INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody.

Historians, having the benefit of hindsight, can look back over a period of time and name it. We've had the Roaring Twenties, for example, and the Me Generation in my lifetime. How about the Computer Era? Are we in that period yet? Today we will talk with a scholar-teacher-administrator whose very life is linked to computers...or should I say interfaced?

Later in the program, we'll visit a talking computer and hear a variety of voices, all generated by a computer.

Dr. George Pidot Jr. is director of Computing at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. During the past year he has been part of, indeed, a leader of several very exciting activities, all based around the computer. Just to put you on the spot early, Dr. Pidot, let's go back to my original question: Are we in the Computer Era now?

Interview Pidot:

-- What is a computer?
-- Why are some people afraid of computers?
-- Uses in education...industry...research...at home.
-- Uses at Stony Brook now and in future: SINC, ADONiS, digital/phone switch system
-- What's ahead: - no keyboard (mouse, voice-activated)
   - AI
   - Beyond computers, what?

19:00

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Computers can talk nowadays. Sure, they've been used for some time to make noises. Most of us know about the modern musical instrument called the synthesizer. That's a computer...or, two or three...connected to a keyboard connected to a device that makes...
sounds. But the talking computers are smarter than the music synthesizers. They can read also. The other day, I took a microphone to the Computing Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and visited with Allan Steele. We talked about...and, if you don't mind my saying it, with...a machine called Votrax Speech System. On the tape I'm about to play, you will hear me talking with Allan Steele and the tape may sound a bit rough. That's because we're in a noisy computer environment, as they say in computing. As we pick up the tape, the first voice you will hear is that of the talking computer, Votrax.

TAPE RUNS 9:40 to "We hope you found this enjoyable and interesting!"—cut fast to avoid next sentence: "Press anybutton."

FMX AFO LIVE: Well, thanks Harry and Betty and all the gang down at DEC Talk. I've decided I won't wait for the historians. I'm declaring this the Computer Era right now. I hope you are finding it enjoyable and interesting.

29:00 BRIDGE MUSIC up and under

Next week, we'll talk with a sociologist who has been studying how we get about in America. And he's concluded that we've spent too much attention on autos and too little on mass transit. I hope you'll be here for that conversation. Until next week, then, this is Al Oickle. So long, everybody.

OUTRO