

An Oral History of  
**HERBERT F. YORK and STANLEY CHODOROW**  
On July 31, 1998

*[Background noise in the recording makes parts of the interview inaudible.]*

1   **CHODOROW:**   —was that what they were trying to achieve in this department—in that  
2   department—was there seemed to be a theory to each of the departments. And I have been  
3   interested in those theories and how they related to the discipline at the time and how the  
4   founding chairs of departments perceived their disciplines and were building their vision out of  
5   their experience as already adults in the fields. So that's what stimulated me. The kind of  
6   question I'd like to start with you—you have a perspective that's much broader than any  
7   individual department here. But let me start by asking you about the transfer of the vision. That  
8   is, Roger—as we all know—had this powerful personality, physical presence, and vision which  
9   I'm sure was even better in retrospect than in was in prospect— Or anyway, more complete and  
10  more coherent. But you came in—I guess in 1960—

11  **YORK:**    One.

12  **CHODOROW:**   '61. As the heir of that—some form of an heir. And the question is what—how  
13  was that translated to you? And how did you approach it?

14  **YORK:**    Well, I came in 1961. The process of appointing me began in 1960. I was in  
15  Washington at the Pentagon at the time. And I'd had a heart attack the summer before. And I  
16  was planning on coming back. That is, I was already decided that whatever the transition would  
17  be in Washington, I was going back to the University of California. So, I came back to talk with  
18  Clark Kerr about what I might do. I anticipated going back to [University of California,] Berkeley  
19  somehow. I'd been director of Livermore [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory], but I wasn't  
20  particularly interested going back there again either. So, we simply talked about it. And to what  
21  extent that resonated in his mind so that when it became necessary to appoint a chancellor here  
22  and given that it wouldn't be Roger, that visit that fall must have—may have had something to  
23  do with it. And of course, it was an awkward transition and remained awkward all the while that I  
24  was chancellor the first time. There's just simply were people here who resented the fact that it  
25  wasn't Roger and who let me know. And some of them were very polite about it—most of them.  
26  But there were others who were not particularly polite. So, the transition had that flavor to it,

27 which was different than any of the others. And basically, I talked with Roger and I've talked to  
28 other people. The people I remember early on talking with—Joe [Joseph] Mayer was one, for  
29 example. Walter Cohen was one. Jim Arnold was one. Keith Brueckner, [John] Singer, and so  
30 on. And Walter Munk. And each of them had some views about the future and I took them all in.  
31 I was not—I was familiar with the University of California, and with education in general, but I  
32 was not an educator. I mean, I had gone from the Lawrence Laboratory to teaching for two  
33 years, then to the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, then to the Pentagon, then came here. So,  
34 my academic career before coming here was two years as a one-third time assistant professor  
35 at Berkeley other than as a student. And that's important. I mean, I didn't have education as a  
36 major goal in my mind or even as a major interest, except in the general way. I mean I knew  
37 that—I had known for years that I had wanted to be an academic as a sort of the core of my life  
38 because it was a good life. Not because I had any particular ideas about how I should be done,  
39 but just because it was a good life. And I saw at being at Berkeley and with Lawrence as sort of  
40 the—I was lucky to be right at the very apex of all of this. So that's what it brought to. But I soon  
41 came to know from talking with Roger and others that there were several specifics. There were  
42 general goals and then there were narrower goals. The two or three general goals that I picked  
43 up on and ran with because they resonated very much with my general approach— One of the  
44 was high quality. The other was a mechanism for getting there, which Roger referred to as  
45 "building from the top down." And so, I bought into that right away. Now that, of course, was not  
46 really a local option because it required more money than the other campuses did. So, without  
47 Clark Kerr thinking—agreeing that was a good idea, it couldn't happen. But Clark did. So,  
48 building from the top down. And the other point which I again bought into in a big way was  
49 Roger's—a point Roger made. He said when he walked around Berkeley, you could walk all  
50 over the Berkeley campus and never see anybody that you knew. And because it was such a—  
51 so big. And monolithic. And that therefore he was already promoting this idea of a campus  
52 broken down into colleges. Now, there was not a very well-defined plan for how it would be  
53 broken down. And when we finally got working on it, we talked about colleges as small as six  
54 hundred for students and as big as six thousand. And three thousand is kind of a compromise,  
55 but that's where we ended up. And since we were working towards thirty thousand students,  
56 you know, that meant somewhere like ten or twelve colleges. But at any rate, quality is the main  
57 theme and the second—and the sort of as a path to that, which I got directly from Roger, were  
58 the idea from building from the top down—graduate work first. And then finding an organization  
59 mechanism that broke it down without creating—and I think these are his words—"engineering  
60 Jim Crow." You know what I mean? In other words, one way to break it down is to have a

61 college of engineering and a college of chemistry and a college of literature and arts or  
62 something. So that wasn't what we were going to do. So, what we were going to do instead, I  
63 mean that did need to be worked out in detail. Roger didn't have— If he did have a plan, it  
64 wasn't— I don't remember what it was. At any rate, we took the general idea and then reworked  
65 it. There were some other ideas floating around which I didn't give the same priority to as others  
66 did. Roger and a number of others had Caltech in mind as their model. And if they stretch  
67 beyond Caltech it was that we would be some kind of a combination of Caltech and Occidental.  
68 And if you add the populations of those up that's where you come to numbers not far from three  
69 thousand. You know what I mean? It's— In a way, they're what prove you can have a fairly  
70 complete sort of intellectual activities without being huge. It was obvious to me from the start we  
71 were not going to be a combination of Caltech and Occidental. And I didn't particularly want to  
72 be. But it wasn't even a matter of choice. I mean, the University of California was not going to  
73 build another Caltech because the cost per student and the faculty per student is thrown just as  
74 entirely out of line. I thought of Berkeley as a model. And now a lot of people here didn't like that  
75 because they thought— There were those who thought we should be better than Berkeley.  
76 That, of course, was okay with me. Otherwise, they didn't think that Berkeley was really good  
77 riding. That's the old model. That's what we're going to get away with. But I knew and knew then  
78 and knew today that Berkeley is one of the great universities of the world. And the idea that that  
79 would be a bad model is absurd. So, there were things about which I wasn't terribly interested  
80 in. Berkeley has just as very much high a ratio of graduate students to undergraduates than we  
81 ever got to, but the reason is they had a lot of master's programs. And I didn't think they added  
82 very much. And when you looked at what we now call doctoral one and two programs, then the  
83 ratios weren't quite so extreme. I mean, Berkeley wasn't—didn't have such big a ratio of those  
84 people to undergraduates. So, at any rate, I thought of Berkeley as being a model, and not only  
85 when I first came, but even later people, when I would use that. I soon learned not to use it as a  
86 model in speaking. Because even late [*inaudible*] if I had mentioned Berkeley as a model, he  
87 would be outraged. And so— But at any rate, I had Berkeley as a model. And not Caltech and  
88 Occidental. The other point had to do with the question of novelty. I was interested in novelty,  
89 but there were a number of people who gave novelty the same priority as quality or  
90 excellence—whichever word you want to use. And I never accepted that.

91 **CHODOROW:** Can you give me an example of that kind of novelty?

92 **YORK:** Not without getting more personal.

93 **CHODOROW:** Well, you do have to get somewhat personal.

