

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Anti-War Movement at YSU during the 1960's

Personal Experience

O. H. 1365

DR. LOWELL J. SATRE

Interviewed

by

Matthew T. Butts

on

November 20, 1990

DR. LOWELL J. SATRE

Dr. Lowell J. Satre was born on November 15, 1942 on a farm in South Dakota, the son of Roy and Josie Satre. He attended Sisseton High School, graduating in 1960. Following high school, Professor Satre attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, receiving a B.A. degree in History in 1964. He then began his graduate studies at the University of South Carolina, achieving his Ph.D in English and British Empire History in 1968.

Dr. Satre came to Youngstown State University as a professor of British History in 1968, directly following the completion of his doctorate. Upon arriving here, Professor Satre witnessed many of the events that concerned the anti-war protests against the Vietnam War. He also took an active part in many of the anti-war protests and events that took place on the Youngstown State campus, most notably the Peace Moratorium of 1969.

Professor Satre is still an integral part of the Youngstown State History Department. He is a member of the Citizens' League of Greater Youngstown and the Sierra Club. He also served on the Youngstown Civil Service Commission until August, 1991. He is also an active member of the First Unitarian Church in Youngstown.

Professor Satre and his wife Ellen reside at 1872 Goleta Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. They have four children: Lorie Thomas, Ruth Williams, Peter and Joseph Satre. He spends much of his free time bicycling, camping, and backpacking.

-Matthew T. Butts

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INTERVIEWEE: DR. LOWELL J. SATRE

INTERVIEWER: Matthew T. Butts

SUBJECT: Robert Hagan, Vietnam, draft, Kent State
Protests, Dr. Chap Morrison

DATE: November 20, 1990

B: This is an interview with Dr. Lowell J. Satre for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Anti-War Movement at YSU During the 1960's, by Matthew T. Butts at DeBartolo Hall, Youngstown State University on November 20, 1990, at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Tell me a little bit about your family background from your childhood to present.

S: I was born in South Dakota. I grew up on a farm. I went to a one-room country school, where there was simply one teacher for all eight grades. The most students we ever had in all eight grades were fourteen of us. My class was one of the largest in the country school. There were three of us in my class. From there, I went to a local high school that was by far, the largest high school in Northeastern South Dakota. There were 350 students in the high school. From there, I went on to college at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It is a Lutheran school. I was brought up in a Lutheran church. From there, I went to graduate school at the University of South Carolina, where I got my Ph.D in History. Politically, in all of this, I was raised in a very conservative South Dakota, Republican household, so that, politically, I was throughout, at least in my college days, a

Republican. I started to change by the time I got to graduate school.

B: Tell me a little bit about your parents, any brothers and sisters.

S: My dad was in a family of eleven children. His father had come from Norway as a teenager. He had become a farmer in the Northeastern part of South Dakota. My grandfather also ended up being a bit of a politician. He served in the South Dakota State House on two different occasions. The first time, from about 1906 to 1910 and the second one, from 1920 to about 1922. My brother and I did a Satre family history so I studied him a little bit. He was a bit of a politician. Certainly, a good Republican. My mother was also Norwegian. Her parents had come from Norway, shortly before 1900. They were also farmers. From 1911 to 1914, they homesteaded in the Western part of South Dakota, part of the Homestead Act, that was still in place. They went out there. They got, I think it was a quarter section of land, 160 acres of land, for a nominal payment at most, then they had to improve it and develop crops on it from the area. The area in South Dakota had been a boom area, west of the river, which is a dry area. It had been a boom area from about 1900 to about 1907 and 1908. It led to a settlement of tremendous, huge migration out to that area. By about 1908 and 1909, they started running into some dry years.

When my mother's family was out there, that was from 1911 to 1914, they ended up with three years of no rain. All the crops, and everything they tried to do just failed. They built and lived in a sod house. I've seen pictures of it. They had a picture of the sod house. It was very nicely done on the inside. To cover up the sod itself, they had wallpaper. So there was wallpaper on the side of the sod shack and they created rooms by suspending sheets in between the different rooms. Most of the pictures I've seen show religious doings. I don't know if they were all Lutheran but there were pictures of Ladies Aid, a meeting of women associated with the Lutheran Church, I've seen photos of my grandmother, my mother and her sisters and brothers at such events. There were five brothers and sisters in that family. My mother's father, my grandfather finally had to leave because of repeated crop failures, and he and the rest of the family returned to Northeastern South Dakota where there were relatives, where they could at least earn a living.

