

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, June 24, 1985

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. The other day, I saw a bumper sticker on the back of an automobile. It said: "If you can read this, thank a teacher." I wasn't able to get around the car but I half-suspected that there might be another sticker on the front bumper saying, "If you can't read this, blame a teacher."

Educational reform are buzz words in the field of teaching. They surface periodically, and 1985 is one of the periods in which there is national discussion of the care and feeding of a teacher. We'll be talking about that subject today with Dr. Joseph A. Tursi, who has devoted much of his career in education to the subject of teacher training. Dr. Tursi has served as professor and chair of the Department of French and Italian and as director of Foreign Language Teacher Training at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He has been recognized with national awards, including the Florence Steiner Award for Distinguished Leadership in Foreign Language Education, given by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Dr. Tursi, your credentials as a teacher of teachers are impressive. You teach students and you teach teachers, or potential teachers. Is teaching something that comes naturally?

INTERVIEW DR. TURSI:

-- National needs: 1-million teachers by 1992

-- "Temperature test"

-- Why anticipated shortfall?

-- American Assn. of colleges for Teacher Education 17-member panel, National Commission for Excellence in Teacher Education

-- AFT criticism: "sorry state of some teacher-ed institutions" provides no guarantee of quality of exit exams

...no national certification standards suggested

--- MORE ---

...no recommendation for academic major for elementary and high school teachers

-- National Teacher Exam proposals:

* Albert Shanker, AFT president

* Mary Hatwood Futrell, NEA president

* Patchogue-Medford urine test for tenure candidates

-- Ronald Reagan's "master teacher" idea (i.e. merit pay)

-- What are Dr. Tursi's solutions?

14:00

We'll return in a moment to talk some more about teaching, and teacher education, with Dr. Joseph Tursi.

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. Joseph Tursi, a foreign language professor who has devoted much of his career to the education of teachers. We've been talking about the current national debate over how to train and certify school teachers. But it's really an international debate, isn't it, Dr. Tursi?

INTERVIEW DR. TURSI:

-- French and Italian philosophies

-- Traditional (basics) versus Progressive (field trips)

-- Varied standards: local, state, national

-- for entering teachers

-- for veteran teachers

-- Roles of colleges and universities in undergraduate and graduate teacher training, continuing ed (NOTE: superintendents' session at SUSB July 11)

-- Roles of students, parents and public in teacher training

29:00

OUTRO

LONG
GAPS