

Conference on social studies at SUCP

How the United States and her Latin American neighbors get along with each other may well indicate how successfully any developed country can relate to less developed countries in an entirely revised global context, some 250 participants in State University College at Potsdam's nineteenth annual Social Studies Conference were told by a U.S. State Department expert Sunday night.

Dr. James E. Buchanan, a political affairs analyst with the State Department's Office of Research and Analysis for American Republics, delivered the keynote address for the conference on "Latin America: Problems and Perspectives." His topic was "Latin America in the Global Context."

Dr. Buchanan said that since the issues involved in the inter-American system are essentially the same as those among developed and less-developed countries throughout the world, the inter-American system is something of a "test lab" for negotiations on the issues which lie at the heart of the global discussions among developed and less developed countries (or, as he called them, "DC's and LDC's").

"In several ways the inter-American system is uniquely suited to fulfilling this role," Dr. Buchanan said, noting that this is the "oldest functioning system of its type with roots stretching back to 1890."

He observed that the evolution of this system has produced "a network of contacts and interest of mutual importance that does not exist between the U.S. and any other LDC area of the world."

The keynoter accented his point with a quote from Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who said, following a Latin

American visit last February, "Our profound conviction is that if we cannot help to solve the burning issues of peace and progress with those with whom we have such long-standing ties of sentiment and experience of collaboration, we have little hope of helping to solve them elsewhere."

As is the job of a conference keynote speaker, Dr. Buchanan, a 1965 graduate of State University College at Potsdam, attempted to present the broad perspective on the subject the conferees will deal with throughout this week.

In so doing, Dr. Buchanan required his audience, composed primarily of social studies teachers from throughout New York State, to "stretch" their minds, to discard common stereotypes and to grasp changing realities regarding international relations on a global basis.

DC's and LDC's

The world is now viewed less in terms of the post-World War II political and military dichotomy between East and West and increasingly in terms of a North-South distinction between developed countries (DC's) and less developed countries (LDC's), Dr. Buchanan said.

He went on to say that economic considerations are the chief international and domestic concerns among the nations of Latin America as with all of the LDC's of the world.

"The Latin American countries are very much involved in the global DC-LDC debate concerning how global income and wealth and decision-making authority with respect to international economic problems should be distributed," he said.

"The issues at the heart of the debate are not those that stir the public's imagination. They are issues with which

economic technicians feel much more at home than do politicians, diplomats or the uninitiated public at large."

"Still, they are the issues critical to future world development—particularly the social and economic development of the less developed countries. Because of their import for shaping the future of a world in which all-LDC and DC alike—must live, they are issues which also have a profound political and moral dimension," he said.

In terms of the Latin American nations themselves, economic development is the number one priority of virtually every Latin nation, according to Dr. Buchanan. He said that there is a tremendous urgency in the goals for economic development sought by these countries, an urgency which is often unrealistic by understandable on social, economic, and political grounds.

Regarding the political grounds for this urgency, Dr. Buchanan noted, "so pressing are the developmental needs of Latin states that the legitimacy and stability of Latin governments are often products of how successfully they address developmental issues."

The Latins' perception of the international economic setting is that of "an international economic setting rigged against the interests of the LDC's one ordered and run on the basis or rules and regulations which are the product of an earlier time when the developed countries forced their conception of order on the less powerful and in which the fortunes of the LDC's are at the whim and forces of factors which are beyond their control," Dr. Buchanan said.

Learning from Example

The political affairs analyst reported, however, that the Latins are becoming aggressive in the assertion of "economic power," learning from the examples of Japan's rise in the world through technological progress and the tight grip the OPEC nations maintain on the world's economy by controlling petroleum resources.

Dr. Buchanan said that one factor which must be understood if one is to understand the tone and tactics Latins use in the North-South debate is that "the Latins are the middle class in international terms."

"They are not among the DC's, but neither are they among the poorest of the poor. The Latins have already achieved a considerable degree of industrial development and are fully a part of the world economy."

Because of their urgent desire for economic development, the Latins' approach to LDC-DC confrontations "will tend to be more conciliatory and moderate because they have so much at stake and so much to gain. They see it as senseless to waste time in psychologically pleasing rhetorical confrontations that may wind up in political victories of a sort but which leave the substance of the economic issues unchanged."

