, is anyone counting how many books you have edited, Dr. Glass?

- And add up 6 hrs at SB -

complete of papers. editor.

INTERVIEW BENTLEY GLASS:

Answer

-- Book's publisher claims P or C "warns for the first time (that) scientist and science policies will be held directly responsible for the survival of the world."

- * Is that saying too much for role of science?
- * Are you hedging with "directly" and "survival of world"?
- * Book notes throughout the support roles of others. Is not a partnership more reasonable?

-- What kind of response to book and its claims?

-- Strong words: "our inability to find the honesty and courage, the insight and wisdom to deal with (the problems of our age) safely."

-- How much blame can you lay now on scientists of past? (Examples: Hermann Joseph Muller? Einstein? Oppenheimer?)

geneticists

--- MORE ---

- Cover his proposals for Third World assistance
- Causes for optimism

14:00

We'll take a short break and return to talk more with Bentley Glass. Please stay with us.

-7 sec.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle, and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, talking today with Bentley H. Glass. Dr. Glass' new book, his 24th, has just been published by Praeger as part of its series called Convergence. I was impressed with the names of the Board of Editors. Jonas Salk is a name most listeners would be familiar with; Sir Fred Hoyle, Sir Bernard Lovell; and two professors at Stony Brook, Lewis Thomas and C. N. Yang.

INTERVIEW BENTLEY GLASS

- Talk about the Convergence series
- Dr. Glass spends two days a week in Philadelphia. Explain
- Innovations in education: his CED series
- Liberal education vs science/technical
- Dilemma of information inundation: Speed-up through communications and transportation
- His own interests outside science
- What advice to a youngster interested in science?

29:00

OUTRO

CD