94 **YORK:** No. They just simply were people who felt that, you know, everybody else was doing  
95 it wrong and we had to do it different or it just wasn't suitable. By the way, I'm not talking about  
96 Roger when I say that there were people who put novelty ahead of— What Roger wanted, and  
97 of course would have been nice— And it's a Caltech model or even goes beyond Caltech. Was  
98 that everybody, even undergraduates would be doing research and would be working with  
99 mentors and things like that. So, in a way, his model was even more elegant and elitist and  
100 expensive is probably a better word. So— But at any rate, the important thing is that I  
101 immediately adopted this notion of excellence and of building from the top down and of dividing  
102 up into pieces. And it worked. I mean, I think the most— Almost any discussion of the past,  
103 especially when one is thinking we might adopt a critical attitude, is that this campus probably is  
104 the most successful of any American university built after World War II. Which means it's  
105 probably most successful in the world in terms of the kinds of measures that we're interested in,  
106 mostly which relate to graduate education. And you have to sort of specify that. As a research  
107 university, we probably are the best of the post-war universities. And you can make a case that  
108 the best of the twentieth century universities. The others which are arguably better— there are  
109 those who don't believe anything that's better. That come from before—were founded before the  
110 beginning of the twentieth century. Harvard, Princeton, Berkeley, etc., Stanford. They all go  
111 back not just before World War II, but back before 1900. So, and it's got to be true that we didn't  
112 do anything seriously wrong. I mean, you couldn't possibly be best and have made the serious  
113 mistake. So that even if you see something that might have been wrong, it's you—you're the  
114 one that's wrong. And furthermore, it has to be that everyone involved basically did things right  
115 because you couldn't have a place in which there was a substantial fraction of the leadership,  
116 perhaps even one person who did it wrong. And it will still come out the way it did. So, the result  
117 is wonderful. And to a certain extent, it's luck. And to a certain extent, it's the fact that the  
118 president's office favored this campus. And to a certain extent, it's that there were people here  
119 with good ideas.

120 **CHODOROW:** Two questions I'll ask you of this kind of introduction. One is, when I was a  
121 young faculty member, I heard that part of the deal that Clark Kerr had made with the campus,  
122 aside from allowing them to spend more money on salaries on the beginning campuses, was  
123 that UCSD would take fewer dollars in support money because the science faculty were  
124 bringing in their support in grants. And that over time, that would be balanced back out. But that

125 in the first eight or ten years, the amount of money coming to the campus wasn't more than  
126 going to Irvine or Santa Cruz, but it was different in proportion.

127 **YORK:** Well, I'm not certain that's right. I think that in fact it was more of a capita-based  
128 system. But it also was different in proportion. I mean, those are not necessarily contradiction.  
129 And the additional money simply was additional money. Where you got a lot of argument in  
130 those days was how much of the overhead stayed on the campus and how much didn't. And  
131 people became frantic. Some people became absolutely frantic about that. And felt that we were  
132 being cheated and so forth. So, there was a— The idea you say was certainly there. That  
133 somehow if we had more money, it was money we brought in ourselves. But I don't believe  
134 that's actually true. I think that we were favored in total and we got approximately the same  
135 amount of support money and we simply got more high scale and over-scale appointment.  
136 When we started up, there was nothing about professor three here.

137 **CHODOROW:** Is that right?

138 **YORK:** And there may have been a few people— There may have been a few over-scaled  
139 people even then. But all of these things grew afterwards and it wasn't just us. I mean, it was  
140 everywhere that professor four— Professor four came in very soon. And maybe I'm wrong;  
141 maybe Professor four actually predates my coming. But I remember it as Professor four started  
142 just after I got here. Then five, six—kept on going. And over-scale and so forth. But it wasn't just  
143 a question of high-ranking professors within the professorial series, it was professors— It was  
144 full professors as distinct from assistant professors. And that it was what happened when  
145 somebody left, you know. There's a sort of a rule that says it goes back to being an assistant  
146 professor and here it generally didn't. So that we had— No matter how you look at it, we had  
147 higher salaries than most places do. And I remember— I'm not sure where one would go to look  
148 for this. But that we were aware of the fact that having all this extra money in science made it  
149 possible to spend more money in the humanities and the social sciences. So, we were from the  
150 beginning and as far as I know everybody was on board. Certainly, I was. I don't render  
151 anybody wasn't. The idea that the fact that we were getting more money didn't— And it was the  
152 scientists who were getting the money from off-campus didn't mean that this extra money would  
153 just go to back there. That we would spend it everywhere. Even so, there were always people in  
154 the humanities who felt that they weren't getting their fair share, but nevertheless, we  
155 consciously spread the extra around. The controversial parts of that were narrow. They had to  
156 do with how many people you could hire, say in physics, that were not covered by state salaries.

157 And that was all— The number was always limited. And the theory was that there was always  
158 enough FDEs here, some of which might be assistant professor FDEs. But there are always  
159 enough FDEs to cover everybody who had tenure. Now, I think we slipped a cake. We didn't  
160 even have that. But that was the basis on which Berkeley allowed us to use non-state funds to  
161 actually hire people other than in the summer.

162 **CHODOROW:** What about— You said several times that— You used "we" when you're  
163 talking about the plan. You named earlier James Arnold and Keith and John Singer and so forth.  
164 How did you see involve who the people were—who were really participating and how do you  
165 organize the planning of it?

166 **YORK:** Well, I kept the planning— I kept the final decisions on the planning at first to myself.  
167 I don't know how that would be handled today. There was no— But I mean, I kept the— That is  
168 to say, I had the book that had the plans in it. And I was the final editor of the plan that was  
169 submitted to Berkeley and so forth. I mean, I didn't delegate that to anybody, including neither  
170 Senate nor administrative. But people had a lot to say and who I listen to a lot. I think I named  
171 probably all of them. Like I said, I didn't mention Bonner. But Bonner and Singer and Hamburger  
172 [Robert N. Hamburger] were especially interested in just in biology and medicine. But among  
173 them, Singer was into everything else as well. In physics, there was Walter Cohen who was  
174 very much interested in the things broadly, as well as Keith Brueckner. And Carl Eckart who  
175 was a physicist, but I think he may not have been in the physics department. For a while, he  
176 was actually vice-chancellor. He was fairly quiet and dignified sort of guy. Rakestraw is another  
177 oceanographer who was involved.

178 **CHODOROW:** He was a very— He was a famous man. His name came up—his image and  
179 not name came up yesterday at—he was also an oceanographer. Flamboyant and interested in  
180 underwater archaeology. He's now dead, but whose name just escaped from Mel Spiro and me.  
181 We both had an interview.

182 **YORK:** It was here?

183 **CHODOROW:** Yeah. Very—

184 **YORK:** Well, there was a Willard Bascom

185 **CHODOROW:** He was gone already.

186 **YORK:** He was already gone. Yeah.

187 **CHODOROW:** But he was a very good friend of his here. He has a very big personality.

188 **YORK:** Well, you know, I think personality was John Isaacs who interested in everything.

189 **CHODOROW:** That's it!

190 **YORK:** I don't associate him with underwater archaeology.

191 **CHODOROW:** But you see Bascom lived a side life. Bascom had designed the ship, the  
192 crane that lifted those atomic hydrogen bombs off the bottom of the Mediterranean—remember  
193 off of Spain. And he wanted to use that for underwater archaeology and he had gotten into  
194 underwater archaeology and actually wrote a pretty good book about deep water ships that  
195 were lying at the bottom of the Mediterranean. And he thought his technology could really lift it.  
196 One of the problems, of course, was what you did with these incredibly fragile things when they  
197 got to the surface. But I remember a kind of long weekend when Isaacs had asked him down  
198 from LA—where I think he was at the time—to talk with him.

199 **YORK:** John Isaacs was always here, as far as I know. When I came down, Isaacs was here  
200 and was always here. Died relatively young of cancer. I think John was one of those people who  
201 didn't have a Ph.D. and that always kind of— You know, in the back of his mind, he never quite  
202 got over that. He was sensitive about it. Am I right?

203 **CHODOROW:** I'm not sure.

