

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, June 16, 1986

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. Some of you may remember the story of Chicken Little, who spread the alarm that the sky was falling. The fable has been recalled in recent years as some scientists have warned us that the pollution that people are creating in the atmosphere may indeed cause problems in the ozone layer above the surface of the Earth. Burning fossil fuels -- coal and oil, for example -- is one of the reasons given for atmospheric changes. How bad is it? We'll find out today as we talk with Dr. Robert D. Cess, professor of atmospheric sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Cess taped an hour-long television program on the subject of the earth's climate for WHOR IN Norfolk, Virginia, this spring. He has been active in research and was recently honored by NASA with a Group Achievement Award for his part in a study of the earth's radiation budget. Dr. Cess, I suppose before we go any further we could tell our listeners to relax -- the sky is not going to fall on them today.

INTERVIEW DR. CESS:

- What is the sky?
- What is atmosphere?
- How is atmosphere created?
- Describe the Earth Radiation Budget Experiment
- Discuss "the greenhouse effect"
  - \* Glacial melting
  - \* Coastal flooding
  - \* Precipitation pattern changes: arid Midwest U.S.
  - \* Skin cancer (tanning)
- Should people change their pollution habits?

14:00

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14:00

We'll take a brief break now. When we return, we'll be talking with Robert Cess about the controversies among scientists in predicting the future of the Earth's climate.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle, and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Dr. Robert Cess, professor of atmospheric sciences. We've been talking about how the peoples of the world contribute to changes in the atmosphere. We've been talking about atmosphere as if there were only one. Is that accurate, Dr. Cess, or are there several atmospheres that ultimately homogenize?

INTERVIEW DR. CESS:

- Stony Brook's Laboratory for Planetary Atmospheres
- Present and past scientists (note Ramanathan) '73
- International efforts (note his Soviet colleagues)
- Other planets (note his Saturn and Jupiter work with Caldwell and Barbara E. Carlson (SUSB) and others
- Atmospheric sciences as a major for students  
... as a potential career
- What should ordinary citizen do to help?

29:00

OUTRO

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