

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, Jan. 28, 1985

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. This is a very special time of the year, coming as it does near the birthday of the late Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month throughout February. The other day, I took our Conversations Unlimited microphones to the Fine Arts Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook to record a celebration in honor of Dr. King's birthday. Beginning in 1986, the third Monday in January will be a national holiday. New York State began the holiday recognition in 1985.

The main speaker at the Stony Brook celebration was Ossie Davis, the celebrated playwright, actor and director. In a moment, we'll hear him talking about the American dream, the role of Martin Luther King Jr. in making that dream come true, and what progress we have made since his death.

Later in the program, we'll hear from some of the others who spoke at Stony Brook: President John Marburger, Provost Homer Neal, a rabbi and a former Workers Defense League official.

Ossie Davis is best known for his work on the stage. But many know him also for his civil rights activities. He worked with Martin Luther King in the great civil rights struggle of the 1960s. He talked about that during the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Stony Brook. And he related the struggle of the Blacks for assimilation in the United States to the struggles of the Jews, Italians and others. He began by addressing those who question Americans' having a holiday for Dr. King's birthday.

TAPE II-Side 1 -

000 - "Some of you may find this interesting enough to do research..." THROUGH TO

183 - "And all of this has something to do with Martin Luther King."

MORE MORE MORE

14:00 - AFO: We'll be back in a moment with more of the Martin Luther King celebration at Stony Brook.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

AFO: Hi. I'm Al Oickle and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Today we're listening to a celebration on the occasion of the birthday of the late Martin Luther King Jr. The main speaker was Ossie Davis, whom we heard earlier. Now we'll hear what some of the other speakers had to say about Dr. King at the Stony Brook program. We'll begin with a tribute read by Dr. John H. Marburger, president of the University at Stony Brook.

TAPE I-Side 1 -

000 - "The truly impressive thing about Martin King..." THROUGH TO 049 - "...for centuries after he's gone." (2:40)

AFO: Rabbi Adam Fisher of Temple Isaiah in Stony Brook is the next speaker in the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration:

TAPE I-Side 1 - Fast forward through applause to:

157 - "This is one of the moments when I feel..." THROUGH TO 190 - "...a new vision of society" (2:15)

AFO: Among the speakers at this Stony Brook celebration of the life and works of Martin Luther King was Vera Rony, now a professor at Stony Brook but in the 1950s and 1960s an official with the Workers Defense League and a civil rights activist. She told some of the story never told about the impact of the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis in the early 1960s. This is Vera Rony:

TAPE I-Side 1 - immediately after "disappoint this lovely lady":

371 - "The sweetness of..." THROUGH TO

417 - "...and so he met his martyrdom." (4:00)

MORE MORE MORE

AFO: Dr. Homer Neal is a physicist and the provost at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In his introduction of the main speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, he also addressed the reluctance of some to set aside a holiday honoring Dr. King. And he talked about some of the progress made in American society because of Dr. King. This is the voice of Homer Neal:

TAPE I-Side 1 - right after Terry Netter's "Let my people go"

502 - "This is a joyous occasion for us all." THROUGH TO

557 - "...of the poor and the oppressed." (5:35)

28:45

AFO: You have been listening to a Martin Luther King Jr. program in celebration of his life and works, recorded Jan. 21 at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In the next few weeks, we'll be talking with physicians about childhood diseases and heart transplants. I hope you'll join us.

OUTRO