204 **YORK:** But he got a broad range of ideas. None of them were terribly deep, you know. I  
205 mean, he didn't invent a new quantum mechanics or something like that, but he had very wide-  
206 ranging ideas about gadgets. About especially relating to gadgets. And when I recall with  
207 special amusement is when we called out— He was called Isaac's ladder in recognition of  
208 Jacob's ladder. You know what I'm talking about?

209 **CHODOROW:** Yes, of course.

210 **YORK:** It was the tethered satellite. But at that time, there were no materials that could  
211 putt— It was not as if was a million orders in magnitude off, it was just a few orders of  
212 magnitude off. And so, it was a very amusing idea. But it's typical of him. There's one I can't  
213 remember in detail where he came and just the two of us was some problem about people

214 going up and down escalators that I can't remember what it was. But it turned out it was difficult  
215 to calculate. For some reason, he had this bug in his butt. Wanted about— An interesting, you  
216 know, arithmetical or elementary math problem. But Isaacs was ————— [inaudible]. He  
217 didn't get involved. Well, they all got involved, but I don't think of him in connection with the  
218 questions you've been asking. He was primarily a figure at Scripps.

219 **CHODOROW:** Did you do this planning by setting up committees or really by an informal  
220 process?

221 **YORK:** Yes. No, we did have committees. But it was before the Senate was really fully  
222 organized. There wasn't really— There was a Senate and there was a chairman. I think Jim  
223 Arnold was chairman for a while and maybe Walter Munk was. So, there was a Senate. But it  
224 still wasn't like the modern Senate. And I'm really not sure whether there was a Senate, whether  
225 the planning was— You know, whether it was somehow a Senate action that chose the people,  
226 or whether it was administrative action. But we met both in groups and also individually. Both of  
227 these things happened. And finally, we generated— After one or two years, we generated a  
228 plan, which talked about numbers of faculty in departments. It was mainly a numerical plan. Or a  
229 space plan. That is to say, it talked about departments and their size and how they might grow.  
230 And they talked how the campus would be divided among colleges. And the various issues had  
231 to do with all of these matters where size—where quality and size are strongly connected. For  
232 example, the ideal was to have a library at each college. And again, the argument was well if  
233 Occidental can have a good library and Caltech can have a good library, then it ought to be  
234 possible for even a small— a college which is the sum of those two to have a good library. So,  
235 we started out with the idea of libraries everywhere but soon abandoned it because it really was  
236 better to have bigger libraries with more different books rather some stratification?]. Same thing  
237 happened with athletic facilities. Same thing happened with the book store. Things like that.  
238 There was one— At the beginning there was at least in the air the idea that there would be as  
239 many bookstores as many libraries. As many gymnasiums as there were colleges. And then the  
240 idea of having them in groups of four or three and then the idea of having just one central library  
241 was all natural. Because, when push came to shove, the faculty was never willing to give up—  
242 how do I want to say this? Was never willing to pay the price that was necessary to have the  
243 multiple small units. Whether they wanted that money— This is where the support money  
244 comes in. You know, if it was a question of having less support money and more libraries, the  
245 idea was we'll take more support money and fewer libraries. Not fewer books. There was always  
246 the idea of having a great library. It was of course John Galbraith who carried—



247 **CHODOROW:** When did John come?

248 **YORK:** When did he come? He came— He was here less— Well, it had to do with my  
249 resignation. We were looking for a vice-chancellor at about the same time as I was in the  
250 process of resigning. We were probably— We were looking actually before, but it wasn't working  
251 out. The closest we came to someone else was— We wanted somebody in the social sciences  
252 and humanities. And we almost got Andreas Papandreou.

253 **CHODOROW:** I had heard that.

254 **YORK:** He was professor at Berkeley with one foot in Stanford. And he was an economist.  
255 And he said, "Well, I got an offer— I'm at Berkeley and I got an offer from Stanford." I think that's  
256 what he said. "And you know, my father wants me to come back to Greece and help him run the  
257 country and I'm not sure what I'm going to do." But he seriously considered being vice-  
258 chancellor. And then he phoned to say no, he was going to go to Greece to help his father. I  
259 often thought that if I had been more silver-tongued than persuasive the history of Europe might  
260 be a little different. At least southern Europe. If he had come here instead. We also tried to get, I  
261 think as vice-chancellor, Lynn [Townsend] White [Jr.]. We didn't try to get him here. But I think it  
262 wasn't just to start history. I think it was for vice-chancellor. I remember talking about things  
263 going on thirty-five years ago.

264 **CHODOROW:** Lynn had come to UCLA in 1958 from being president at Mills College.

265 **YORK:** Yeah. That was one of the things that, you know, made us realize that he was  
266 certainly prospective. He had positive experience. And not that I really knew much about his  
267 record at Mills. I just knew that he did it though. But he was really determined not to do that sort  
268 of thing again. So, we were shopping around and looking hard. And the only two that I  
269 remember that we talked seriously about being vice-chancellor—of course, vice-chancellor of  
270 academics—were White and Papandreou. There was also a graduate dean, but— It was like  
271 today. I mean the graduate dean didn't have the same role as the vice-chancellor. And [Norris  
272 W.] Rakestraw was the graduate dean for quite a while. Because there were so many students  
273 down at Scripps, it was a plausible sort of thing. He was very close to returning. But anyway,  
274 somewhere along in here is when I— Remember, I said I was going to resign. And we still didn't  
275 have a vice-chancellor. And that, of course— Once I did that, then I lost a lot of influence. You  
276 know, I mean. In other words, before that I could argue with Kerr nose to nose. And after that, I  
277 couldn't finally back it up. But if we disagreed, the weight was on his side. But at any rate, John

278 Galbraith had been I guess the faculty Senate Chairman or something like that. He had a  
279 number of positions of the kind that would indicate capability as well as interest in academic  
280 administration. And whether I was in touch with John before Clark Kerr said you ought to get  
281 John, I'm really not sure. I just don't remember that anymore. But he didn't get here until after I  
282 had already made the announcement.

283 **CHODOROW:** That was 1964?

284 **YORK:** November 23rd. The day Kennedy was assassinated. Or November 22nd. I mean,  
285 whichever it is. 23rd. Yeah. 1963. It was the day Kennedy was assassinated. I remember  
286 coming in my office after telling the department chairman and others that I was going to do  
287 that— You know, it was very embarrassing. I told my secretary I hope something else happens  
288 that covers up the news because I could just see the headlines "York Quits." It was "Kennedy  
289 Assassinated." It was like Papandreou. If I hadn't resigned that day, the history might have been  
290 different. But I thought it was a great idea and I don't want to imply anything else. Whether I  
291 thought of it first, or whether Clark thought of it first, I mean, I thought it was a great idea.

292 **CHODOROW:** Let's turn to—

293 **YORK:** But then he appointed— But then Clark also said then we're going to appoint another  
294 vice-chancellor of business. He didn't like Jack Clark who was here and who was not quite so  
295 smooth. And it was Kerr's idea to appoint Bob [Robert H.] Biron. Which I accepted. I mean, I  
296 didn't have any reason not to. But it was in no sense— Well, I didn't— In fact, I wanted to  
297 continue with Jack Clark. If it had been my choice, there wouldn't have been a new vice-  
298 chancellor. Given that Clark Kerr didn't like Jack Clark, then Bob Biron was acceptable. But I  
299 would say just no more than that. I was never enthused about it. But that's the principle thing  
300 that fits the point I was making earlier. I said I was going to resign, I didn't have any strength or  
301 power with respect to questions like that.

302 **CHODOROW:** Let's talk a little about the recruitments of the department heads. There were  
303 several of them in your tenure. Let's go through and talk about who they were.

