Network News

☐ ADDRESS CHANGE. PN's street address has changed from 379 DeKalb Ave. to 200 Willoughby Ave. Everything else remains the same. Mail addressed to 379 DeKalb Avenue will still get to us, but please use the new address.

☐ PN — WHAT IT IS. A new version of our one-page recruiting blurb is available. It includes the "Statement of Principles" (see below), a brief history of the organization, a list of Steering Committee members, and a membership form. Contact us for copies to distribute or post in your workplace, university and community organization.

☐ IT'S TIME TO RENEW! To tell quickly when you last supported PN, look for the date after your name on the mailing label. We suggest contributing at least once each year, and we change (or add) the date whenever we get a check. The absence of a date means you have not yet contributed financially, and we'd love to hear from you — with a contribution if possible, with a note if not.

☐ SUBSCRIPTIONS. Planners Network has a new policy on subscriptions. Up to now only individuals have become

Reports on South Africa
See Pages 3-5

Reforming the Mansion Subsidy
See Page 5

Contract Watch
See Page 7

PN members and they make voluntary contributions on a sliding scale. Now libraries, nonprofit organizations and other entities may subscribe for the flat annual rate of $30.

☐ NEW YORK NETWORK FORUMS. Adding to its successful program of forums on diverse planning issues, the New York PN group announces an additional session to discuss the impact on communities of the government's changing role in housing, Housing in New York: Facing Cutbacks, Privatization and Deregulation. It is co-sponsored by the Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development (ANHD). The date is June 2, 6:00 PM (refreshments at 5:30), at Pratt Manhattan, Puck Bldg., 295 Lafayette St. (corner of Houston). June 16 there will be a

PLANNERS NETWORK — WHAT IS IT?

Statement of Principles

The Planners Network is an association of professionals, activists, academics and students involved in physical, social, economic and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic system.

We believe that planning should be a tool for allocating resources and developing the environment in order to eliminate the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society, rather than to maintain and justify the status quo. This includes in particular racial injustice and discrimination by gender and sexual orientation. We believe that planning should be used to assure adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, jobs, safe working conditions and a healthful environment. We advocate public responsibility for meeting these needs, because the private market has proven incapable of doing so.

We seek to be an effective political and social force, working with other progressive organizations to inform public opinion and public policy and to provide assistance to those seeking to understand, control and change the forces affecting their lives.

PN History

The Planners Network was established in 1975 as a communications vehicle for progressive planners to keep in touch with one another, share ideas and experiences, and discuss how their political values relate to their work and lives. The bi-monthly newsletter contains notes and information sent in by members, and information about publications, conferences, jobs and resources. In 1981, a formal organization was created with a Steering Committee. There are over 800 members in the United States and dozens in other countries. National Planners Network conferences were held in 1979, 1981, 1986, 1994 and 1995. Sessions are also organized at conferences of the American Planning Association and Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. In New York City, Network members present a forum series, and in other cities Network members periodically organize local events.
The “Civics”: A Force for Community-Based Planning in South Africa

by Mzwanele Mayekiso

The Planners Network is known to progressive South Africans. The role of many members — especially Chester Hartman, Ron Shifflman and Peter Marcuse — in linking the talents and lessons of struggles in the United States to our conditions and aspirations in South Africa has been warmly appreciated. When Planners Network members travel to South Africa, you will find you are welcome in our campaigns for local democracy and development.

For those interested in learning more about the township civic movement in South Africa, let me offer a brief history and description.

In the late 1970s, community-based organizations called civic associations emerged in many South African townships to improve the lives of ordinary citizens and work-class people. In the global political sphere, the main theme was democratization of communities, which was made more difficult by the introduction in 1983 of the Black Local Government System that gave power to black apartheid puppet leaders.

After 1983, the broad-based United Democratic Front was able to blend and widen these community struggles into a solid, mass-based force joined by other progressive organs of civil society, capable of shaking the foundations of racist rule. But in the mid-1980s, the States of Emergency and the need to construct a national political struggle meant that there was no space for building a national civic movement.

With the unification of formerly excluded political parties in early 1990, a great deal of space opened up, and civic associations began to negotiate for local power with regimes of the new formation. In March 1992, the South African National Civic Organization (SANCO) was founded to link our campaigns, strategies and programs for urban and rural reform. By April 1994 we were playing a large role in the African National Congress (ANC) policy-making process and successful electoral campaign.

Reconstruction Program

From its beginning, SANCO adopted a broad campaign for people-centered development. We developed a national policy framework, called the SANCO Reconstruction and Development Program (RPD), which in 1993 would feed into similar programs by the Mass Democratic Movement and the Confederation of South Africa Trade Unions (COSATU). SANCO’s program was taken into consideration in the later drafts of what became the Reconstruction and Development Program, which was issued as a campaign document in early 1994. In some areas, such as housing and local economic development, SANCO’s own program was the basis for ANC policy.

SANCO is generally a non-partisan organization, but in November 1993 we agreed to endorse those parties which, during the 1994 elections, would support our aims, objectives and policies, and claimed a democratic, anti-apartheid legacy. Only the African National Congress got the endorsement because it was felt that the other anti-apartheid parties did not offer a full-breaded people-centered development program, and very little of their campaigning had to do with civic organizations.

Many of our people lack jobs, housing, basic health care, decent clothing, cultural and recreational facilities, child care, literacy and education. In addressing the spiral of poverty and underdevelopment, the priority placed on basic needs in SANCO’s Reconstruction and Development Program was welcomed by poor and working-class people. The program states: No political democracy can survive and flourish if the mass of people remain in poverty, without land, without tangible prospects for a better life. Attacking poverty and deprivation must therefore be the first priority of a democratic government. The priority is to begin to meet the basic needs of people — jobs, land, housing, water, electricity, telecommunications, transport, a clean and healthy environment, nutrition, health care and social welfare. The problem of poverty and deprivation is the first priority of the democratic government, and the RDP sets out a facilitating and enabling environment to this end. The RDP addresses issues of social, institutional, environmental and macro-economic sustainability in an integrated manner, with specific attention to affordability.

Global Perspective

Our struggles are not only to hold the ANC to these promises. We have learned from the past how that can degenerate into democratic and mobilization from within working-class civic society. Today, it is, indeed, a growing recognition that poor and working-class citizens of different countries now have more in common with each other than they do with their own elites. We must develop a whole new approach, a “foreign policy” of working-class civil society. I hope South Africa will become a bastion of such thinking, because of the extraordinary lessons that we have experienced in past years.

Unfortunately, of course, what we have in common with our sisters and brothers across the world is economic inequality and uneven development. Racial apartheid could become class apartheid, which is a phenomenon in many countries at present. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund impose on many countries very similar
Planners Network Party to raise funds for the fight against the Contract on America and to hear about the National PN Conference. Same time and place as the June 2 forum.

- 1996 NETWORK CONFERENCE. Pratt Institute has hosted a 1996 Planners Network Conference in Brooklyn, New York. The keynote speakers were Ron Shiffman and Tom Angotti at Pratt hopes to focus on community-based planning and a progressive urban agenda to inform the 1996 elections. If you want to be on the conference committee contact Tom Angotti at the PN office.