Shortly after they returned to the Northeastern part of South Dakota, my grandfather was contacted by some of his relatives, Norwegian relatives who had come to the

United States and had gone to Idaho and ended up getting very good jobs there. So he hopped on the train and went on to Idaho and he first worked in mines. He didn't like it. The pay was good but he didn't like it. Then he got a job in a lumber mill. This was in Kellogg, Idaho. He did very well and he sent for the rest of the family. They moved out there, this was by about 1915 or so and my mother still reminisces about that. It was the most comfortable period they ever had in that they had a steady income and they actually bought a house. They were doing very well. They were thriving. They had always been poor. For once they weren't poor. In 1917, my grandfather had been out there for three years. He was killed in a railroad accident. He was run over, he was working in the lumber mill and he was crushed or run over by a railroad car. That began their whole cycle of poverty again. They moved back to South Dakota at that time and my grandmother never remarried.

It's kind of an aside, but years later, when my wife and I were in Norway in 1967, I met a distant cousin of mine who was in his eighties by that time, by the name of Peter Groven. He spoke English, broken English. I could understand him and I would estimate that within five minutes of meeting him, he said, "You know, I was the person who forgot to set the brake on the train that killed your grandfather." Fifty years earlier it had happened. It was still on his mind. Fifty years. Which is amazing. Fifty years it had been. That, anyway, that is a little bit of the family background.

I have two sisters and one brother. I am the baby of the family. The oldest sister was twelve years older than I am. She and her husband farmed in South Dakota. Extremely successful farmers. Hardworking and ended up being very, very successful. They retired two years ago, now. They live near Sioux Falls in a small community there, in town, now. My other sister lives in a suburb of Minneapolis. She is a nurse. Her husband is a Machinist. All of us have children. My brother, who is six years older than I am, is a Lutheran minister. He lives in Rochester, Minnesota. He has been in the Parish ministry for many years. He also ran a Lutheran outdoors program, camping program in South Dakota for three years and he is now the assistant to the bishop of South-Eastern Minnesota. So now he is in an administrative position. I have been married for twenty-five years. I have four children. Three of them are adopted, one is a biological son. They are all now nineteen years or older. Not too many of them left at home anymore.

B: When did you first come to the Youngstown area?

S: 1968. I came in June of 1968.

B: Was that following your graduation?

S: Yes. I got my Ph.D from the University of South Carolina in June. It was either late May or early June of 1968 so we packed up our belongings which were very, very few. We were poor, I was a poor graduate student. We didn't have many belongings. I had books that I packed up and sent them by parcel post. We sent one big box by Greyhound Express to Youngstown and we put all the rest of our earthly possessions in a VW Beetle, a little Volkswagon. That was it. I had a bike at the time and I strapped it on top of the car and that was it.

B: What was Youngstown like when you first arrived? What struck you about the Youngstown community?

S: I had come to Youngstown to interview right at the end of January, I think it was, of 1968. It was not a good day to come. It was one of those typical winter days. It had snowed one or two days before. It was probably in the high 30's or low 40's. Most of the snow had melted and it was dirty, everywhere. You know how the dirty appearance of the Youngstown area can be with a little bit of snow and melting and all dirty. So that was the first impression I had. When we came in June of 1968, we stayed for just a couple days to find a place to rent. I don't remember all that much of the impression of the area. The biggest impression was (and I had already been taken on a tour of the area) the steel mills. If there is one symbol of the area, it was steel mills. And that it was a relatively polluted and dirty area. We found that out right away. Right away we noticed that if you washed the car and you left it out over night, by the following morning or within a couple days, if it was sitting there, you could see a little grit, dirt, soot, steel shavings type of thing, glistening, maybe left over from smoke from coal and everything had settled on the car. It was noticeably dirty. I don't know how much more of an impression I had at that time. Certainly, the people were friendly. The only people I knew were those primarily in the History department. It was a friendly community. I don't remember that we were ever concerned about safety in the city, as far as violence goes. We weren't aware of it. We lived right on the North side of Youngstown, up here near the Stambaugh Golf Course on Elm Street. I'm not aware that we were ever concerned about any safety. So as far as my original impression is that we probably regarded it as a somewhat dirty, but a safe community.