304 **YORK:** Yes. Well, the— We can just try and run through them, including the failures. We  
305 were successful in literature and more broadly. You remember the names best better than I. I  
306 mean, we got as sort of a package, Roy Pearce, Andy Wright, Leonard Newmark— Well, he

307 was from Indiana and the other two were from Ohio. There was also someone whose name  
308 eludes me who was a Shakespeare scholar.

309 **CHODOROW:** It was Bob Elliot.

310 **YORK:** And then, there was also Bob Elliot. No, there's a missing person. Burckhardt.

311 **CHODOROW:** Sigurd Burckhardt.

312 **YORK:** Sigurd Burckhardt. They came— You know. They were not a package, but they  
313 came so much at once. And I talked earlier about this question of novelty. In one area, I was the  
314 one that was perhaps the most extreme. And that was with respect to language teaching. It was  
315 a general view that we ought to emphasize oral language. I mean, we all agreed to that. I  
316 agreed to that. You know, I sort of— I approached even independently for a problem. And  
317 Newmark was a key to that. But in addition, the more extreme idea which I tried to push, but  
318 there I was simply naive with respect with what you can do, was that we should have regular  
319 courses in other languages. And here we ran into a funny kind of conflict. I had in mind that we  
320 would deal with popular culture and what I meant is reading the newspapers. And what Roy  
321 Pearce meant was reading some ancient French poetry. We never could somehow get that  
322 together. I wanted courses in French history or French politics given in French.

323 **CHODOROW:** You did that, from my point of view.

324 **YORK:** Well, but scarcely. The idea was to do it very broadly. And what we did was already  
325 a shadow.

326 **CHODOROW:** I did it at Penn as well. But again, as you said, it's a scattering of courses, not  
327 a—

328 **YORK:** No. We were not going to make it a requirement for graduate, but we were going to  
329 have that as a widespread kind of activity. In Spanish, French, German, perhaps Russian. But  
330 we did go through with the— That is how we got into this situation where we had only literature  
331 department. Having only a literature department and deliberately not having a French or  
332 Spanish department or German department was part of that. And there we were all together on  
333 the idea of doing something different. Because we thought it really would lead to better quality.  
334 So, that was literature. And Bob Elliot was part of the first five. Then there was philosophy which  
335 started about the very same time. And in the case— Going back to Pearce and the others, I

336 think it was Pearce who took the initiative. They were at Ohio State, they didn't like a lot of—  
337 There were some things that back there that had made them angry. There was a faculty senate,  
338 and I never knew the full facts, but I know that Roy didn't like the fact that there always these  
339 M.D.s, these conservative M.D.s. You know, Roy believed in democracy but only for right  
340 thinking people. And as soon as you got wrong thinking people in it, it's a different story. Well,  
341 they weren't real academics. You may know that I actually went to— Columbus on a miserable  
342 winter day. And I met with, I think both Roy and Andy and invited them to come out. Burckhardt  
343 was involved with them, too, somehow but I don't remember how in that case. Now in the case  
344 of philosophy, we got—

345 **WESTBROOK:** ————— [inaudible]

346 **YORK:** Well, there was this idea— you know. I would classify that as a hope rather than the  
347 plan. There was the idea that in the case of literature and in the case of art—things with both  
348 music and visual art—that one would get not critics but writers, painters, and so on. And we did  
349 try in each of those, but it just never worked out in any of them. Or it didn't work out very far. In  
350 the case of drama, I guess it did, but—

351 **CHODOROW:** It was then to an extent in visual arts. Music is nominated by composers.

352 **YORK:** Yeah. So, it did work out but it didn't work out in literature at all. And— I think we—  
353 Certainly, there were more names than Segnard [?], but none of them came even close. But the  
354 idea was there. Yes. We would try to get to write this. But then— Let me get back to philosophy.  
355 We got three people all at once. And that started with Popkin who then knew the other two. And  
356 that started— As I recall it, he had been at Claremont Colleges. Joe Platt was a life-long friend  
357 of mine, and was at that time president of Harvey Mudd, and he was aware that Popkin either  
358 wanted to leave, had to leave— I mean, there were problems with Popkin at Claremont. I'm not  
359 sure which side the problems were on. And he thought that— And he knew we were looking for  
360 clever people, so I got in touch with— What's his first name?

361 **CHODOROW:** Richard.

362 **YORK:** Yeah. Not Sam. That's right. Dick. And he immediately got in touch with Stroll who  
363 was at British Columbia and Saunders who was somewhere. Jason Saunders. And the three of  
364 them came. Saunders left very soon thereafter. Within a year.

365 **CHODOROW:** Was it that close?

366 **YORK:** Well, I think it was that close. He had a better offer I think probably at North Carolina  
367 or something like that. But at any rate, those were the first two in the humanities. But all this  
368 time, we were looking at political science, economics, so forth. And we talked with a number of  
369 people. We talked with [Robert John] Braidwood who was at the Oriental Institute, but my  
370 recollection of people, particularly Singer decided Braidwood just wasn't quantitative enough  
371 and he wouldn't do. There was another man whose name I forget who were talking about in  
372 political science. Eventually ended at Irvine. He was at the University of Illinois as I recall.

373 **CHODOROW:** Not Jack? Jack Peltason.

374 **YORK:** No.

375 **CHODOROW:** Because he was the founder of the Irvine department.

376 **YORK:** No. This was not Jack Peltason, but he was at Irvine.

377 **CHODOROW:** And also, at Illinois.

378 **YORK:** Yeah, well, but it wasn't him. So, there were quite a few failures and they all had to  
379 do with the fact that in most cases—in some cases there was a narrow opposition, some cases  
380 there was broad opposition. Because we— That's another organizational principle that's  
381 important that I forgot to mention. And that is that when I said there was a plan about forming  
382 departments and numbers and so on, there was an overriding matter and that was that we won't  
383 follow this plan if we can't get the right person. So that we will recruit, you know, in political  
384 science, economics, sociology, anthropology— Let's say. We'll actually recruit for more people  
385 than we have money. And when we get two good ones, then we'll stop and go on the next year.  
386 So, we had a plan, but there was this overriding principle that we're not going to— The original  
387 recruiting will not be controlled by the plan. That was my idea. Whether it was original, I'm not  
388 sure. I mean, that was very much what I was doing. And you know, maybe somebody else  
389 persuaded me. But no, I think it as my idea. It was widely accepted. So, there was a plan but we  
390 would never be a slave in this plan. That's why we were so long in getting a political science  
391 department. Now besides departments I mentioned, others I remember being involved in— first  
392 of all, in history, where we had— I think did we get Braidwood first?

393 **CHODOROW:** No, you got Barraclough first.

394 **YORK:** Barraclough! Was he first?

395 **CHODOROW:** So far as I know he was first.

396 **YORK:** Whether he— There was Gabe Jackson. I'm not quite sure of the sequence.

397 **CHODOROW:** Jackson may have physically arrived before, but they were recruited at the  
398 same time.

399 **YORK:** And that was before John Galbraith—or was it just after?

400 **CHODOROW:** Just about the same time.