- FINITE TASKS VOLUNTEERS. While we realize many Planners Network members want to be happy to get the newsletter, we're sure there are people out there who would like to be involved in one of the many finite tasks that help PN keep going. If you’d like to be on our list of “baking AC volunteers,” please send your name, address, phone, and e-mail to Tom Angotti at the PN office. Tell us how you’d like to organize sessions at conferences, write short pieces for the Newsletter, organize regional meetings, or be involved in anything about PN or any other finite task. Don’t expect to get back right away, but sometime we’ll need you.

Networker Updates

- A WORD FROM OUR CO-CHAIR. Ann Forsyth, one of PN’s co-chairs, writes us about what she’s up to: "I will be spending the remainder of 1995 in Sydney, Australia, on leave from U. Mass, Amherst. In the past two years I’ve run a number of economic development and urban design studio projects for Massachusetts towns and cities, and continue to work on planning echic and gendered spaces. I'll be at the Graduate School of the Environment, Macquarie University, in Sydney. Address: 6/22 Belmore St., Burwood NSW 2134, Australia. Phone 011612 744673; e-mail: forsyth@larp.uamss.edu".

- ADVANCED MANUFACTURING. Pnrr Marcia Kinglow writes that she and Stuart Rosenfeld "have published Advancing Opportunity in Advanced Manufacturing: The Potential of Predominantly Minority Two-Year Colleges. An outgrowth of a study funded by the Ford Foundation, the book examines barriers and opportunities to improving minority participation in advanced manufacturing, and includes six case studies of predominantly African-American, Latino and Tribal Colleges." Copies are available from Regional Technology Strategies, Inc., P.O. Box 9025, Chapel Hill, NC 27515; 919-933-6699; fax: 919-933-6688.

- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. Pnrr Michael Black is a San Francisco-based policy analyst, theorist and environmental historian who studies issues of arid California, the social impact of science and technology, and the environment. He writes us that he co-created the exhibit, sympo-

sium and book, The Great Central Valley: California’s Heartland (University of California Press) and is currently visiting professor of political science at Harvey Mudd College, Claremont. With Frank Fischer, he co-edited a forthcoming anthlogy on comparative national environmental policies — Greening Environmental Policy: The Politics of a Sustainable Future — and he is writing California’s Last Salmon (also UC Press), an excerpt from which appears in the current Pacific Historical Review.

- URBAN PLANNING IN JAPAN. Pnrr Philip Shapira informs us that he co-edited (with Ian Masser and David Edgington) Planning for Cities and Regions in Japan, a 224-page book examining the processes of city development and urban planning in Japan. Topics covered include inner city development, the urban economy, the institutional and regulatory processes, and planning for urban and rural economic development and technological change in Japan. Published by Liverpool University Press, UK. Price is $37.00. Philip can be reached at the School of Public Poli-

city, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30332-0345; 404/894-7735; fax: 404/853-0353; e-mail: pr25@ prism.gatech.edu.

Queries

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. The National Con-
gress for Community Economic Development is seeking research papers on economic development projects and community development corporations; $5000 will be given for each commissioned paper. Submit 2-3 page concept papers no later than October 1st. GCEDC, 1740 Commerce Ave. NW, #510, Washington, DC 20009; 202/234-5009.

- CITIZEN ACTION/PRAGUE. Susan F. Newmyer wrote us at the request of a person in Prague, František Formánek, who is an unemployed at the city hall in Prague, the Czech Republic. She said "he asked me to find, for him and his colleagues' use, ANY materials on citizens action and citizen participation in city governance processes. The elected officials and staff at city hall are in desperate need of how to govern democratically educational materials.” Contact: František Formánek, I.D.E.U., Karlova Nam 5, 128 00 Praha 2, The Czech Republic; office/phone/fax: 422-29-76-17; home phone: 422-231-9503. Susan can be reached at 202/234-2971.

The “Civics”: A Force for Community-Based Planning in South Africa

by Mzwanele Mayekiso

The Planners Network is known to progressive South Africans. The role of many members — especially Choozer Hartman, Ron Shiffman and Peter Mar-
cune — in linking the talents and lessons of struggles in the United States to our conditions and aspirations in South Africa has been warmly appreciated. When Planners Networkers travel to South Africa, you will find you see us in our campaigns for local democracy and development.

For those interested in learning more about the township civic move-
mot in South Africa, let me offer a brief history and description. In the late 1970s, community-based organizations called civic associations emerged in many South African townships to im-
prove the lives of ordinary poor and working-class people. In the global economic sphere, the main theme was democrati-
ization of communities, which was made more difficult by the introduction in 1983 of the Black Local Government system that gave power to black apartheid puppets.

After 1983, the broad-based United Democratic Front was able to blend and weld these community struggles into a solid, mass-based force joined by other progressive organs of civil society, capable of shaking the foundations of racist rule. But in the mid- and late-
1980s, the States of Emergency and the need to contain and control the political struggle meant that there was no space for building a national civic movement.

With the unbanning of formerly exiled political parties in early 1990, a great deal of space opened up, and civic associations began to negotiate for local power with representatives of the new govern-
ment. In March 1992, the South African National Civic Organization (SANCO) was founded to link our campaigns, strategies and programs for urban and rural reform. By April 1994 we were playing a large role in the ANC National Congress (ANC) policy-mak-
ing process and successful electoral campaign.

Reconstruction Program

From its beginning, SANCO adopt-
ed a broad campaign for people cen-
tered development. We developed a national policy framework, called the SANCO Reconstruction and Develop-
ment Program (RDP), which in 1993 would feed into similar programs by the Mass Democratic Movement and the Confederation of South Africa Trade Unions (COSATU). SANCO's program was taken into consideration in the later drafts of what became the Reconstruction and Development Program, which was issued as a cam-
paign document in early 1994. In some areas, such as housing and local eco-
nomic development, SANCO's own program was the basis for ANC policy.

SANCO is generally a non-partisan organization, but in November 1993 we agreed to endorse those parties which, during the 1994 elections, would sup-
port our aims, objectives and policies, and claimed a democratic, anti-apar-
theid legacy. Only the African National Congress got the endorsement because it was felt that the other anti-apartheid parties did not offer a full-bodied pop-
ulecentered development program, and very little of their campaigning had to do with civic organizations.

Many of our people lack jobs, housing, basic health care, decent cloth-
ing, cultural and recreational facilities, child care, literacy and education. In addressing the spiral of poverty and underdevelopment, the priority placed on basic needs in SANCO's Recon-
struction and Development Program was welcomed by poor and working-
class South Africans. The program states:
No political democracy can survive and flourish if the mass of people remain in poverty, without land, without tangible prospects for a better life. At-
tack on any and deprivation must therefore be the first prior-
ity of a democratic government. The priority is to begin to meet the basic needs of people — jobs, land, housing, water, electricity, telecommuni-
cations, transport, a clean and healthy environment, nutrition, health care and social welfare.

Attacking poverty and deprivation is the first priority of the democratic government, and the RDP sets out a facilitating and enabling environment to this end. The RDP addresses issues of social, institutional, environmen-
tal and macro-economic sustainability in an integrated manner, with specific attention to affordability.