- B: What was Youngstown...I guess, was it Youngstown State when you arrived?
- S: Yes, it was Youngstown State. It had become a state university in 1967, the year before I came.
- B: What was it like when you arrived here?
- S: It wasn't much. History department offices were on the second floor of the library when I came. There were three or four people sharing an office. The offices, if I recall correctly, were kind of glassed in areas on the second floor of the library, which is now Tod Hall Administration Building, that was the library at that time. There was one phone, kind of for two offices. So there was a hole cut in the glass between the offices and the phone sat there, so whenever it would ring, you could answer it here or they could answer it in the next office. That was it. There was nothing to brag about. As far as the offices, there was not much to it. As far as physical plant goes, there wasn't much. The Engineering Building was new. That had been constructed in about 1967. There was a bit of Kilcawley that had been constructed. The resident hall was there and a little bit of another part of Kilcawley. There was the old library at that time. Jones Hall was at that time, primarily the center of Administration. There were no parking decks, there was no Arts and Sciences, there was no big new library. There was still two or three old barracks that had been moved in after World War II that were used for a classroom buildings and I think, if I recall correctly, that is also where the Dana School of Music was located in a barrack building over behind...Actually fairly close to Jones Hall. Physically, no, this was not much of a place. Physically it was a pretty miserable looking university.
- B: What was the student body basically composed of? Is it similar to what it is now?
- S: I suppose the big difference in the student body was that it was much younger then, than it is now. We have a big number right now, of nontraditional students, that is students over the age of twenty-five or twenty-seven, twenty-eight. I don't recall that there were very many of those in the late 1960's. Other than that, I don't think the student body has changed all that much. Most of the students came from the Youngstown area and they still primarily come from the Youngstown area. I don't know that I can say that there has been much change in the student body over the years.

B: When did you first begin to question the United States involvement in Southeast Asia?

S: In graduate school. When I went to graduate school, I was a Republican. I voted for Barry Goldwater and by the way, there were a number of us in the History department that did vote for Barry Goldwater. There were others that did. I think I even heard, if I recall correctly, Barry Goldwater at Columbia, South Carolina. I believe I also went to hear Lyndon Johnson in South Carolina when he was running in the election. My views began to change primarily because of my contact with other graduate students.

Particularly, there was a graduate student, a person who became a very close friend of mine and still is, who had been in the Army from roughly, I guess 1960 to maybe 1962. He had not served in Vietnam and had gotten out of the Army in 1962 and had gotten his master's degree in History from some place in Arizona. What had always bothered him was that he simply didn't trust the Army. He particularly knew how wasteful the Army was. He used to tell stories about...He was located in Germany and they had to use up their gasoline rations. It would be near the end of the month and they hadn't used up enough gasoline so they'd get in their jeeps and drive and drive and drive and drive. I remember him telling about that. I mean they would do anything. If they hadn't used up things by a certain time, they would use it up in the last two days of the period so indeed, when they put in their orders they would be able to say, "See, we used it all up." So if I recall correctly, that was my first impression. Not simply against Vietnam itself, but simply the fact that the Army was wasteful and probably couldn't be trusted. I think it was Tom (Tom Kennedy was my friend) who probably got me concerned; let's put it that way, about what was going on in Vietnam.