401 **YORK:** Yeah. These things more or less happen together. Because Galbraith of course  
402 being in history, we thought of him as not merely vice-chancellor but being history. It probably  
403 was he who knew Barraclough because John was a British Empire historian. So that hangs  
404 together, at least. And Gabe was a Spanish civil war historian. In mathematics, we went through  
405 a long chain of possibilities that never worked out. The two that I remember, and they're not the  
406 only—

**[END OF PART ONE, BEGIN PART TWO]**

407 **YORK:** Great man. Is somewhat older. And then a younger one named Paul Garabedian,  
408 who indicated a lot of interested. Now, it was especially in mathematics where Keith— took,  
409 essentially all of the initiatives. Everybody we considered the possible exception of Mark Katz  
410 [?]. I mean, it was Keith who dug him out, brought him here, tried to persuade them, and so on.  
411 So, Keith took a special responsibility with respect to mathematics, but he was into everything  
412 else. Especially mathematics. And then finally—and I'm not sure how it happened, it probably  
413 was Keith—we got Steve [Stefan E.] Warschawski. I knew the dean at—was in Minnesota?  
414 Athelstan Spilhaus was the dean there and I knew Athel. And he knew that we were after him.  
415 He said, "You'll never get a deal. Never leave." We were terribly disappointed when he did  
416 because he brought three or four others with him, and Warschawski was one of the really great  
417 things we did here. He was fabulous as a founding chairman and as just a member of the  
418 general community. Brought a lot of good people and they did really well. And— But he was,  
419 you know— Lord knows how far along the line it was where we'd ask other people before he  
420 would come. In engineering, we were also proceeding and there we were— There, there is in  
421 even an academic question because engineering— Most of engineering is heavily  
422 undergraduate than a lot of discipline, but we decided to apply the same idea of starting with

423 graduate work there. And now what we now have was descended from that, but there had been  
424 a lot— Not only is it bigger, but there were changes as we went along. As I remember it, the first  
425 person we got was Sol Penner. And he was— And Keith was responsible for that, too, because  
426 somehow Sol and Keith were both at IDA [Institute for Defense Analyses] together. Sol Penner  
427 still is a principle consultant with IDA. I don't know if you're aware with that. Very active there.  
428 Important, too. And Paul Libby came very soon. And there was this department called AMES  
429 which at that time that Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering Sciences became applied—  
430 Other names came in as we went along. But it started— It originally started for aeronautical.  
431 And that was the time— The very early 60s is where the space program and the missile  
432 program and all kinds of novel airplane programs were a big deal in American technology  
433 generally. And then, I think the second department was the one we called APIS which was  
434 Applied Physics Information Science. And we got this strange writ. I can remember the name.  
435 But he recruited— He was a successful recruiter.

436 **CHODOROW:** I know who you're talking about. I coached his son in Little League.

437 **YORK:** He gave us a lot of— Well, there's Ian Axford for somebody else who is at one of the  
438 major German institutes [Max Planck Institute for Aeronomy]. No. He was much younger. And  
439 Ian was from New Zealand and didn't like America. And made it plain. Made in clear. I thought  
440 very strange that he didn't like America so he goes to Rosenchurn [?] instead. I thought pretty  
441 crazy. But at any rate— But he was quite successful. He is quite successful. No this was  
442 someone else. But later, he became— He was one of the relatively rare instances where one  
443 academic is publicly scolding others. Do you remember this? Well, he was very critical of Keith  
444 Brueckner especially, but the physics department in general for not pulling their share. He was  
445 very definite about the notion that the physics faculty is not teaching enough and so on. And  
446 was vocal about it. And complained to anybody who would listen. I mean, not only inside the  
447 university but outside as well. Poisoning the nest, or whatever you want to say. And went on for  
448 years. I mean, it wasn't just by chance he did that one day. It was a long-term thing. But he was  
449 the first chairman, I believe, with this department. Probably he was the one who recruited  
450 Axford.

451 **CHODOROW:** Who also would have recruited [Irwin M.] Jacobs?

452 **YORK:** Yes, probably.

453 **CHODOROW:** ————— [inaudible]

454 **YORK:** Well Manny started out in physics and then went over to there. But yes. Then lots of  
455 others— Those are our early group. That must be where Jacobs started although, much how  
456 fairly soon these things develop. They started the idea of computer science and then electronic  
457 engineering computer science. I mean, there were an evolution of groups and names and things  
458 like chemical engineering very late. But while I was still involved— the move was just those two.  
459 Applied Physics Information Sciences. And aeronautical mechanical engineering sciences.  
460 Then— Well, we never got anywhere with political science, so we kept— And then [Mel] Spiro  
461 and Gusfield came along soon after, but— Then I don't think—

462 **CHODOROW:** They came in '68.

463 **YORK:** And then when did the Mandler's come?

464 **CHODOROW:** Before that.

465 **YORK:** See there were three.

466 **CHODOROW:** Right.

467 **YORK:** I became graduate dean in '68. So, I was involved in the recruiting during '68-'72 as  
468 well as '61-'64.

469 **CHODOROW:** Why don't we talk about psychology for once?

470 **YORK:** McGill fired both of the vice-chancellors.

471 **CHODOROW:** Bob Byron and— ?

472 **YORK:** No. No, no, this was a thing that evolved way beyond that. No. Sol Penner and Fred  
473 [Frederick T.] Wall. I don't know. They got some kind of— Well, I don't know. Yes, I do  
474 remember vaguely, but not the details. Fred and Sol had just had permanent continuing turf  
475 battles. I mean, they kept arguing with each other and going to McGill to settle. And so, McGill  
476 fired them both. And then replaced only Wall with me. So, there was no vice-chancellor for a  
477 while. I was the only vice-chancellor. I wasn't sure whether I had the type or— Well, I know had  
478 that, but I might have had them both. But I certainly had the dean's type. There's a sad story  
479 there. Roy wanted so badly to be dean of the faculty—a job we don't even have. But imagined  
480 job of great dignity. I asked— I invited him to be assistant graduate dean because I felt we  
481 needed somebody there and he was obviously be as well happy to do it. Then I was acting



482 chancellor. And at the end of that period, the question was what will I do now? And since I was  
483 on leave with the job as graduate dean, I thought of doing that. But Roy was so eager to be  
484 graduate dean that I— And you know, I was not all that eager. So, I simply decided— I always  
485 had at least as much interest in Washington as I had in San Diego. That's part of my prospect. I  
486 had a problem here, that's part— And so, I didn't have any problems with that. Was the  
487 Kennedy administration was getting going and I was on the general advisory community for  
488 arms control and became a member of the—like second time as the president's science advisor  
489 team. So that was fine with me. But Roy was just so eager to be graduate dean and of course,  
490 as soon as McElroy [William D. McElroy] got here, he fired him again. In academic circles, he's  
491 ————— [*inaudible*]. McElroy couldn't stand the fact that whenever a question came up, Roy  
492 put a pipe in his mouth and looked at the ceiling. Just like Grayson Kirk. I knew Grayson Kirk  
493 and I remember just within the last few days seeing some 1968—PBS documentary on 1968.  
494 There's Grayson Kirk. He was so hopeless at Columbia. He never had any idea what was  
495 happening to him. And he did the same thing. It was with his mouth and looking at the ceiling  
496 expecting somehow the angels would tell him what to do there. Well, that's getting a little  
497 personal. But anyway, that's— So when Mel and Joe came, they were at least— I hadn't had  
498 anything to do with recruiting them, I don't think. But when they came, I then involved what  
499 happened next. Same with— Somehow, psychology there were also three or four people who  
500 came at once. McGill came in from Mammoth, but there were two others.

501 **CHODOROW:** George Reynolds?

502 **YORK:** Yeah. You know, whether it was the same year, it was very close. There were others  
503 who— and they could still be here.

504 **CHODOROW:** I'm not sure.