Global Perspective

Our struggles are not only to hold the ANC to these promises. We have learned from the Nelson Mandela so that the civic movement can also inform the future of global progressive politics, which is indeed, a growing recognition that poor and working class citizens of different countries now have more in common with each other than they do with their own elites. We must develop a whole new approach, a "foreign policy" of working-class civil society. I hope South Africa will become a bas-
ion of such thinking, because of the lessons it has taught us that we have experi-
ced in past years.

Unfortunately, of course, what we have in common with our sisters and brothers across the world is economic inequality and uneven development. Racial apartheid could become class apartheid, which is a phenomenon in many countries at present. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund impose on many countries very similar

2/Planners Network #111/May 1995

3/Planners Network #111/May 1995
I have been in South Africa in a unique and exciting period when hope for immediate peace and reconciliation is at hand. The transition from apartheid has been overwhelmingly positive for me and the future potential of a democratic South Africa will be more limited than some had hoped.

On the positive side, there are two striking accomplishments: "non-racialism" and reconciliation. Non-racialism is a strange concept to someone not accustomed with the concept of a Rainbow Nation, frequently used here, or of multiculturalism, which is promoted here in a more thorough-going fashion than we are used to.

Eleven languages (English, African, and nine African languages) are recognized as official. Instructive, broadcasting and official documents must be in more than one. The lingua franca is still English, and it is still the most popular second language in South Africa, which is English in no longer the Imperial tongue.

Non-racialism, however, has impli- cations that go beyond linguistic or cultural diversity. It means rejection of "race" as a category in pub- lic life. "Equity" is preferred to "affir- mative action" as the term for promot- ing equal opportunity for those previ- ously discriminated against. Promotions for promoting blacks, Indians and coloreds, the discredited categories of apartheid, are roundly criticized.

No search for identity or roots con- cerns Africans, who after all are the overwhelming majority of the popula- tion, and now firmly hold political power throughout the country. Non- racialism has also been advanced with reason. The privileged position of whites has not changed significantly, there is no mass exodus, white investment is growing, and ten- sions do not run along racial lines.

Reconciliation is the other undoubt- ed and amazing success. Politically motivated crimes, including unprop- erable acts of terrorism (mail bombs, assassinations, torture) were amnesty as part of negotiations leading up to the elections. A Truth Commission has been established, and people seeking amnesty need simply to disclose fully their misdeeds. Of course there were acts of extreme violence on the side of the African National Congress (ANC), the instance, too. But reconciliation is not seen simply as an unfortunate ne- cessity to avoid further violence, but also as a fundamental principle of the new Africa.

Nelson Mandela embodies the new spirit. I doubt if there is a political leader in the world today as universally respected as Mandela. Even after a year in office, with all the criticism that it deserves, Mandela has not been put in the national spotlight of the Guardian's report card on the new government, where his name, that of the partially botched firing of Winnie Mandela, whose unconstructive "popu- lism" has alienated both leaders and activists across most of the political spectrum.

Continuing Economic Problems

Economically things do not look so rosy. A large part of the population is still very poor. There are schools with 80 pupils in a room, no electricity, and no toilet in the roof. The latest story is of a school held in the open, with desks lined up in a field, and pupils lined up waiting to be admitted because there are not enough desks! The housing in white suburbs would put Scarsdale to shame, and the shacks in townships make the barrios of Rio look palatial.

Ending apartheid does not eliminate the difference; it will take enormous resources to do so. And of course it was not only apartheid that created the gap, but a large amount of the previous subordination, on the economy South Africa was built. That exploitation continues, despite the efforts of the government and a strong and class-conscious Communist Party. But at this point both

are part of the governing alliance with the ANC, the "Government of National Unity," and the pressure is on to tone down wage demands in the interests of international investors.

The vice-president of Anglo-America, the country's largest corporation, has thus far not been sufficiently well organized to replace cor- rupt regimes with anything better.

I think that the structural adjustment imposes on all of the poor communities I have visited must be understood in global terms. This will allow us to develop stronger links be- tween oppressed peoples, and to devel- op an organization (or organizations) that serve our interests in international forums. If we have common problems, it follows logically that we can have common solutions.

From my visits to ghettos in the U.S., the barrios of Mexico City, and the favelas of Brazil, I have a growing conviction that an international body devoted to linking civil associations can really work. There are many diffi- culties in organizing such a body, of course. We tried to reconvene the local experience to the global, my view is that our experiences in South Africa of mass mobilization, democracy-building, addressing local grievances and building new institutions in the communities can all be done by alliances in other societies.

That is the subject of my future work, where I hope to join others in building new movements in ongoing strug- gles for social justice and democracy.

Mzwakhe Mxekwa is the International Representative of the South African Federation of Trade Unions and a graduate student at Pratt Institute in New York.

Reform the Mansion Subsidy

by Peter Dreier and John Atlas

Everyone’s talking about cutting welfare for the poor. But few talk about cutting welfare for the wealthy. Specifically, we should cut the "mansion subsidy" — the government tax break going to rich homeowners. We should replace it with a progressive tax credit to help hardworking working-class and lower-middle-class families achieve the "American Dream" of homeownership. Why do we already have a tax break for homeowners? Yes, but most of it goes to the wrong people. Tax breaks for homeowners — the deduction of mortgage interest — cost the federal government $50 billion last year. That subsidy should be cut if it helped the middle class. But it doesn’t. Those with the highest incomes get the most tax breaks (including second homes) get the largest subsidy.

Most Americans think that federal housing assistance is a poor people’s program. In fact, less than one-fifth of low-income Americans receive federal housing aid. The other two-thirds of wealthier Americans — many living in mansions — get housing aid from Washington. This "mansion subsidy," which "subsidizes" people who can afford to buy homes without it. Almost one- fourth (44 percent) of the $51 billion homeowner subsidy goes to the 5.2 percent of taxpayers with incomes over $100,000, and almost one-third (31 percent) to the wealthiest one percent of taxpayers with incomes over $200,000. Give tax breaks to estate industry rhetoric and lobbying, mortgage interest deductions aren’t the salvation of the middle class or the "American Dream." Only one-fifth of the 28 million households with incomes below $30,000 received any homeowner subsidy. Half of all homeowners do not claim deductions at all. Tenants don’t even qualify.

Well, don’t we have HUD to help

4/Planners Network #111/May 1995

5/Planners Network #111/May 1995
I have been in South Africa in a unique and exciting period when hope for immediate peace and democracy is high. The transition from apartheid has been overwhelmingly positive so far, but the future potential of a democratic South Africa will be more limited than some had hoped. On the positive side, there are two striking accomplishments: "non-racialism" and reconciliation. Non-racialism is a strange concept to a non-African, an incommensurate concept with the concept of a Rainbow Nation, frequently used here, or of multiculturalism, which is promoted here in a more thorough-going fashion than we are used to. Eleven languages (English, Afrikaans, and nine African languages) are recognized as official. Instructive, broadcasting and official documents cannot be in just one. The linguistic friction is still English, and it is still the most popular second language in South Africa, and English is no longer the imperial tongue.