I remember somebody else I heard talk. We had a speaker on campus. It was, I suppose a type of a teach-in, with two people coming in. One of them was...I think one of the speakers was Fritz Hollings; Fritz Hollings, who is now a senator from South Carolina, who commented...He was speaking against Senator Wayne Morris. Senator Wayne Morris was an independent and a true maverick in the political sense from Oregon. He was a U. S. senator. He was probably the first critic that I'm aware of. The first critic that I knew who was high up in government against the Vietnam war. He was openly critical of what was going on and I don't remember. In South Carolina, it must have been a hostile audience. It had to be. South Carolina is politically and militarily one of the most conservative parts of the United States. One of the reasons being

not only are there a large number of military installations in South Carolina. Meddle Rivers was one of the representatives from South Carolina at that time and he was head of the house of the Armed Services Committee, which meant that South Carolina had gotten a lot of air bases and a lot of military bases over the years. Fort Jackson, which is probably one of the two or three main basic training Army bases in the United States, is located in Columbia, South Carolina. Shaw Air Force Base is another big air force base in the state. The standard joke was that if we get any more military installation in South Carolina, the entire state is going to sink into the Atlantic Ocean. Another reason why South Carolina was politically and militarily so conservative was because it also tended to be a state where so many of the military officers retired and went to live. They had a huge military presence in South Carolina. I suspect, again I don't remember it that well, I assume that the audience who listened to Wayne Morris was very much in support of the war. People in South Carolina were not particularly "hostile" people, even if they were in favor of a war. It was not perhaps as radically hostile as some other areas in favor of the war.

I remember Fritz Hollings made the statement, obviously responding to Wayne Morris. Here's Fritz Hollings who is now regarded as one of the liberals from the South (and I don't know if he later on ended up being a critic of the Vietnam involvement or not, I don't remember that.) Fritz Hollings said, "If we aren't careful, everybody's going to be running around making peace and nobody's going to be making war." I remember that. That's a quote from Fritz Hollings. That would have been about 1965 or 1966. So it was primarily my contact with a number of people, other students. A couple other incidents, I'll mention from graduate school. I don't remember the exact sequence of this. General Westmoreland, I believe, was a South Carolina native. I'm not certain about that. Westmoreland came to South Carolina and it was either 1967 or 1968, and I think he spoke before the faculty. I don't know if he was given an award or something. I suspect he was. Authorities took a lot of steps to protect him. I do recall that there were some faculty members at this meeting with Westmoreland who protested. They raised banners or something and then marched out or so. I don't know. At that time, they were perhaps arrested for disrupting a meeting. It was still not, I suppose in the middle 1960's, all that acceptable yet to protest that it came to be later on. That one incident I remember. I remember the building it was in, in South Carolina.

The second thing that played a role and probably shaped the minds of a lot of graduate students, and a lot of other students, was that by the late 1960's, authorities were beginning to make changes in selective service. Those of us who were in college at that time suddenly found ourselves in danger, indeed of being drafted and sent into the Army. In February of 1968, I received a letter from my local draft board which was from Sisseton, South Dakota, saying that I would be reclassified 1A, that is, eligible for the draft and would be drafted, essentially, unless there were some reasons why I shouldn't be. At that time, I think they said if you have any children or if your wife is pregnant one would be attempted. I don't remember if there were any other ways out of it. No, since we didn't have any children and my wife wasn't pregnant, I was, shortly thereafter, re-classified 1A. I wrote letters to everyone, everybody that I knew of, anybody in any position of authority, to see if I could be reclassified so that I would not be subject to the draft.

The basis of my appeal to these people was that I had been given a National Defense Education Act Fellowship, which was a federal government fellowship, providing me with three years of graduate school, where I would go to graduate school full-time. I didn't have to be an assistant. I was paid enough so I could live without any trouble at all. I was paid between... it varied, it increased a little bit every year and it increased after I was married. I got married in graduate school. I got anywhere from between \$2,000 and up to \$2,800, maybe up to \$3,000 for a nine-month period for graduate school and that was enough. They also paid all of my tuition. And not only did they pay me that amount of money every year, but they also paid a matching sum to the university. This had been set up, probably during the Eisenhower years as a part of the attempt to upgrade education in the United States. I'm not sure about this, but I think the National Education Fellowship was an offspring of the fear that the Russians were getting too far ahead of us in education, especially in higher education. They-- the federal government-- put some massive federal funds into upgrading everything, including that of the universities, and training people, essentially, to be teachers. That was the idea.