505 **YORK:** Then there was— We left out somebody important and that's Seymour Harris. It was  
506 Urey who found Seymour Harris. See, in addition to having, as I've said, a committee structure,  
507 we really had two committees. One on recruiting and one on planning. And again, the planning  
508 one may or may not have been a senate committee. I'm just not sure. But the recruiting one was  
509 an ad hoc administry. And different people had different assignments. And we parceled them  
510 out in a—within retrospect, kind of a strange way. But some Urey was involved with that. Wasn't  
511 just Urey. There were a couple people involved with economics. I think another one in  
512 economics was this guy who owned the La Valencia. Or partially owns it. An oceanographer, a

513 longtime member at Scripps. But— Well, a lot of oceanographers were wealthy in those days. It  
514 was something they did to save their consciences, like the Prince of Monaco. And we had a  
515 number of people like that. Who had money, could buy a yacht. What are you going to do with  
516 it? Socially useful. Well I exaggerate just to make a point. But any rate, Harold was back east  
517 and called and said there's this professor from Harvard who is looking for a job because he has  
518 to retire. Harvard was fairly rigid in its rules. It could afford to be. And so, Harris was being put  
519 out to pasture. And his goal was to be appointed to be Federal Reserve board. Preferably as  
520 chairman. And he was hoping Kennedy would do that. He knew Kennedy. Or he knew  
521 Kennedys. I guess probably Jack himself. And so that was— He really had this goal and it was  
522 with serious possibilities, but it didn't happen. So, we were definitely second-choice with Harris  
523 and he let us know. Unfortunately, he was a nice guy, but he was already at the edges of  
524 senility. Jim Arnold and I gave some classes with him on policy. And he just was— He was an  
525 anecdotalist. That was all. He would just— And he loved telling stories about himself. And like a  
526 lot of people, the story doesn't have to be positive as long as the other person is important. I  
527 mean, Adlai Stevenson told me I was crazy. Because its Adlai Stevenson, that's a good thing.  
528 And I think that's almost literal. It was some of the— You know. He had one of his stories that  
529 was about Adlai Stevenson's criticisms of himself. Well, the odd thing about him was his  
530 pessimism about this place. He repeatedly told me. He said, "You know, it's just too far. San  
531 Diego. I mean, out on the Pacific Coast. Nobody really— You can't get any good people to go  
532 there. So, we've got to do the best we can, but it just isn't the place where you're going to be  
533 able attract—" Well, to him, Boston and Washington were everything. And everything else was  
534 exile. He recruited— He himself was accrued strictly a policy one. Wrote a lot of books, but they  
535 were all policy oriented. And yet he recruited this whole gang of theorists. But the idea behind it  
536 was that's the best we can do. And he was sort of exclusive about that—at least in talking with  
537 me. You can't expect—

538 **CHODOROW:** Because the theorists of course didn't need much.

539 **YORK:** Yeah. Well, that's right. What he was saying was you're not going to get other  
540 people. You're not going to get younger people like me. They just won't go to San Diego. So, it  
541 was an odd set-up and of course, it flavored things very strongly because we—without realizing  
542 it, we got this whole gang of people all from Chicago. Orr [Daniel Orr] and— the only name I  
543 remember is Orr.

544 **CHODOROW:** Attiyeh [Richard E. Attiyeh] came just before—

545 **YORK:** Who?

546 **CHODOROW:** Attiyeh

547 **YORK:** Oh, yeah.

548 **CHODOROW:** Came later. And Rob Engelton [?] in '68.

549 **YORK:** When did [Dennis E.] Smallwood come?

550 **CHODOROW:** Smallwood, maybe about '67. The first born was started there.

551 **YORK:** Yeah.

552 **CHODOROW:** He was real early. I think I always remember about the coffee cup. He always  
553 came in wearing suits.

554 **YORK:** Well, I remember something that jives. On the few occasions that I had lunch with  
555 him—more than one of them. I'm accustomed to, you know, just six people. You divide the  
556 check by six. You don't worry about who had the beer. But not Dan Orr. You know. "You had  
557 carrots and I had peas. Rice with peas. Side-dish of peas is ten cents more than side-dish of  
558 carrots. And we're going to do this right." I mean, he just insisted that it be divided according to  
559 exactly what everybody ate. And there were a couple of others who backed him up. But it  
560 somehow was Orr who took the lead, and he finally left and went off to somewhere.

561 **CHODOROW:** He was always this person who— He went to Virginia Tech. He was always a  
562 person whose now somewhere else, I think he's at Chicago. ————— [*inaudible*] But he's this  
563 person who's gone from place to place looking for paradise.

564 **YORK:** I'll tell you some other interesting people we didn't get. We tried— John Hope  
565 Franklin [?] we tried to get. Well, this campus was slightly ahead of the power curve with  
566 respect— You know, what later became fair practices and so forth. We were always a little bit  
567 ahead.

568 **CHODOROW:** And certainly, what were we?

569 **YORK:** Yes. And not accidently. Others, too. There was a case of a homosexual who was  
570 having trouble on another campus to the point where they were going to have to do something.

571 He had a friend here and who said, you know, this guy is really good. He's in trouble and so we  
572 hired him. As far as I know, it might have been the first person who was ever hired wittingly or  
573 deliberately. And Greece, too. You know, we— It was always university policy that they engage  
574 in no partisan politics or religious activities. And believe it or not, when I was chancellor back  
575 there in the early sixties, I remember a serious discussion among the chancellors that  
576 somebody's dying on the Berkeley campus and wants the last rites. You know, can we oblige  
577 him? Or are we violating article—what is it?—section 8— Article 8, section 8. Something like  
578 that. And so, when they finally proposed that we hire Father Henry in the political science  
579 department that really was a novelty. And I decided, let's do it. So, we hired Father [Paul] Henry,  
580 and then we hired a number of people in different kinds of positions. We got— He was the only  
581 one with a regular faculty position. But near faculty, other kinds of academic positions, we got  
582 Father Watty [?]. Remember him? I always thought of him as a native speaker of Latin and  
583 Greek. Well, you know, I still see him on rare occasions. He lives near me. And he's still being  
584 quite stuffy. I have some older friends who want to get married and they want to get married  
585 outside the Church when they know him.

586 **CHODOROW:** He's Episcopal priest.

587 **YORK:** Yes. But he got into some kind of trouble himself in England. I mean, he came to this  
588 country because he got into some kind of trouble over there. And then there were a number of  
589 others who came on campus to be deans and assistant deans. And one who may still be here is  
590 Ernie [Ernest] Mort. And Ernie— I'm not sure what Ernie's current state is, but he— He's not—  
591 He didn't resign. He went on just some kind of very long-time leave. Which he still is. Anyway,  
592 we hired Father Henry and then the others. Of course, Father Henry was an interesting  
593 character. I mean, he was a great drinker. Well he drank himself to the point that these ——. He  
594 was a problem. He had trouble— He lived down at the Saint Mary's Star of the Sea where I  
595 guess he did. But at any rate, he got in trouble there. He was not above hitting a high salary. But  
596 the idea of poverty meant you don't have any net gain during the year. You can spend as much  
597 as you can get. I never really got to know him.

598 **CHODOROW:** He gave some very important mark on Plotinus. It was a second century  
599 Platonist. Very important man. Philosopher who ————— [*inaudible*] the Christian tradition by  
600 introducing Plato humanistic theory to the early fathers. Plotinus was not a Christian, but  
601 Augustine was deeply influenced by Plotinus. He was second-period. That is to say, he had a  
602 period from '68 to '72. You were coming in just at the time when Mel and Joe were coming in.

603 There was a development, I think— Political science was still going on because I am a member  
604 of that community as a junior person.

605 **YORK:** And we finally got—

606 **CHODOROW:** Sandy Lakoff.

607 **YORK:** Yeah, but first we got—

608 **CHODOROW:** Martin Shapiro [?].

609 **YORK:** It was Shapiro. Yeah. But they came together.

610 **CHODOROW:** But Shapiro said he wouldn't be chair. He'd come but he wouldn't be chair.

611 **YORK:** And were they both at Toronto?

612 **CHODOROW:** No, Shapiro was at Harvard at the time. And Sandy was at Toronto.

613 **YORK:** But Shapiro's wife had a—

614 **CHODOROW:** Right. She was dean. She's a historian who was dean of Wheaton. And she  
615 came here in the history department.