Non-racialism, however, has implications that go beyond linguistic or cultural diversity. It means rejection of "race" as a category in pub-

life. "Equality" is preferred to "affirmative action" as the term for promoting equal opportunity for the previ-
ously disadvantaged. Promotions for promoting blacks, Indians and colo-
ders, the discriminated categories of apartheid, are roundly criticized. No search for identity or roots con-
cerns Africans, who after all are the overwhelming majority of the popu-
lation, and now firmly hold political power throughout the country. Non-
racialism has also been measured with reason. The privileged position of whites has not changed significantly, there is no mass exodus, white investment is growing, and ten-
dons do not run along racial lines. Reconciliation is the other undoubt-
edly and amazing success. Politically motivated crimes, including unspeak-
able acts of terrorism (mail bombs, assassinations, torture) were amnestied as part of negotiations leading up to the elections. A Truth Commission has been established, and people seeking amnesty need simply to disclose fully their misdeeds. Of course there were acts of extreme violence on the side of the African National Congress (ANC), the instance, too. But reconciliation is not seen simply as an unfortunate ne-
cessity to avoid further violence, but also as a fundamental principle of the new order.

Nelson Mandela embodies the new spirit. I doubt if there is a political leader in the world today as universally respected as Mandela. Even after a one year in office, with all the extraordinary crises that have been evident in the last 10 in the National Guardian's report card on the new government, the "national" has weathered the partially botched firing of Winnie Mandela, whose unconstructive "popul-

ism" has alienated both leaders and activists across most of the political spectrum.

Reform the Mansion Subsidy by Peter Dreir and John Atlas

Everyone's talking about cutting welfare for the poor. But few talk about cutting welfare for the wealthy. Specifically, we should cut the "mansion subsidy" - the government tax break going to rich homeowners. We should replace it with a progressive tax credit to help hardworking working-class and lower-middle-class families achieve the "American Dream" of homeownership. If we already have a tax break for homeowners? Yes, but most of it goes to the wrong people. Tax breaks for homeowners - the deduction of mortgage interest — cost the federal government almost $48 billion last year. That's about 20 percent of the income from the 20 million homeowners. Some 10 million, or one in every five, residents who claim the state exemption, some of whom are either made up of two or a few million households whose incomes are above $100,000. This is the secret to the inordinate industry of rhetoric and lobbying, mortgage interest subsidies aren't the salvation of the middle class or the "American Dream." One in five of the 28 million families with incomes between $100,000 and $200,000 received any homeowner subsidy. Half of all homeowners do not claim deductions at all. Tenants don't even qualify. Well, don't we have HUD to help

Peter Marcuse is a professor of urban planning at Columbia University and a PN Steering Committee member.
The text credit would be available to all families each year — including moderate-income households that do not receive SSI payments and so cannot take advantage of the current tax break. Capping the credit (for example, at the levels recommended by the CBO) or trying it progressively to income would limit subsidies for the wealthy, while preserving it for the middle class. It would also add a large number of families who currently do not benefit. Thus, a tax credit would be much more efficient, and more fair, than the current approach. The credit could be adjusted for regional housing costs in order to avoid penalizing homeowners and homebuyers in high-cost areas.

A tax credit would encourage homeownership more effectively than the mortgage deduction. The wealthy would continue to purchase homes with or without a tax subsidy. Because housing demand is more elastic at the bottom and middle parts of the economy, a homeowner tax credit could make the difference between renting and owning for millions of working families now shut out of the American Dream.

More by increasing, by the effective demand for housing, a system would help the home- building industry (as well as brokers and mortgage lenders), have significant impacts on the economy, and add to local tax bases.

The current system — which subsidizes large urban areas and many huge houses without helping hardworking families buy a small bungalow in a decent neighborhood — is not a bargain. The current way we distribute housing subsidy funds is wasteful and unfair. As a nation, we have the resources to assist the millions of poor and working class families who cannot afford market-rate rents or home prices. Let's start subsidizing the rich to live in mansions. A progressive tax credit is the best way to help hardworking families achieve the American Dream of homeownership.

Peter Dreier is professor at Occidental College and vice president of the National Housing Institute (NHI), a think tank based in Orange, N.J., that conducts research and sponsors Shelterforce magazine. John Atlas is NHI president.
house the poor? The $51 billion in homeowner tax deductions (which doesn't even include another $13 billion in homeowner property tax deductions) is double the amount the deficit cutters want to use in savings to fund programs to help the homeless and others hurt by the shortfall of affordable housing.

These ideas are hardly radical. Their proponents include the main- tenance workers at Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Anthony Downs of the Brookings Institution, and in a recent analysis of federal housing policy, Downs wrote that "by reducing homeownership tax deductions by less than 20 percent — and taking almost all of that reduction from high-income households — the United States government could probably pay for a housing voucher entitlement program serving all eligible very-low-income renters who applied."

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition wants Congress to create a housing trust fund, using savings from limiting the homeowner deduction, to target housing assistance to the poor.

Now, however, the deficit-cutters have leader voices, which has put the fear of death into the housing industry. In the February 1995 issue of the NAR's magazine, Builder, noted economist David S. Ackerman edifies what the "once and for all" tax break is on the offensive. Seiders recognizes that "questions are being raised about the deduction's cost-effectiveness as well as its ability to broaden homeownership. He noted that "frankly, it's possible to find countries with homeownership rates comparable to those of the United States without deductions."

Tellingly, Seiders also acknowledges that "it is also hard to defend the deduction in terms of equality or fairness."

A New Approach: Homeowner Tax Credit

So here's another idea that both housing activists and the housing industry should find compelling. We suggest scraping the homeowners deductions entirely and trying an entirely new approach—a refundable progressive homeowner tax credit. It would increase homeownership, catalyze new building projects, and help stimulate economic recovery. And like the popular Earned Income Tax Credit, it involves no bureaucracy.

The tax credit would be available to all families each year— including moderate-income households that do not now benefit from deductions and so cannot take advantage of the current tax break. Capping the credit (for example, at the levels recommended by the CBOS or trying it progressively to income) would limit subsidies for the wealthy, while preserving credits for the middle class. The credit would also add a large number of families who currently do not benefit. Thus, a tax credit would be much more efficient, and more fair, than the current approach. The credit could be adjusted for regional housing costs in order to avoid penalizing homeowners and homebuyers in high-cost areas.

A tax credit would encourage homeownership more effectively than the mortgage deduction. The wealthy would continue to purchase homes with or without a tax subsidy. Because housing demand is more elastic at the bottom and middle parts of the economy, a homeowner tax credit could make the difference between renting and owning for millions of working families now specializing in the American Dream.

Moreover, by increasing the effective demand for housing, a credit would help the home- building industry (as well as brokers and mortgage lenders), have significant positive effects throughout the economy, and add to local tax bases.

The current system—which subsidizes huge numbers of overpriced houses without helping hardworking families buy a small bungalow in a deteriorating neighborhood. The current way we distribute housing subsidy funds is wasteful and unfair. As a nation, we have the resources to assist the millions of poor and working class families who cannot afford mortgage down payments or home prices. Let's use this subsidy to put the rich into low housing classes. A progressive tax credit is the best way to help hardworking families achieve the American Dream of homeownership.

Peter Dreier is professor at Occidental College and vice president of the National Housing Institute (NHI), a think tank based in Orange, N.J., that con- ducts research and sponsors Shelter- force magazine. John Atlas is NHI president.

Contract Watch

[Table: PP Fighting the Contract, New York Planners Network has joined the same Boat Coalition, an umbrella group bringing together organizations working against budget cuts and the Contract on America. The June 16 FN Party will help raise funds for the Coalition.]