The basis for my appeal to the selective service board and to the authorities I wrote to, was that the federal government had seen fit to provide an enormous amount of money for me to be educated so that I'd become a university teacher, and I had done it diligently. I was in my fourth year of graduate school. I pointed out to them that I had received my master's degree and I was going to get my Ph.D in June of 1968. I was

going to get my MA and Ph.D degrees in three years and nine months, which obviously indicated that I had been working hard. I said, the basis of my appeal was that why should one part of the government be paying me to learn a skill and you have another part of the government not recognizing what the one part of the government had done, essentially saying no, you're going to be drafted and you're going to become a part of the military establishment. I said, it doesn't make sense. I said, the federal government has to make some kind of decision. I would think they would want me to go where I'm skilled right now.

My draft board didn't buy it at all. My draft board consisted of... There were five people on the draft board. I knew some of them. Three of the five were, I think, at that time, or had been state officers in the American Legion. So they were very, very much, pro-military and in fact, pro-war. They would hear nothing. They denied my appeal. They reclassified me, after I presented this argument, and it was after time that I had sent the letters out to anybody that I thought would be of any help. I sent a letter to the representative from that area of South Dakota that I was from. I sent a letter to the governor of the state of South Dakota. I sent a letter to the director of Selective Service, General Hershey. I sent letters to everybody that I could think of including Senator Karl Mundt who is obviously going to be of no help. Senator Karl Mundt was possibly the most conservative senator in the senate at that time. I got letters back from all these people saying, "Sorry, we don't interfere or intervene in the workings of the local selective service board."

Well, they all came back, all of them saying, "Sorry, we can't help you," until a final letter came back. This person said, "I agree entirely with your argument, and that you have been paid the money through the federal government to become a teacher and that's correct, I agree with you. I will direct General Hershey to reclassify you to another position where you will not be drafted." It was Senator George McGovern, a senator from South Dakota. I'm sure it didn't hurt that he was a...he was himself, a Ph.D. He had taught political science after he had gotten his doctorate degree and he agreed with my argument, and low and behold that's what happened. He had me reclassified. I got all the copies, all the carbon copies of all of his correspondence that he had had with General Hershey. Hershey, keep in mind, was the director of Selective Service. The basis for reclassifying me was just what I had indicated, the argument that I had presented and that's what McGovern used. McGovern, obviously had enough clout and Hershey was enough of a political

animal so that he knew that if he wanted to get McGovern or some of these senators to vote the way that was needed for selective service or other military affairs, he had to respect their wishes. So I was reclassified.

My local selective service board was absolutely furious. They were angry. They called me everything from a communist sympathizer to every dirty name in the book they could think of. They were angry. They had to reclassify me. I don't recall, they said they reclassified me because I had been married before a certain change had been made in the selective service requirements. Well, that obviously wasn't the reason because they had all that information before they had ever reclassified me in the first place. I knew the real reason because I had carbon copies of everything that McGovern had written to Hershey. I knew why I had been reclassified. But they wouldn't admit that, indeed, it had been people higher up who had forced them to reclassify me. I suppose that didn't hurt at all in my anti-war activities. I just got to see a side of all of this that certainly disturbed me.

I found out much later actually, (and this didn't enter into my anti-war activities at this time) but I found a few years later, probably, no, maybe this was pretty soon. My mom said that this person, S.A. Kirk, who was the head, he was the chairman of the Selective Service board in Sisseton, South Dakota, had stopped my mother on the street and kind of berated her for having a son who was trying to get out of going to Vietnam, of going into the military. All of this kind of turned me pretty sour on what was going on. When I had first responded to them (that is, when they first intended to reclassify me) I wrote back saying that I really didn't want to be drafted or something. They responded to me saying that they didn't expect me to be drafted. They thought I would take the opportunity to enlist and become an officer. They expected me to do that. My selective board believed that instead of being drafted and entering the Army as a rank-and file soldier, I would instead apply and try to become an officer of some sort in the Army. One of the other parts of the argument that I used when I appealed, which McGovern particularly bought, was that before I was reclassified, I had already signed a contract to teach at Youngstown State University. I had interviewed here in late January 1968, and I had signed a contract, probably by no later than the middle of February 1968. This classification thing with my draft board probably came up late February or early March of 1968. So I had already signed a contract. I had already indicated that my Ph.D. would be in hand. I was just finishing up at that time, my dissertation. I was scheduled to defend the dissertation and to take the final defense.

