Future of American Politics
Silbey Explores Ways to Fix System

The disintegration of the American political process is being reported almost as often these days as the pollsters' rankings of the presidential candidates. Will we see "The End of American Politics, 1980?" is the question to be asked and answered by Joel H. Silbey, professor of American history, at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, in Statler Auditorium in the Cornell University Summer Session Lecture Series.

For most of this century—and especially in the last two decades—there has been a growth in government responsibility and a decline in the ability to make government run with the increased load, Silbey said. "We once had institutions to handle the load, but we've been dismantling them for 75 years," he states. What can happen to improve the situation is "a refocusing of energies away from the individual and leader to find and rebuild the institutions needed to make leaders effective."

One thing America does not need in a new system, Silbey believes, are what he calls "media values: personality, behavior, flash insights; a picture of what a person appears to be rather than what he or she stands for."

"The American people lately have become conscious that something is wrong with our political system, but they don't know what," Silbey said. He intends to tell the Statler Auditorium audience what it is and how it could be fixed.

A popular lecturer on campus and on the Cornell alumni circuit for years, Silbey specializes in American political history, particularly the 19th century. He joined the Cornell faculty in 1966. A graduate of Brooklyn College, Silbey has his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Iowa. He taught at San Francisco State College, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Maryland before coming to Cornell.

Helium: A Precious, Wasted Resource
Scientists Here to Explore Element's 'Super Future'

Each time we cook a meal on a gas stove or run a furnace or a water heater or a clothes dryer on natural gas, we are throwing away one of the most important materials for an energy-efficient future. The element we're wasting is vital to experiments that will bring some 150 physicists to Ithaca July 20 to 26 for the Cornell University Symposium on Liquid and Solid Helium-three.

Helium, the colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that makes most people nostalgic for the bygone days of dirigibles in the sky and balloons in the park, has scientists looking to the coming decades when the unique properties of helium's liquid form will be exploited:

- Electricity will be transmitted with almost no loss to resistance on superconducting lines.
- Trains will be levitated and propelled at 300 miles per hours on superconducting magnets.
- Electric generators and motors will be smaller and cost less to operate because of superconducting materials.

The key to this "super future" is keeping metals cooled to superconducting temperatures (in a range below -255 degrees Celsius) and helium, which remains fluid to absolute zero (-273.16 degrees C) is the only suitable material for cooling the metals.

Nearly a quarter of the universe, including the stars and interstellar space, is made up of helium. But the earth, where helium is believed to have accumulated over billions of years by radioactive decay of uranium and thorium far below the surface, is only about .00001 percent helium by weight. Along with sites in Poland and the Soviet
Geneva Employees Defeat Union 2-1

A vote against a union at the Geneva Experiment Station, a National Labor Relations Board ruling in favor of the university, and an extension of the building trades contract are among recent developments in employee relations activities at the university.

Last Thursday, July 3, service and maintenance employees at the Geneva Station voted 28 to 12 against representation by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. This election was conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Less than three weeks earlier, on June 16, the NLRB dismissed a petition filed by the UFCWI to represent 35 grounds workers at the Department of Buildings and Grounds on the Ithaca campus. Both the International Union of Operating Engineers and the Tompkins-Cortland Counties Building Trades Council had intervened in the hearings conducted on this petition.

The university maintained that a unit of 33 grounds workers was inappropriate and that the appropriate unit should include all service and maintenance workers across the university.

After 11 days of hearings, the NLRB ruled that “The units sought by UFCWI and IUOE are arbitrary groupings of between 35 and 54 service and maintenance employees to the exclusion of similarly classified employees who share a community of interest,” and dismissed the petitions.

More recently the UFCWI also filed a petition with the NLRB to represent 44 service and maintenance employees who work at the Department of Science Teaching and Research Farm in nearby Harford. The United Auto Workers has intervened in the hearings, which are currently being conducted by the NLRB.

The university and the Building Trades Council recently negotiated a three-year extension on the current contract agreement between the parties. The current contract was originally negoitated to run from July 1, 1979 to July 30, 1981. In the recent negotiations, the union and the university agreed to extend the contract through June 30, 1982—another additional year. No other changes were negotiated in the contractual language.

10 Construction Projects Get Approval of Trustees

Ten projects, including a $3 million addition to Uris Library, a computer graphics facility and a tennis court bubble cover, have been approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Meeting Tuesday in New York City, the trustees approved planning and construction of the Uris Library extension to provide additional undergraduate reading spaces and expansion to support technical services. The project will be funded by a $3 million gift from the Harold D. Uris Foundation, as announced in June by Harold D. Uris.

Building on the university’s main library, the structure was renamed in 1962 after a $1 million gift from Harold and Percy Uris, financed extensive renovations. Construction of the extension is expected to begin by May 1, 1981.

Three rooms will be renovated in the College of Engineering’s Hollister Hall to create an instructional computer graphics facility at an estimated cost of $275,000. The facility will house computing equipment, peripherals and a variety of terminals for student use.

An inflatable bubble will be installed to cover four courts at the Kite Hill tennis complex, enabling the men’s and women’s intercollegiate tennis programs and the teaching programs of the Department of Physical Education to operate through the winter. Estimated to cost $176,000, the cable-supported structure will have a thermally insulated air lock doors and interior lighting and will be available for activities other than tennis.

Five other projects approved by the trustees include:
- Restoration of some 324 windows in Sibley Hall, the classroom and administration building of the College of Art, Architecture and Planning, at an estimated cost of $121,000.
- Renovations, expected to total $131,000, to 410 Thurston Avenue to provide additional space for the Office of Admissions.
- Relocation of the Department of Transportation from 410 Thurston Avenue to 120 Maple Avenue where conversion of what was once a freezer facility will cost about $166,000.
- Safety renovations in the amount of about $144,000 to Statler West, formerly the Independent Order of Odd Fellows home on the west shore of Cayuga Lake, which the School of Hotel Administration will use for external education programs.
- Transfer to Tompkins County of university-owned property near the Wilson Synchrotron to build a new intersection of Judd Falls Road and Route 366. In exchange, the university will receive a part of the existing right-of-way.

The following job openings are new this week. For information on vacant positions listed in previous issues of the Chronicle, contact Personnel Staffing Services, 440 Day Hall. Cornell is an affirmative action employer.

Administrative/Professional
- Head Coach, Women’s Levitt (Women’s) (Athletics)
- Head Gymnastics Coach (Women’s) (Athletics)
- Clerical Secretary, GR19 (Unions and Activities)

Jobs

Clerk III, NP1 (Vet Administration)
Office Assistant, GR17 (Agricultural Engineering)
Secretary, GR16 (International Students Office)
Service and Maintenance
Laundry Attendant, GR15 (Physical Education & Athletics)
Cashier, GR13 (Dining Services)
Technical
Technician, GR21 (Division of Nutritional Sciences)
Technician, GR21 (Vet Microbiology, J.A. Baker Inst.)

Accelerator Technician, GR89-36 (Lab of Nuclear Studies)
Technician, GR8 (Vet Microbiology, J.A. Baker Inst.)
Part-Time and/or Temporary
Secretary, GR18 (CRSR)
Editorial Assistant, GR18 (School of Hotel Administration)
Temporary Service Technician (Design and Environmental Analysis)
Academic
Biochemical Pharmacologists (Physical Biology/Physiology)
Research Associate II (Material Science and Engineering)