NYC ORGANIZING. The Emergency Committee on Housing, Community Development and Environment, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205.

TAX CUTS. A critique of the GOP Capital Gains Tax Cuts Plan (8 pp., March 1995) is available (possibly free)

The National Neighborhood Coalition sent out an "Action Alert" regarding the threat to the U.S. Depart- ment of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and its budget. Although the "Alert" was issued in mid-April, the main points are still valid. Here are highlights:

HUD Rescissions

On March 16, the House passed its "rescission" bill (H.R. 1158) by a vote of 277-200, cutting $17 billion in funds already appropriated for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995; these cuts will be used to pay for disaster relief and deficit reduction. Of the $17 billion in rescissions programs that are cut, $12.7 billion of the $17 billion—or 42 percent—was cut from existing HUD funding. By way of comparison, the FY 1995 HUD budget authority approved by Congress last year totals $25.8 billion. Most HUD cuts proposed by the House are from public housing programs.

The Senate approved its rescission bill (S. 617) by a vote of 99-0 on April 6. It totals $16 billion in cuts, including $4.9 billion from HUD. Although it does not cut HUD as much as the House, the Senate's cuts are still from public housing.

Members of the House and Senate are meeting in May to reach a compromise which will then go to the President for his signature. HUD has prepared detailed information on how the HUD cuts will impact your city and state. For a copy, call HUD at 202/707-0330, orfax a request to 202/708-3777. Because of the massive HUD cuts, please call the White House comments hotline at 202/456-1111 and urge your President to veto the rescissions bill when it reaches his desk.

From Citizens for Tax Justice, 1311 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20005; 202/626-3780.

[Block Grants. Block Grants: Characteristics, Experience and Lessons Learned (GAO/HEHS-95-74, 55 pp., Feb. 1995) is available, free, from US GAO, PO Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20887-6015.]

[Budget Priorities. Creating a Common Agenda: Strategies for Our Communities — A Citizens' Report on National Budget Priorities (72 pp., April 1995) is available ($10) from the Common Agenda Coalition (424 C St. NE, Washington, DC 20002; 202/544-8222 or the National Priorities Project (160 Main St. #6, Northampton, MA 01060; 413/584-9556). A 13-page Executive Summary is available for $1. Individualized, 4-page city reports on 33 major metropolitan areas documenting the impact of federal priorities on each of these cities, are also available.

[Rescissions. House Rescissions Would Hit Programs for the Poor in an 8-page, March 7, 1995 paper from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 777 N. Capitol NE,]
Now is the Time for All Good Planners to Oppose Taking Bills

The Omnibus Property Rights Act (S. 605) would make local planning impossible. This bill, which purports to protect property owners, will take local planning out of the hands of elected bodies and professional planners and put it in the courts, crippling the ability of government to regulate development and protect the environment. It would lead to expensive litigation and cost taxpayers billions of dollars. This bill threatens the Contract for America will make planning in this market-aged country a complete fiction. S. 605 could come up for a vote in May. Now is the time to write your Senators.

Passing the Word

Economic and Community Development

- ORG. DEVELOPMENT. Organizational Development Tools is available ($29) from ResourceWomen, 4527 S. Dakota Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20017; 202/832-8071.
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZING. The Journal of Community Promoting Organizing, Practice, Planning, Development and Change is a quarterly publication of the Association for Community Organization and Social Action; $36/yr. individuals, $48 institutions, $60 lbs. ACOSA also publishes a networking guide, has a syllabus exchange, etc. Information and membership from PNI Tery Mizrahi, Hunter College School of Social Work, 129 E 77 St., New York, NY 10021; 212/452-7112.
- GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING. GEO: Grassroots Economic Organizing Newsletter is a bimonthly publication available from P.O. Box 3055, New Haven, CT 06525. Individual subscription $15 a year; $30 for libraries and organizations.
- VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Two recent publications explore economic development in Vermont. Sustainable Jobs Fund, a 27-page paper prepared by the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, describes how a fund could be set up to invest in job creation, environmental protection and quality of life. Copies are $7 from VBSR, P.O. Box 462, Burlington, VT 05402. Mount Aus- ton Associates produced the 185-page report, Jobs and People III: Towards a Sustainable Economy, for the Community and Economic Development Office, City of Burlington, Vermont. Copies available for $15 from the Community and Economic Development Office, Room 32 - City Hall, Burlington, VT 05401 ($10 additional for a 170-page supplement). For information, contact Bruce Feister, Assistant Director for Economic Development at 202/865-7179.
- COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT. CR4 Warch is a new newsletter (likely free) from the Center for Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007; 202/342-0567.
- DAVIS-BACON. The Coalition to Protect the American Standard of Living is an effort to defeat Congressional legislation that would repeal the federal prevailing wage law (Davis-Bacon). Contact them at 815 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20006; 202/547-1461.

Environment

- BRAVE NEW WORLD. "Surviving in a Brave New World" by Wil Collitte is the lead article in the April issue of Profiles on Environmental Health, published by the Environmental Health Network, PO Box 16267, Chespsehake, VA 23328; 804/424-1162.
- SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES. Defining Sustainable Communities: Many Pieces Fit Together is the 36-page report of a June 1994 conference; $5 from Neighborhood Funders Group, 1001 S. Marshall St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101; 910/724-9070.
- PUBLIC EMPLOYEES/ENVIRONMENT. PEEReview is the quarterly newsletter of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, 810 First St. NE, #808, Washington, DC 20002; 202/408-0041.

Health


#705, Washington, DC 20002; 202/408-1080; contact them for price.


- NY STATE ALTERNATIVE BUDGET. The 1995-96 Fair Financial Plan: A Balanced State Budget to Sustain Social Progress (11 pp. + appx, March 1995) is the annual alternate state budget from the State Community Association; available (no price listed) from SCAA, One Columbus Pl., Albany, NY 12220; 518/465-1896.


- THE RIGHT WING. The Right Guide is, as the title conveys, a comprehensive guide to the intellectual and political Right. The new (1995) second edition lists 3,474 organizations, profiles 831 of them, 674 periodicals, an international section, conservative student newspapers, profile subject and keyword indices, etc. 484 pp., 49.95, the special price for activist organizations ($74.95 others), from Economics America, 612 Church St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104; 800/878-6141.


- WELFARE REFORM. Most of the items in the "Welfare" section starting on page 11 relate to the Contract.

Planners Network Now On-Line

PN is on-line with a "conversation" or "listerv" connection called Plan_Net. It will include a limited number of pieces from the newsletter, giving you more timely access to items with deadlines, like job notices. You will also be able to post news and information to fellow PNeers who join Plan_Net.

To join, send an e-mail message to Plan_Net @umblyk.cc.umb.edu. We are going to start in a limited way and expand as needs and interests do. For any questions, contact:

Merri Anan: anan@umblyk.cc.umb.edu
Lupe Aponte-Paré: aponte_paré@umblyk.cc.umb.edu

- CLINTON HEALTH PLAN. The Clinton Health Plan: Why It Failed, What It Means, a pamphlet by Colin Gordon, is available ($5) from the New Party, 227 W. 40 St. #1030, New York, NY 10018; 212/302-5033.