I had already passed my writtens and my oral examination I think by that time. All I had left was to finish the dissertation and I was almost done with that. So that also helped as a basis of my appeal.

B: When you arrived at Youngstown State, did you notice any discontent by the student body against the war in Vietnam?

S: Not initially, no. I'm trying to remember how soon it came about. I don't remember about the student body. I do know that I was introduced immediately though, not to the hostility from the student body, but to an anti-war element within the city of Youngstown. I believe I am correct when I say that my wife and I had stopped here and found a place to rent, then had gone off to my in-laws in Illinois, because I was going to teach here in July, the second term of summer school. We went to Illinois, rented a U-Haul truck and emptied part of her parents' house. We had no furniture. We brought the furniture back, they had tons of it around the place. (You live in a place thirty or forty years, you have lots of that you want to get rid of.) We brought it back to Youngstown and I believe it was the first day that we came back to Youngstown and stayed in our apartment.

This was probably middle to late June of 1968. We walked up the street-- this was on Elm Street-- to Outlook, which is right on the North side of Youngstown. We walked up to see Dr. Slavin, Morris Slavin, and his wife Sophie. We walked up the street to them (I had met him before when I had interviewed, and they were two or three blocks away) just to say "hi" to them and we got up to their house and they were literally coming out of the house. They said, "Come on, we're going to a political rally." We went to Wick Park and the speaker...It was an anti-war rally... the speaker was Robert Hagan. Robert Hagan, who at that time was the Trumbull County Commissioner. He had run, around that time, maybe just before that time, he had run against, I believe I'm right, he had run against Kirwan, who was the U. S. representative from this area and had run on, what must have been an anti-war platform. He was speaking at a rally in Wick Park. Now you weren't permitted to have political rallies in Wick Park. So it wasn't supposed to be a political rally, but Robert Hagan was speaking and it was obviously political. He is a terribly satirical person. There was a guard, a park guard or a park attendant near by and listening to it, and I was thinking, "Boy, if he doesn't realize that this is political, I don't know what's going on here." The fact is, this poor guard probably didn't know what was going on because Robert Hagan was making these satirical comments, and he was

probably going about it from a way this guard had no idea of what was going on. There were probably twenty-five or thirty people there at that meeting. So literally, the first night I stayed in Youngstown, after we came back here to our apartment, I was introduced to the anti-war element in the Youngstown Community.

This is the same Robert Hagan...He was Trumbull County Commissioner for many years. Then he moved up to Madison, near Lake Erie. He was later elected to be a state representative and served in the state assembly for many years. His son is Robert Hagan, who is the representative, now from my district, from the Youngstown district to Columbus. This Robert Hagan, who I heard that first evening, ended up being an outstanding spokesman against the war. When McGovern and Schriver ran in 1972, Robert Hagan was a speech writer for Sergeant Schriver. He has had long connection with the left wing or the progressive or the left wing of the Democratic party. Robert Hagan was well known, and knew really well the Kennedy Klan. When Bobby Hagan, now a representative from this area, when he first ran for the Ohio assembly about five or six years ago, on one of his campaign blurbs, I think he showed a picture with Ted Kennedy, because he knew him. So that was the family connection I was introduced to.

There was already, by that time, an anti-war element. I'm having trouble recalling all of this... It was in 1968 that Eugene McCarthy ran against Lyndon Johnson, and my wife and I did become active in the Eugene McCarthy Campaign. That would have been September, or October of 1968. So almost as soon as we got here, we became involved. That was the movement when you were supposed to "Get clean for Gene." People would shave their beards. I didn't have a beard yet, at that time, but you'd shave your beards and become clean looking and cut your hair and everything so you'd look respectable and could campaign for Eugene McCarthy, who was a senator from the state of Minnesota. He was probably responsible more than anything else for Lyndon Johnson wanting to drop out in 1968. Eugene McCarthy ran against him in one of the early primaries in New Hampshire and he got, not the majority of the votes, but he got a big chunk of the votes. I think the handwriting was on the wall for Lyndon Johnson by that time of the growing opposition in the United States in regards to the war. In that election then of 1968, that was the election that Nixon won. So we did work and there was a substantial anti-war element in the Youngstown community.