616 **YORK:** That was the era when the history department had the— You know, Ramon Ruiz [?]  
617 versus the Europeans. This has been the problem. And of course, that was also the days  
618 when— Those were the wildest days. I mean, '68 to '70. By the time McGill left and I became  
619 acting chancellor again, it was just—we didn't know it, I guess—over the top. But it was wild  
620 ride.

621 **CHODOROW:** Let me just back up a bit and ask you about linguistics. Because Leonard  
622 came— He was first in literature and moved off to take over the development of linguistics. How  
623 did that happen?

624 **YORK:** Well, I don't know how it happened when he moved off. My recollection is that from  
625 the beginning the idea is that he would run the language program. The oral language program.  
626 So, whether organizational— I mean, I don't have any recollection of the organizational path.  
627 They were just what you say, but I don't think of that as important. I mean; however, he came to  
628 run the language program.

629 **WESTBROOK:** Do you remember whether people on the campus at the time were— When  
630 you take a position with the sectarian disputes within linguistics and say we're going to develop  
631 this kind of quality and that kind of quality.

632 **YORK:** I'm not sure what disputes you're referring to. The thing that there seem to be unity of  
633 was the notion that we would emphasize oral language rather than the classical approach to,  
634 you know, French which starts with literature and so on. And I don't remember that as being a  
635 problem. Beyond that, I'm not sure that I know what you're talking about.

636 **WESTBROOK:** That was a long time when ————— [*inaudible*]. But it was the Chomsky  
637 revolution and it started in the fifties. Which splits linguistics into a scientific division and a much  
638 more methodological historical.

639 **YORK:** I was not aware of that, but you do remind me of something else. And then another  
640 recruitment that didn't work. There's this other linguist named Roman [Jacobson] something. An  
641 old man. Who knew all the languages of the Soviet Union somehow.

642 **CHODOROW:** Seemed to have known all the languages known to man.

643 **YORK:** Well, we talked with him about coming. I mean, we were— We tried to— Leonard  
644 must have been behind that. I don't recall Leonard's role in it. I just remembered that we tried to  
645 get him. And his wife was actually—taught Russian. If they had come— If it was another case  
646 where we had to get a job for her, too. Then of course, he never came.

647 **CHODOROW:** What about the New Yorks[?] Did they start already when you were here? Or  
648 had they— Because they may have been in the interim.

649 **YORK:** Yeah. I certainly was the— They didn't start when I was involved earlier. And then  
650 later, they were building. I mean, I remember Harold Cohen in particular, as well as all the  
651 problem with Harold. He had very particular ideas about things and was very— He just wanted  
652 everything. All kinds of support, salary. He wasn't the only one, so— But he was a guy who was  
653 always pressing. And who was here? I think Antin was here.

654 **CHODOROW:** David Antin had already come. This was in your second year. David actually  
655 started as head of the gallery those years.

656 **YORK:** We started— Another one worth mentioning and it has, again, a slightly ahead of the  
657 power curve. We started PE [Physical Education] fairly early, but there was always this dispute  
658 about whether that's really academic. Well, the general agreement it isn't— Whatever it is, it's  
659 not the same as the other department. So, what do you do, you know? And there were people  
660 who were just ————— [inaudible] the whole thing and there were others who weren't. And  
661 we early on got a marvelous guy, Ted Forbes. Who then go some other people who were here.  
662 And one of the things is— This is where we get back to that being ahead of the curve. We  
663 had— And I hope I'm remembering this accurately. And I'm sure that if I'm not [unclear]. There  
664 was black guy in there—the janitor. And Forbes came to me one day and said, "This guy went  
665 to San Diego State."

666 **CHODOROW:** He was a janitor?

667 **YORK:** And so, we immediately decided to hire him. He came here as custodian or  
668 something. And it was only after he was here. Whether it was days or year, I don't— I'll say it  
669 was months or years rather than days when Forbes came and told me that he actually had a  
670 bachelor's degree.

671 **CHODOROW:** Bachelor's degree and he was an all-American athlete.

672 **YORK:** And so, we thought, that's wonderful. Hired him right away.

673 **CHODOROW:** Howard Hunt must have come in early.

674 **YORK:** Yes. Very early, but— Yeah. Very early.

675 **CHODOROW:** And James White.

676 **YORK:** Jim White was interested in the boundaries of medicine with athletics.

677 **CHODOROW:** About physiology.

678 **YORK:** Yeah. They were a good bunch. And developed a really great program. Forbes was  
679 from Davis. Had been at Davis.

680 **CHODOROW:** Now, Brad will you take the ————— [inaudible]. This has been  
681 fascinating. It's a lot of background that we—

682 **YORK:** Well, you can look over all these things and then call me back.

683 **CHODOROW:** We have archives whenever you want them to study, which will raise other  
684 kinds of questions.

685 **YORK:** I've done oral history otherwise, but not here. But some of the people who tried to  
686 write history— everyone's interview. And they needed something on tape. Is there an oral  
687 history here? But oral history also up at the Bancroft Library.

688 **WESTBROOK:** How do you feel about coming back and ————— [*inaudible*]?

689 **YORK:** It might, but then who wouldn't. When did you come?

690 **CHODOROW:** 1968. The way that my recruitment took place was that— That was the year I  
691 was finishing my Ph.D. I was candidate for position at Kent. And it came down to two of us and  
692 the other guy got it. And I was walking across campus and met a very— a man I worked with a  
693 Danteist who actually tried to get here. John Picchero. And he said, "What are you going to do  
694 next year?" And I said, "I'm going to get a job." And he said write Roy Pearce. Roy had tried to  
695 recruit John Raletti [?]. He's building the humanities up in this new university. So, I wrote to Roy  
696 and by that time the history department was existing. He handed the letter to Armin Rappaport  
697 who had become chair of the department by default. I think Sam Baron had been chair of the  
698 department and had a nervous breakdown—which doesn't surprise me. And it turned out that  
699 the guy who go the job at Kent was Ed [Edward] Peters who was here. So, they were all of a  
700 sudden looking for someone.

701 **YORK:** You know, the other things that happened that second time was this whole question  
702 of race and so forth. Tended to dominate everything in all aspects. We really were trying to—  
703 Well, I'd always been sympathetic to the idea that there are great wrongs that need to be righted  
704 and it'll take a long time to do it. So, to this day, I'm one of those people who thinks affirmative  
705 action should continue. The details maybe wrong, but the problem is still there, and by no  
706 means fair. And of course, there are always a lot of people here who in favor of it as long as it  
707 didn't touch them too closely. So, there were a lot of problems connected with that. And then,  
708 there was the whole question of creating Third college and Zapata Lumumba. When I came  
709 back to the administration, Angela Davis had just left. So, I never met her. But her sister was  
710 here. And her sister had a boyfriend—it was her boyfriend, I guess—who loved guns. So, the  
711 question of guns on campus came up. I mean, all kinds of wild things were happening. And



712 Rappaport, he was the one who was supposed to be the provost of Third college. And he just—  
713 He couldn't handle it either. Well, I don't know how anybody could.

714 **CHODOROW:** They had no interesting things ————— [*inaudible*]. And he went with the  
715 measures.

716 **YORK:** And there was a stupid— Remember Carlos Blanco [Aguinaga] and there was  
717 another guy with an Italian name.

718 **CHODOROW:** Gian-Roberto Sarolli?

719 **YORK:** No, I don't think that's it. But there were two of them that were very much involved in  
720 all of this. And I remember the students had a certain— weren't sure about either one of them.  
721 And they called Carlos "Colón" and they— No. "Cortés." And then the other one, the guy with  
722 the Italian name was "Colón."

