

Kruskal Audio Tape From 1972

This tape was made by William H. Kruskal at home, recording the audio of a series of three television broadcasts. The series, a part of a University of Chicago Extension School project called "Perspectives", was moderated by Charles Ranlet Lincoln (generally addressed as "Ran" Lincoln), then Dean of the Extension School. It was broadcast in Chicago on WLS TV (Channel 7) starting at 6:30AM. The three parts here were centered around a report called *Federal Statistics*, written by a Commission appointed by President Nixon with W. Allen Wallis as the chairman; William Kruskal was a member of the Commission and wrote parts of the report. The three parts and the discussants (in addition to the moderator) were:

Part1 (July 5, 1972) [00:00 to 25:00]

Discussants William Kruskal and Paul Meier

Federal statistics, with main examples being the Census, the Salk polio vaccine trials, and studies of potential side effects of oral contraceptives.

Part 2 (July 6, 1972) [25:00 to 49:00]

Discussants William Kruskal and Stephen E. Fienberg

Federal statistics, continuing about oral contraceptives and the moving to randomization, including the draft lottery for the selective service in the military.

Part 3 (July 7, 1972) [49:00 to 1:13:00]

Discussants William Kruskal and Stephen E. Fienberg

General discussion of the subject of statistics, with more on the draft lottery, ending with a brief discussion of the Commission's evaluation of Federal Statistics. The old established agencies including the Census and Bureau of Labor Statistics, were judged "good"; other federal agencies were found to be "poor".

The quality of the recording is generally good; there are a few places someone in Kruskal's home (perhaps one of his sons or his wife Norma) speaks up, but it does not interrupt the flow.

References mentioned in the show:

Federal Statistics/Report of the President's Commission, 1971, Government Printing Office.

Randomization and Social Affairs: The 1970 Draft Lottery, by Stephen E. Fienberg. *Science* Vol. 171 (issue 3968), pp. 255-261 (1971)

Statistics: A Guide to the Unknown, ASA-NCTM, Holden-Day, San Francisco, Cal., 1972. William H. Kruskal Co-editor, with Judith M. Tanur, Frederick Mosteller, and others.

At the time of the recording, Kruskal was Chair of the Department, Paul Meier a Professor (jointly with Biological Sciences), and Stephen Fienberg was Assistant Professor.

General comment: The discussion is intelligent throughout, for a non-technical audience. The ground it covers is more thoroughly covered in the above references.

Stephen M. Stigler