- PROPERTY TAXES. Black and White Property Tax Rates and Other Homeownerships Costs in 30 Metropolitan Areas: A Preliminary Report, by Andrew Beveridge and Jennie D’Amico (4 pp. + tables), is available (no price listed) from Prof. Beveridge, Dept. Sociology, Queens College/CUNY, 63-50 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367-0904; 718/520-7088.


- HOUSING ASSISTANCE. Inside from the Outside: Strategies for Increasing Housing Assistance is a new video explaining the importance of grassroots advocacy to build a strong political constituency for housing programs. Available from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, 1014 12th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202/662-1530. Price is $25.

- AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Out of Reach: Why Everyday People Can’t Afford Affordable Housing is a state-by-state, city-by-city examination of housing affordability, comparing HUD’s Fair Market Rents to actual renter medi- an incomes, plus other data. Available from the Low Income Housing Information Service, 1014 12th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202/662-1530. Price is $25.

8/Planners Network #111/May 1995

9/Planners Network #111/May 1995
Now is the Time for All Good Planners to Oppose Takings Bill

The Omnibus Property Rights Act (S. 605) would make local planning impossible. This bill, which purports to protect property owners, will take local planning out of the hands of elected bodies and professional planners and put it in the courts, crippling the ability of government to regulate development and protect the environment. It would lead to expensive litigation and cost taxpayers billions of dollars. This legislation puts the Contract on America will make planning in this market-city country a complete fiction. S. 605 could come up for a vote in May. Now is the time to write your Senators.

#705, Washington, DC 20002; 202/408-1080; contact them for price.


□ NY STATE ALTERNATIVE BUDGET, The 1995-96 Fair Financial Plan: A Balanced State Budget to Sustain Social Progress (11 pp. + appx, March 1995) is the annual alternative state budget from the State Community Association; available (no price listed) from SCAA, One Columbus PI., Albany, NY 12207; 518/463-1896.


□ THE RIGHT WING. The Right Guide is, as the title conveys, a comprehensive guide to the intellectual and political Right. The new (1995) second edition lists 5,474 organizations, profiles 831 of them, 674 periodicals, an international section, conservative student newspapers, profile subject and keyword indices, etc. 484 pp., $49.95, the special price for activist organizations ($74.95 others), from Economics America, 612 Church St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104; 800/878-6141.


□ WELFARE REFORM. Most of the items in the "Welfare" section starting on page 11 relate to the Contract.

Passing the Word

Economic and Community Development

□ ORG. DEVELOPMENT. Organizational Development Tools is available ($29) from ResourceWomen, 4227 S. Dakota Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20017; 202/832-8071.

□ COMMUNITY ORGANIZING. The Journal of Community Promoting Organizing, Practice, Planning, Development and Change is a quarterly newsletter of the Association for Community Organization and Social Action; $36/yr. individuals, $48 institutions, $60 libras. ACOSA also publishes a networking guide, has a syllabus exchange, etc. Information and membership from PNR Terry Mizrachi, Hunter College School of Social Work, 129 E 77 St., New York, NY 10021; 212/452-7112.

□ GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING. GEO: Grassroots Economic Organizing Newsletter is a bimonthly publication available from P.O. Box 5065, New Haven, CT 06525. Individual subscription $15 a year; $30 for libraries and organizations.

□ VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Two recent publications explore economic development in Vermont. Sustainable Jobs Fund, a 27-page paper prepared by the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, describes how a fund could be set up to invest in job creation, environmental protection and quality of life. Copies are $7 from VBSR, P.O. Box 462, Burlington, VT 05402. Mount Aumonier Associates produced the 185-page report, Jobs and People III: Towards a Sustainable Economy, for the Community and Economic Development Office, City of Burlington, Vermont. Copies available for $15 from the Community and Economic Development Office, Room 32 - City Hall, Burlington, VT 05401 ($10 additional for a 170-page supplement). For information, contact Bruce Sefer, Assistant Director for Economic Development at 202/665-7179.

□ COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT. CRA Watch is a new newsletter (likely free) from the Center for Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007; 202/342-0567.


□ DAVIS-BACON. The Coalition to Protect the American Standard of Living is an effort to defeat Congressional legislation that would repeal the federal prevailing wage law (Davis-Bacon). Contact them at 815 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20006; 202/347-1461.

□ BRAVE NEW WORLD. "Surviving in a Brave New World" by Will Collette is the lead article in the April issue of Profiles on Environmental Health, published by the Environmental Health Network, PO Box 16267, Chatsworth, CA 91328; 804/424-1162.


□ SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES. Defining Sustainable Communities: Many Pieces Fit Together is the 36-page report of a June 1994 conference; $5 from Neighborhood Funders Group, 1001 S. Marshall St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101; 910/724-9070.

□ PUBLIC EMPLOYEES/ENVIRONMENT. PEEERView is the quarterly newsletter of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, 810 First St. NE, #600, Washington, DC 20002; 202/408-0411.

□ CLINTON HEALTH PLAN. The Clinton Health Plan: Why it Fails, What it Means, a pamphlet by Colin Gordon, is available ($5) from the New Party, 227 W. 40 St. #1030, New York, NY 10018; 212/302-5033.

□ PROPERTY TAXES. Black and White Property Taxes and Other Homeownership Costs in 30 Metropolitan Areas: A Preliminary Report, by Andrew Beveridge and Jennie D'Amico (4 pp. + tables), is available (no price listed) from Prof. Beveridge, Dept. Sociology, Queens College/CUNY, 63-55 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367-0904; 718/520-7088.


□ HOUSING ASSISTANCE. Inside the Outside: Strategies for Increasing Housing Assistance is a new video explaining the importance of grassroots advocacy to build a strong political constituency for housing programs. Available from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, 1012 14th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202/662-1530. Price is $25.

□ AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Out of Reach: Why Every Day People Can't Find Affordable Housing is a state-by-state, city-by-city examination of housing affordability, comparing HUD's Fair Market Rents to actual renter medi- an incomes, plus other data. Available from the Low Income Housing Information Service, 1012 14th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202/662-1530. Price is $25.
□ SOCIAL HOUSING. "PARC (Permanently Affordable, Resident- or Community-Controlled Housing) is a new effort by the Institute for Community Economics to bring together with community-based mutual housing associations, limited-equity coops and other PARCC housing forms. Contact ICE at 57 School St., Cambridge, MA 01105-1331; 413746-8660.


□ HOUSING RIGHTS. RHODAS (Rhode Island Housing Organizations) (3rd ed.) is now available from the National Housing Law Project, 2201 Broadway #15, Oakland, CA 94612; $10.45-$90. A pre-publication price of $95 ($65 to Legal Services and IOLTA-funded organizations) is available for orders marked by 5/15; $115 and $80 afterwards. Their 1994 guide, HUD Housing Programs: Tenants' Rights (2nd ed.) is available as well: $165 ($110 LS/IOLTA's).

□ FAIR HOUSING. The Fannie Mae National Housing Survey 1994 (31 pp.)—headlined "Blacks See Bias as Obstacle to Buying" in the Washington Post's story on the report—it is available, likely free, from FNMA, 1900 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006-2899, 202-752-7608.