B: When did you first notice student discontent on the campus at Youngstown State against the war?

S: I suspect the discontent I noticed first was not student discontent, but faculty discontent. I'm almost certain that that's what happened first. There were some meetings that were held. There were rallies that were held. I don't remember when it happened but I know that the... What I remember graphically, as far as student protests went, was a young man by the name of David Bacon who refused to report to the Army for basic training and everything. He was a draft resister. I remember him because he was in my class. If I recall correctly, kind of a long haired, young person. Kind of a hippie, I suppose of the period. Pretty typical of that period. But if I recall correctly, he was a decent student and I couldn't quite understand why people should be so upset with this young man who seemed to be a pretty typical student at that time. So my first memory of a student who protested was David Bacon.

B: In what ways did you participate in the anti-war movement at Youngstown State?

S: I attended rallies. I believe, I'm not absolutely certain on this, but I think I participated in some panels. If I recall correctly, I do know that some religious organizations had a coffee house on the South side of Campus, between here and the downtown area. They had rented an upstairs of a building there, an upstairs hall and we used to have meetings over there. If I recall correctly, some of the meetings took place over there, there would be faculty and students gather there and we'd make comments on the war and criticize it and everything. I believe I participated in some of those. I think my biggest participation was once in awhile to simply go to anti-war rallies. I recall, particularly, we had a march downtown, here, at one time. It was an anti-war march. There were hundreds of us faculty and students who marched downtown. I don't recall that I did much more than I would say, kind of nominal things, indicating that I was opposed to the war. But other than that, I think one of the reasons that I wasn't particularly involved in 1968 to 1970 was that I was a new teacher. New teachers are trying their best to stay ahead with their writing lectures so that they will be able to get through the next day of classes. For the period from 1968 to at least 1970, I was teaching new courses every single quarter. I was preoccupied with simply surviving as a teacher and getting things ready for class. So if I didn't, and I know I didn't, participate a lot, it was simply because I was busy with other things at that time.

B: Do you remember the march downtown? I believe that was part of the Peace Moratorium of 1969. Do you remember any specifics from that event?

S: No, other than I remember when we were marching. If I recall correctly, it was a relatively nice day. We marched down Wick Avenue down to the downtown area and there might have been some kind of rally or speakers there. That's all I remember. I don't remember being harassed. I don't remember any problem that way at all. Now I do remember one incident. Again, I'm not sure if this was after the shootings at Kent State, May 1970. There was fear by authorities on this campus that some of the things would be repeated here. I do recall a rally of some sort was held here shortly after that incident. Our offices, at that time, were over in the old motel. My office was on the east side of that building, right on the corridor. A rally was going to take place somewhere on the campus. I don't remember if I was getting ready to go to it or not, but I stepped out of my office and happened to look out the window in back of the motel and there were police everywhere. There were police in the parking lot in back of the offices of the old motel, which included the History department offices. I'm sure I recall correctly here, that there were the police, and also in some kind of not battleguard, but I think they had shields or something. They had some protection. Now, I don't think they were ever called on. I think they were afraid that trouble would break out because of the anti-war rally. I don't recall that anything ever broke out. I don't think the police ever showed their nose, but I knew they were there because I'd looked at them just before I left the building and saw them all over the place.

Now the one activity I can remember, again, if I recall correctly, after the Kent State incident, we were encouraged to spend the day talking to our classes about what had gone on. I remember I did that at least one day. When I met the classes, we did not go over whatever was planned for the day, but, indeed, talked about what happened at Kent State. That's what I remember, at least, what went on at that time.

B: What events from 1968 to say 1970 stand out most in your mind?

