

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, Dec. 10, 1984

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. The subject today is aging, and our speaker is no less than Lewis Thomas, best-selling author of books that seem to make easily understood some of the complexities of science and medicine. Dr. Thomas is chancellor emeritus of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute in New York City and these days keeps active as University Professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Recently, he lectured at Brookhaven National Laboratory, in Upton on Long Island, on the subject of aging. We'll hear some of that talk today.

Later in the program, we'll talk with Dr. Jane Porcino, professor, author and activist in the interests of the elderly.

Lewis Thomas is literate, erudite, profound and, some find especially delightful, humorous. He is optimistic that the work now being done by scientists will help take some of the mystery, and perhaps even some of the pain, out of aging. Let's listen now as Dr. Thomas talks about aging, what it means, what some of the interesting thinkers have said about it.

TAPE - Side 1 - 000 "I went looking through my dictionary..."

through 107 - "...not to be missed in a well-run world."

AFO LIVE: Lewis Thomas went on in his talk at Brookhaven National Laboratory to consider some examples of genius at work in elderly over the centuries. And he talked about that most debilitating of all aging diseases, Alzheimer's Disease.

TAPE - Side 2 - 120 - "Aging, real aging..."

through 215 - HEAVY APPLAUSE

14:00 AFO LIVE: Dr. Lewis Thomas, talking about aging.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

MORE MORE MORE

AFO LIVE: Jane Porcino has become known around the country for her work on behalf of the aging and elderly. Recently she has attracted attention as she has attempted to take the role of mother-in-law into a more respected position in our society. Director of the gerontology program at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Dr. Porcino is the author of the book, "Growing Older, Getting Better." We're all getting older, Dr. Porcino. But at what age is it that most people really begin to think about being elderly, or aged, or whatever word defines the accumulation of years that push one beyond youth or mid-life?

- INTERVIEW PORCINO: -- Physical and physiological changes
- Attitudes/outlook - impact on body
 - Attitudes of younger people towards aging: (parents, parents-in-law, job competition, warehousing)
 - Age barriers (60, 62, 65, 70 etc.) and how they create impact on jobs, family, society in general
 - Positive images (George Burns, Bob Hope, Helen Hayes, Lillian Gish, Alberta Hunter, John Bubbles)
 - What's ahead?

29:00

OUTRO

→ major problem?
 — Economics
 — Into network of gerontologists
 — ~~Hot flash if country~~
 ← (reading List Study)
 — JP's students - attitudes
 — Positive factor

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INTERVIEW PORCINO: -- Economics as major problem of elderly

-- Attitudes/outlook

-- Attitudes of younger people towards aging
(her research with students)

-- International network among gerontologists

-- Positive images (George Burns, Bob Hope,
Helen Hayes, Lillian Gish, Alberta Hunter, John Bubbles)

-- What's ahead?

29:00

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