

David McCullough testified on June 30, 2005 before the Senate Education Committee in support of a bill sponsored by Lamar Alexander and Ted Kennedy that would share NAEP results in history among the states to see if the comparisons would help improve the teaching and learning of history. McCullough's testimony included a devastating attack on textbooks. He singled out A History of US as a significant exception.

26:20

"Attitudes aren't taught, they're caught."

26:57

"Now if you don't know the subject, if you find it hard to know it well enough to teach it, you don't love it. There is a third and very serious problem and that is you're much more dependent on the textbooks. And the textbooks alas, are by and large, very dreary. Some are superb, Daniel Boorstin's one volume History of the United States is one of the best there is. Joy Hakim's new, relatively new, multi volume History of the United States is superb. But others are dismal almost beyond describing. It's as if they had been written to kill any interest that a student might have in history. You read some of them and you wonder, do they send students home with these as an act of punishment?"

C-Span taped this testimony and you can get a DVD from them.