How did Australians react to the arrival of rock 'n' roll?

The first truly international rock 'n' roll tour took place in Australia. The information below shows what a major undertaking it was to reach Australia in 1957.

‘On Tuesday, 1 January 1957, Bill Haley and the Comets began the new year by embarking on the first leg of their world tour to Australia. At 11am Haley and the Comets and their entourage took off from Philadelphia International Airport and flew to Chicago, where they connected with the Santa Fe Super Chief, finishing the trip to Los Angeles by rail... On reaching Los Angeles they stopped overnight at the Ambassador Hotel and departed the next morning on Flight 837. After a brief refuelling stop in Hawaii... the lengthy flight continued with refuelling stops at Canton Island and Fiji. They disembarked in Sydney on 6 January and rested from their five day journey at the Gale Hotel.'

Extract from pages 81-82 of Bill Haley The Daddy of Rock and Roll by John Swenson, Stein and Day, New York, 1983, reproduced with permission of John Swenson.

'Bill Haley and his Comets razzle dazzle Australia'
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=445KGelZ9ow will allow you to hear Bill Haley singing live on a Sydney radio show during that 1957 tour. How could the audience reaction be used as evidence about Australia's response to rock 'n' roll? Below are two different perspectives on Bill Haley's tour, which also included Freddie Bell and The Bell Boys, Big Joe Turner, the Platters and La Vern Baker.

Perspective 1

'The show opened with Freddie Bell and the Bellboys. They opened with a song, 'We're Gonna Teach You To Rock,' then 'Shake A Hand' and their current hit, 'Giddy Up Ding Dong'. The guys came on dressed in red coats – they looked great. From their first number they brought the house down. The sound was something else – the likes I had not heard before. Their stage act was superb, with dance moves, comedy routines, all just too much. This was the first time I had seen or heard a bass guitar, and from that moment I knew what instrument I wanted to play. I was hooked on bass. The crowd reaction was sensational, no one had ever seen or heard anything like it before.

The next act was Big Joe Turner. He was billed 'The Boss of the Blues'. He was an R&B singer. He had a huge voice that filled the Stadium. He went over really well. Then on came La Vern Baker. She had a hit on the radio at the time, 'Jim Dandy to the Rescue'. She was just fabulous – a tall Negro lady and she wore a bright pink fishtail dress. I had never seen anything like her before. She sang R&B songs and had a rough, raunchy voice. The crowd loved her...'

Source: John Manners, who was 15 when he saw the show. He went on to become one of Australia's greatest bass players with Ray Brown and the Whispers in the 1960s. He wrote this in a personal letter in 2008.
Perspective 2

'It will be interesting to note the effects of the visit to Sydney of a band of American entertainers. Reports of the way 'rock and roll' has been received by overseas audiences, coupled with the almost unanimous acceptance of Elvis Presley who, despite his repulsive antics, is now the current idol of the younger set, lead one to believe that the arrival of Mr Haley could be regretted for years to come.

We have only to glance through the daily papers to read the shocking manner in which teenagers of today, throughout the world, carry on.

The morals of the modern generation, with the exception of a small minority, have nearly reached an all time low, and 'rock and roll' has done nothing to improve them.

Already the general outlook of the Australian teenager has begun to deteriorate rapidly and to such an extent that something must be done to prevent the low level which they are gradually approaching, being attained.

Strongly opposed by most leading musicians, both modern and classical, 'rock and roll' represents a serious threat to the community.

In both Britain and the United States riots are prevalent where this form of entertainment is played. We must see that it is not given the same opportunity to take a grip on our own youth.'

Source: John J Sutton, letter to the editor, The Sun (Sydney), Fairfax, 1st January 1957

Using the two perspectives given here, script a conversation between John Manners and John J Sutton that might have taken place in 1957 if they were discussing the arrival of rock 'n' roll in Australia.