□ RURAL HOUSING. Taking Stock of Rural Poverty and Housing for the 1990s is a new report from the Housing Assistance Council. It includes data analysis, case studies of eight high-poverty rural counties, and two post-survey color maps (depicting poverty level by county and housing affordability by county); $16 ($1.50 each for maps alone) from HRAC, 1025 Vermont Ave. NW, #606, Washington, DC 20005; 202/842-8600. Also available: an 18-minute video, A Place to Live: Building Rural Communities, narrated by Edward James Olmos ($15).

Planning and Land Use

□ LAND USE/LI TERALIA. PNet David Burkin has several articles in the May issue of Landlines, newsletter of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, including "Management of Land Resources in Latin America," "Understanding Land Markets Where None Exist: The Challenges for Cuba" (with Matthew Larsen, Lincoln Institute, 113 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA 02138-3400).

□ COMMUNITIES. Rebuilding Community in America: Housing for Ecological Living, Personal Empowerment and the New Extended Family, by Ken Norwood and Kathleen Smith (452 pp., 1995), is available ($27.50) from the Shared Living Resource Center, 2375 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704; 800/475-7572. Related publications: Communities Directory (500+ listings, 1995, $21), from Communities, R. 4, Box 169-M, Loma, VA 23093, and their quarterly magazine, Communities, $22/year.

□ PUBLIC LAND. The Spring issue of Land and People by The Trust for Public Land has articles on Portland, Oregon, New York City's Jamaica Bay, and the concept of "Emerald Cities." Trust for Public Land, 116 New Montgomery, 4th Fl, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Race/Ethnic


□ LATINOS. The Empty Promise: The EEOC and Hispanic hiring is a new report from the National Council of the La Raza 1111 19th St. NW, #1000, Washington, DC 20036, 202/785-1670; ask about price.

Travel

□ MONDRA贡 TOUR. Cincinnati's Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center is sponsoring a 12-day study tour to the Mondragon Cooperatives and other Spanish co-op Nov. 3-13, 1995 to promote serious exploration of worker ownership. Participants will meet in Madrid, Spain on Nov. 3, 1995. The $2,600 cost of this escorted tour in- cludes English language travel, trains in Spain, accommodation and some meals. The tour is limited to 20 persons. If interested, inquire as soon as possible. Contact: IPC, 215 E. 14th St., Cincinnati, OH 45210; 513/579-8547; fax: 513/579-0674.

Welfare

□ TALKING POINTS. Welfare Reform is a 2-page "talking points" paper from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, 908 Penn. Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003; 202/675-2060. No price listed.

□ ISSUE BRIEF. Getting Smart About Welfare is an Issue Brief, available ($2.50) from the Center for Women Policy Studies, 2000 P St. NW, #508, Washington, DC 20006.


□ MORE WELFARE AND WORK. Welfare Reform: Where are the jobs? is a 1995, 4-page report (part 5 of its Uncommon Sense series), available (possibly free) from the National Jobs for All Coalition, 475 Riverside Dr. #853, New York, NY 10115; 212/870-3449.


□ FOOD ASSISTANCE. Should Federal Food Assistance Programs Be Converted to Block Grants? (21 pp., Jan. 1995) is available from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 777 N. Capitol St. NE, #705, Washington, DC 20002; 202/408-1080. Contact them for price.

□ TRENDS. Welfare Dependence: Concepts, Measures and Trends," by Peter Gottschalk and Robert Moffett (Reprint no. 708, 1994), shows that "when measured as the total time an individual is on welfare or as the percentage of a person's income that is welfare, welfare depen- dency among women did not increase between 1974 and 1987, contrary to popular perception." Available ($2) from the Institute for Research on Poverty, 1180 Observatory Dr., 3412 Social Science Bldg., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706; 608/262-6358.

□ LEGAL IMMIGRANTS. Welfare Reform: Implications of Proposals on Legal Immigrants Benefits" (GAO/HHSIS-95-58, 23 pp., Feb. 1995) is available from USGAO, PO Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20844-6015.

□ WELFARE AND MIGRATION. The Myth of Welfare Magnets, by James Johnson, Jr., David Grant and Walter Farrell, Jr., appeared in the June 1994 issue of State Gov- ernment News. Using 1990 Census PUMS data, the study shows that "for the nation as a whole and irrespective of whether the states offer low, medium or high benefits, the number of interstate African-American migrants who receive public assistance is small and not worth the media attention and public policy attention it receives."

SPECIAL HOUSING. "PARC (Permanently Affordable, Resident- or Community-Controlled Housing) is a new effort by the Institute for Community Economics to bring together with community trusts, mutual housing associations, limited-equity coops and other PARC housing forms. Contact ICE at 57 School St., Springfield, MA 01105-1331; 413/746-8600.


HOUSING RIGHTS. RHCRS (Rials/Housing Programs; Tenants' Rights & Purchasers' Rights (2nd ed.) is now available from the National Housing Law Project, 2201 Broadway #815, Oakland, CA 94612; 510/451-9400. A pre-publication price of $95 ($65 to Legal Services and IOLTA funds) is available for orders marked by 3/15; $115 and $80 afterwards. Their 1994 guide, HUD Housing Programs: Tenants' Rights (2nd ed.) is available as well: $165 ($110 LSI/IOLTA's).

FAIR HOUSING. The Fannie Mae National Housing Survey 1994 (31 pp.)—headlined "Blacks See Bias as Obstacle to Buying" in the Washington Post's story on the report—it is available, likely free, from FNMA, 1000 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016-2899, 202/752-7608.

RURAL HOUSING. Taking Stock of Rural Poverty and Housing for the 1990s is a new report from the Housing Assistance Council. It includes data analysis, case studies of eight high-poverty rural areas, and two poster-sized color maps (depicting poverty level by county and housing affordability by county); $16 ($1.50 each for maps alone) from HAC, 1025 Vermont Ave. NW, #606, Washington, DC 20005; 202/842-8600. Also available: an 18-minute video, A Place to Live: Building Rural Communities, narrated by Edward James Olmos ($15).

Planning and Land Use

LAND USE/LATIN AMERICA. PNR David Burkard has several articles in the May issue of Landlines, newsletter of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, including "Management of Land Resources in Latin America," "Understanding Land Markets Where None Exist," The Challenge for Cuba" (with Matthew Simmonds), Lincoln Institute, 113 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3400.

COMMUNITIES. Rebuilding Community in America: Housing for Ecological Living, Personal Empowerment and the New Extended Family, by Ken Norwood and Kathleen Smith (452 pp., 1995), is available ($27.50) from the Shared Living Resource Center, 2375 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704; 800/475-7572. Related publications: Communities Directory (500+ listings, 1995, $21), from Communities, Rt. 4, Box 169-M, Louisa, VA 22309, and their quarterly magazine, Communities, $22/year.

PUBLIC LAND. The Spring issue of Land and People by The Trust for Public Land has articles on Portland, Oregon, New York City's Jamaica Bay, and the concept of "Emerald Cities." Trust for Public Land, 116 New Montgomery, 4th Fl, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Race/Ethnic


LATINOS. The Empty Promise: The EEOC and Hispanics is a new report from the National Council of La Raza, 1111 19th St. NW, #1000, Washington, DC 20036, 202/785-1670; ask about price.