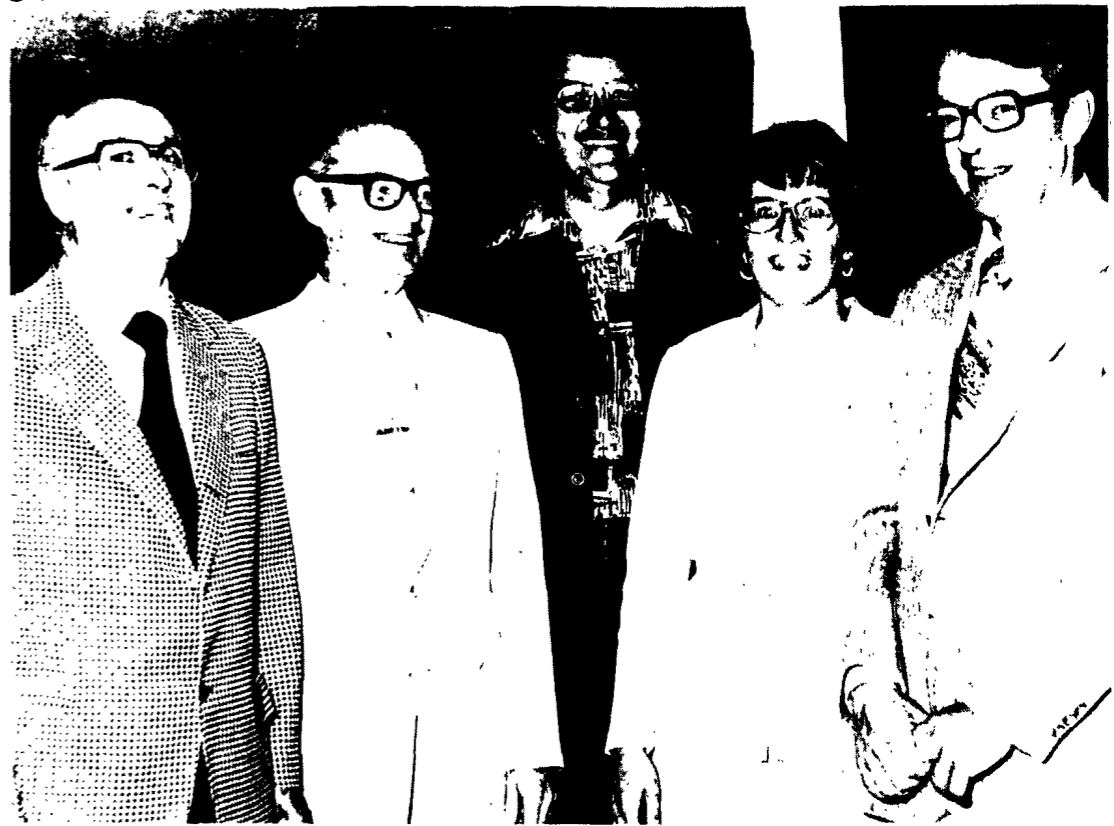
Noting that the cohesiveness of the Americas still exists, Dr. Buchanan stressed the fact that the U.S.' influence in Latin America has changed dramatically in recent years. The old U.S. paternalism will not work today and the ability of the U.S. to "manage" Latin nations has been and will continue to be reduced, he said.

In view of the changed global context, it "simply doesn't make sense" for the Latins to depend solely on the U.S. to escape socio-economic underdevelopment," he said.

There definitely remains a strong inter-American system, however, Dr. Buchanan pointed out. "But under the present circumstances the Latins are demanding and receiving the right to help redefine the nature of the inter-American system, a role which was once exercised by the U.S. almost unilaterally."

By the time the conference concludes Friday morning, participants will have been addressed by other State Department officials, college professors, a missions board director, a Canadian Latin American Affairs official, a representative of the Russian Embassy in Ottawa and various other experts and authorities on a myriad of issues related to the conference theme.

Most of the participants are working for graduate credit for this conference which is sponsored by the host college and by the Bureau of Social Studies Education and the Center for International Programs and Comparative Studies of the New York State Education Department and the New York State Council for the Social Studies.



A HAPPY REUNION took place at the opening session of the 19th annual Potsdam Social Studies Conference. Keynote speaker Charles Buchanan (right) and wife Sue were greeted by Conference Director Victor Minotti, Potsdam State President Thomas Barrington, and Charles Foster, a member

of the Biology Department at Potsdam State. Buchanan and Foster were roommates at Potsdam State. Sue Buchanan, like her husband, is also a 1965 graduate of Potsdam State. (Mike Kane Photo).



CHARLES BUCHANAN



CONFERENCE DIRECTOR Victor Minotti, a Professor of Geography at Potsdam State officially opened the 19th Social Studies Conference at a banquet held in the college's Knowles

Hall dining area, Sunday evening. The week long conference had drawn more than 200 participants from across the state. (Mike Kane Photo).

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Late summer picnic reminders

Summer is a time for fun and picnics. It is also the time to be extra cautious with the food served to the family.

Food poisoning is the problem. In most cases, food poisoning is not extremely serious but there are cases where it can be fatal. Yet with proper precautions, there is no need for apprehension. Usually the food itself is not the cause of food poisoning. The blame can be attributed to the method in which the food is handled. Here are some rules to follow:

KEEP HOT FOODS HOT-KEEP COLD FOODS COLD

1. Because food poisoning bacteria grow rapidly at temperatures between

68 and 115 degrees Fahrenheit, cooked food SHOULD NOT be kept at room temperature.

2. Hot foods should be cooked thoroughly and SERVED HOT. This is particularly true of pork and poultry.

3. Foods to be served cold should be stored at temperatures below 50 degrees F. UNTIL SERVED.

4. If hot foods are to be stored before serving, use shallow pans and temperatures below 50 degrees F. Using a pan that is very deep will make it impossible to cool the center.

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