S: Well, seeing all those police officers. That was graphic. I suppose certainly, probably the Kent State shootings was the most graphic, as far as what happened. I wasn't really well acquainted with Kent State. I don't know if it was as meaningful to me as it was to a lot of others who had lived here a long time, certainly a lot of my colleagues and a lot of

students had physically been to Kent State. I never had been to Kent State at that time. This was 1970, I had been here for a couple years or so and had not gone yet to Kent State. So I could not visualize, perhaps, what had happened. That was certainly the great event in the area. I remember that more than anything.

B: As a new faculty member, were you ever afraid of any repercussions that the administration might undertake?

S: No. I don't recall that I was afraid. No. I can't say that I was. I don't know why not. Maybe it was because I don't think, anybody else, particularly in the History department that I can recall, was particularly afraid of participating. I was a junior member. There were four of us that came in 1968, a whole bunch more came in 1969, seven new faculty in 1969 to the History department. Suddenly about half the department was new. No, I don't remember being concerned that I might lose the job or that there might be pressure on us for that. I don't remember that.

B: What was President Pugsley's feeling toward the anti-war movement? Did he ever make any public statements?

S: I don't recall that he made public statements. He may have but it did not make an impression on me. What made an impression on me was we had within the History department a person who was probably the most anti-war person in the area and that was Chap Morrison. Chap Morrison had come sometime during the 1960's, was a very respected historian, published a very good book, and was preoccupied by 1968 with anti-war activities. I knew Chap quite well. I don't know, thinking out loud, he may have influenced me on my anti-war activities, too. I just don't remember being particularly scared or concerned about participating in anti-war activities. I don't. I was not that vocal anyway. I maybe spoke a few time and attended a few rallies and I'm sure if we were signing petitions at that time, I signed every petition available. I was not outspoken like Chap Morrison. I'm sure I wasn't nearly as outspoken as Dr. Slavin, who was very open. I assume that probably Dr. Roberts was opposed to it. I don't know many people in the History department who were in favor of the war. I suspect that one of the reasons why I wasn't concerned about the danger about speaking out was because I don't think I felt threatened since nobody in the History department seemed to be threatened.

B: Other than Professor Slavin and Professor Chap Morrison, who else was instrumental in the anti-war movement?

S: I don't remember when Alice Budge came but it was around this time, and she was always very, very active in it. I think Dr. Elizabeth Sterneberg from Political Science department was also quite involved in the anti-war movement. I think Tom Shipka was, from Philosophy. I don't think there were very many from the Political Science department. The Political Science department here was very conservative and it still is. It still is quite conservative. So I don't recall that there was much leadership coming out of the Political Science department. There were a lot of people who certainly were involved but I don't recall them right now.

B: Is there anything else right now, that you think is important to add that we didn't cover?

S: Well, I wasn't all that involved at times. My wife was. She went to the great march on Washington in 1971 or so, there was a big march on Washington. Maybe it was 1969 or 1970. We still have pictures of it at home. She went on a bus along with a lot of other people including I believe Morris Slavin and Sophie Slavin. A number of others went down. I didn't go. I don't recall why. I was probably still working on lectures. My involvement did lead to certainly a continued support of those who were opposed to the war. I worked very hard for McGovern when he ran for president in 1972. I gave him money, I have continued to give him money once in a great while for his causes over the years. I feel frankly that I owe him a lot. He was a very eloquent spokesperson by late 1960's and especially the early 1970's in opposition to the war. So I worked for him. My wife, in fact, was one of the three directors for the Mahoning County for the McGovern Campaign at that time. So, yes, I was really involved by 1972 in political activities. McGovern did very well in the Youngstown community. He did better here than he did most other places in the nation. There was a substantial vote for him in the Youngstown area. I think he got in Youngstown specifically, he got well over 60% of the votes at that time, which was unusual, since he had lost almost everywhere else. That's about it, I would think.

B: Could we have your wife's name so we could put it in.

S: Yes. Ellen, Ellen Satre.

B: Okay, well thank you very much for your time.

S: Sure, sure enough. Glad to do it.

END OF INTERVIEW