723 **CHODOROW:** Carlos was actually from Spain. He was actually Basque. Part Basque.

724 **YORK:** Yeah. With these long last names. I was going to say Alguinaldo or Aguire. But any  
725 rate, he was very active in those days. But the Mexican students weren't so sure about him. The  
726 Chicano students. They called them Cortés and Colón.

727 **CHODOROW:** Did you play a role in the recruitment of Armin?

728 **YORK:** No. If I did, it was trivial. It was fairly formal. I certainly didn't have any more than  
729 that. Maybe. But maybe that was just before.

730 **CHODOROW:** And John Stewart?

731 **YORK:** Yeah. I was involved with Stewart.

732 **CHODOROW:** How did he come into the picture?

733 **YORK:** Well, we were getting ready to start the second college. And we were recruiting and  
734 we— And since Revelle College was already so strong in scientific, we were looking for  
735 somebody who would be the arts or humanities. And I forget exactly what John Stewart was  
736 doing, but he had been in a marriage that had just broken up. That was a key element in all of it.  
737 He was looking for a new geography.

738 **CHODOROW:** He had been an associate director of the ————— [*inaudible*] at  
739 Dartmouth. Quite a ————— [*inaudible*].

740 **YORK:** And we had a lot of conversations. I remember talking with him at great length. It was  
741 a prolonged negotiation in which there was a lot of concerns on his side about whether they  
742 were really going to treat him right or not. But he was recruited to be the provost. I'm pretty sure.  
743 And an awful lot of— As I said, I remember talking with him, negotiating with him a lot. It was all  
744 on the telephone. There must be something besides that. I certainly never went to Dartmouth to  
745 see him. I can't think of the name. You know the center for advanced study in the social  
746 sciences? The one up at the Stanford area? The first director there was close friend of Clark  
747 Kerr's. And I spent a lot of time with him talking about names. It didn't turn out very particularly  
748 cultural, but I mean, we put a lot of work in it. But how would it have been if Papandreou didn't  
749 show?

750 **CHODOROW:** How much did you have to do with the [Herbert] Marcuse case?

751 **YORK:** Well, I was always pretty much in it. But I didn't take the original initiative, although  
752 we had this other Marxist with whom I was involved with.

753 **CHODOROW:** Stanley Moore

754 **YORK:** Yeah. And Marcuse was the second one. And he came when I had nothing to do  
755 with ————— [*inaudible*]. It was period from '64 to '68. Well, I was chairman of physics at that  
756 time.

757 **CHODOROW:** But then there was—

758 **YORK:** But then I was involved later in several ways. I'll tell you one odd story. I don't know  
759 whether Abe will remember it the same. When he finally retired, he was not emeritus because  
760 emeritus in the University of California is an administrative title about which there are rules. And  
761 one rule is you have to be in our retirement system. And he was not because when he came,  
762 the agreement—I guess it was made with McGill—was that he would not become— He would  
763 come, but he wouldn't join the retirement system. It may have even been his choice. I'm not  
764 quite sure. But it had to do with his age. And so technically, he couldn't be emeritus. And so,  
765 Abe wanted the listing that way and somebody told him you can't do that. And I said, "Abe, I  
766 would authorize—" So Abe's fussing about it. So, I said, "Well, list him in the catalogue as  
767 professor emeritus with small letters." Because with capital letters, you know, it's a title which

768 you go to somewhere in the handbook of administration or something and it describes would  
769 describe what is professor emeritus with capital letters. But as if both professor emeritus are  
770 dictionary words, and if we spell them with small letters, it's okay. I was very specific about it.  
771 Call him professor emeritus, but write it with small letters. But somehow or rather, Abe, whether  
772 he wanted to make more fuss or what— I don't know what. But finally, they listed him professor  
773 honorale with good small letters.

774 **CHODOROW:** They were saying it was a movement connected to him by the Regents to  
775 limit the year-to-year post for time limit appointments.

776 **YORK:** Yes. Out of that time, a lot of things came and he was central— There were probably  
777 other people central, as well. A lot of changes and rules about who had authority to do what,  
778 which that's one. I mean, they had eventually post-retirement re-appointments. But there was  
779 also the question of who could appoint— You know, how tightly tenure was being controlled out  
780 of Berkeley and there were other things over which there was a lot of invisible tape. There was a  
781 lot of change and sort of humming around with respect to regents wanting more—worried about  
782 them wanting more.

783 **CHODOROW:** We made a pact, as I remember it— enabling— In fact, you could be  
784 appointed on a one-year basis, but after the age of seventy, you could not. Which affected  
785 Murray among others, but it was really one of the principle people—

786 **YORK:** We had a problem with Pauling also. And there, we had— It was hard. We finally  
787 were working something out, but Pauling was a very demanding person too. I had successfully  
788 worked out—somehow working with Singer and maybe with Jim Arnold—a way of keeping him  
789 here and paying him. But it wasn't acceptable to him. He didn't have to leave. We did have a  
790 way of handling it. But it ties back to these problems you're talking about.

791 **CHODOROW:** But that was the end of the sixties. It's all toward the end of the sixties.

792 **YORK:** Well, that's because the student— As far as the University of California is concerned,  
793 I guess '64 is the year when— Maybe '63. You know, when you had the free speech and the  
794 people's park and then things just grew from there. Throwing glass— The only near-violent thing  
795 that actually happened to me personally was at some point when I was acting chancellor,  
796 Lipjhart's[?] wife— Remember her? All dressed in black. Really the sinister spy stuff. Got into  
797 my office when I wasn't there. She was just starting to go through the files looking for God-

798 knows-what when I wandered in. And she fled, obviously. Because it's the same chancellor's  
799 office as now. There are these large windows on the side, ceiling to floor. She ran out. All ——  
800 —— [*inaudible*]. Penner was the guy took—who got the worst treat. And I do have some  
801 feeling that I could have done more for Penner. I did support him. I mean there was no question  
802 about that. But I might have done more.

803 **CHODOROW:** But he was engaged in research that you regarded as—

804 **YORK:** Yeah, well, there was this— A lot of it. He was a regular consultant for IDA [Institute  
805 for Defense Analyses] then as before and as now. And probably other things, too. I don't know  
806 what all. But Penner has always been heavily involved with military research and the  
807 government.

808 **CHODOROW:** How much research was going on here in the late 60s when you were here?

809 **YORK:** Well, on the campuses, virtually none. But there were some— But there was, at  
810 Point Loma. There had been at Scripps on the campus, but there was never much there. It was  
811 always convenient to go to Point Loma. But what was happening is that people, including  
812 myself, were getting classified correspondence at the level of secret, I guess. Probably not top  
813 secret. You could keep it in your office if you had a safe. That was approved by someone else.  
814 The authorities. And I had it. So, did some others. So, there was the issue of whether even that  
815 was okay. It almost got to the point of where you allowed to think about these things when you  
816 were on the campus. It was beginning to be a thought-control sort of thing. But my recollection  
817 is that before things peaked, there was very little. And what little there was drawn— By the time  
818 people were deciding to take over buildings, there was no longer anything. But there was of  
819 course DOD [Department of Defense] support at work. And that was enough. I mean, it wasn't a  
820 question— Faculty generally were concerned about classification because it interfered with  
821 communication and certain fundamental principles. But what the radical students were  
822 concerned about was anything connected with the Department of Defense. Not just whether it  
823 was classified or totally opened—it made no difference. They just didn't want that. And Penner  
824 was one of the people most deeply involved, but by no means the only one.

825 **CHODOROW:** Was there any role that JASON played in —— [*inaudible*]?

826 **YORK:** But a minor one. JASON was involved in some of the local problems. You see,  
827 JASON was started by IDA. Actually, I was—

**[END OF PART TWO, END OF INTERVIEW]**