TRAVEL

MONDRAgon TOUR. Cincinnati's Intercountry Justice and Peace Center is sponsoring a 12-day study tour to the Mondragon Cooperatives and other Spanish co-op

Report from APA/CIP Conference Session

PN's Session on "Progressive Planning in Canada" at the joint American Planning Association (APA)/ Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) conference on April 9 in Toronto attracted a crowd of about 150 (in a room designed to hold 120). Speakers were all Toronto-based: PNR Barbara Rahbar, a social and community planner teaching at York University; Frank Lewinsohn, a planner for the City of Metropolitan Hamilton; and principal of Bertride Lewinsohn Greenberg Dark Gabor; Jack de Klerk, manager of educational services at the Tenants Non-Profit Redevelop- ment Cooperative; and Tom Samuel, spokesperson for the Better Transportation Coalition. PN co-chair Ann Forsyth moderated.

Discussion focused on the meaning of progressive planning in Canada (where one political party is called the "progressive conservatists"); the nature of progressive planning; tensions in working with communities; and progressive practices such as social housing, urban intensification and road monitoring.

Following the success of this session, PN is looking for volunteers to organize a session and/or reception at the next APA Conference, to be held on April 13-17, 1995 in Disney World, Orlando, Florida.

the Institute for Research on Poverty, 1180 Observatory Dr., 3412 Social Science Bldg., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706; 608/262-6358.

LEGAL IMMIGRANTS. Welfare Reform: Implications of Proposals on Legal Immigrants Benefits" (GAO/HHSIS- 95-58, 23 pp., Feb. 1995) is available from USGAO, PO Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20848-6015.

WELFARE AND MIGRATION. The Myth of Welfare Magnets, by James Johnson, Jr., David Grant and Walter Farrell, Jr., appeared in the June 1994 issue of State Gov- ernment News. Using 1990 Census PUMS data, the study shows that "for the nation as a whole and irrespective of whether the states offer low, medium or high benefits, the number of interstate African-American migrants who receive public assistance is small and not worth the media attention and public policy attention it receives."
Planners Network Steering Committee Election

Co-Chairs Ann Forsyth and Ken Reardon, with Tom Angotti, Newsletter Editor, have put together the following list of nominees for the PN Steering Committee for four-year terms. Over the last year, Ann, Ken and Tom have functioned as de facto executive committee and propose to continue doing so over the next year to insure continuity. I after which the Steering Committee will select new co-chairs. The Steering Committee will hold a teleconference meeting at least twice a year, while the co-chairs will "meet" by telephone monthly.

Balloting. The election will take place in two ways: at the national conference in East St. Louis May 19-21 and by ballot (see page 13). Please return your ballot by June 15 at the latest.

Planners Network Advisory Committee. Retiring Steering members Bill Goldberg, Jackie Lovitt, Alan Rabinskiwitz and others who served on the Steering Committee in previous years will be asked to join a Planners Network Advisory Committee, to be organized as a source of support for the organization. Peg Seip has volunteered to put this committee together over the next year.

The Nominees

Emily Achtenberg. I'm a consultant to tenant, nonprofit and government organizations in the preservation of federally subsidized housing. My primary interests are expanding opportunities for social ownership, finance and production of housing.

Tom Angotti. I teach at Pratt Institute's Graduate Center for Planning and Environment, work with community planning in New York and edit the PN newsletter. My primary interest is in community-based planning, global cities and Latin American urbanization.

Luis Aponte-Parés. I am an architect and urban planner, teaching at Umass-Boston, and working with the Center for Community Planning and the Eastside Foundation. I founded and directed the City College of New York Architectural Center and worked closely with the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Economic Development, both in New York City.

Terresa Cordova. I teach urban planning at the University of New Mexico.

Dana Driskell. I am a housing and demographics coordinator for the New York Daily News City Planning Office, and teach at the Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and Environment. My interests include empowering citizen planners, environmental justice/hair-shape siting concerns, development finance and enterprise zones.

Ann Forsyth. I'm an Assistant Professor in the Regional Planning Program at Umass-Amherst, teaching in the Built Environment concentration. I also practiced as a planner in Australia.

Chester Hartman. I am director of PRRC, which is a networking/funding/strategic-thinking entity, whose constituency is activists and researchers who work at the intersection of race and poverty. Networking activities between the two worlds are similar to, but more intensive than, PN, and grants are given for research that directly supports an advocacy agenda.

Peter Marcus. I am a lawyer and planner who now teach es planning at Columbia University. I am a member of Community Board #9 in Manhattan, have been President of the Los Angeles Planning Commission, and have written on housing, policy planning history, Eastern Europe and segregation issues.

Barbara Rahder. I'm the Graduate Planning Coordinator at the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, have my own firm, Rahder Associates in Toronto, and am involved in social research and community planning.

Ken Reardon. I am an Assistant Professor in Urban and Regional Planning who conducts research and teaches courses related to neighborhood planning, community development, and municipal reform. I also coordinate the university's East St. Louis Action Research Project, which provides technical assistance to community organizations.

Margaret (Peg) Seip. I am an urban planner whose work emphasizes community-based practice. My current consulting contracts include public housing renovation in the Bronx and various projects on education, community participation and open space design.

Andree Tremoulet. I'm Community Development Director for the City of Pittsfield, MA, a city of 48,000 in western Massachusetts. My work includes community/neighborhood development, economic development and land use/zoning matters.

Robert Yabes. I am currently working as a City Planning Associate with the Los Angeles City Planning and the Chair of the South East/South Central Task Force Economic Development Committee. I'm interested in preparing sustainable inner city economic development plans, equitable transportation investment policies and land use plans that support transit systems.

Jordan Yin. I am currently working as a neighborhood planner with a community development corporation on the near west side of Chicago, where I work with resident groups on organizing issues and community-based housing development projects. I expect to be joining a Ph.D. program this fall at as yet to be determined east coast university.

Emily Achtenberg
Tom Angotti
Luis Aponte-Parés
Terese Cordova
Dana Driskell
Ann Forsyth
Chester Hartman
Peter Marcus
Barbara Rahder
Ken Reardon
Peg Seip
Andree Tremoulet
Robert Yabes
Jordan Yin

Steering Committee Ballot

Vote for candidates individually or the entire slate.

Send by JUNE 15, 1995 to Planners Network/Pratt GCPE, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205. Please put your name on the envelope but not on the ballot to insure confidentiality.

Send by JUNE 15, 1995 to Planners Network/Pratt GCPE, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205. Please put your name on the envelope but not on the ballot to insure confidentiality.

the Republican bill to establish federal and state funds intended to ease the problem of funding shortfalls in the cash welfare proposal; What Do We Spend on "Welfare"? by Sharon Portor (14 pp., Feb. 1995). Contact CBPP for price.

Women and Families

[Boxed section on Women and Families]

Jobs

[Boxed section on Jobs]

[Boxed section on EQUALITY, The Joint Project on Equality is a new endeavor, headed by S.M. Miller, focusing on concentrations of wealth and power in the US and how these endanger economic and social health, and challenging these structures and their beneficiaries. For information, contact Miller at the Commonwealth Institute, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge, MA 02139-1307, 617/547-4474.

[Boxed section on DIALOGUE ON THE LEFT, Crossroads is a monthly magazine devoted to open dialogue on the left. Recent articles include "The Poverty Epidemic," by Piere Marie Kenne dy and "Who Killed L.A.: The War Against the Cities" by Mike Davis. Special issues have focused on environmental justice, the Bell Curve, immigration, the labor movement, strategies for African-American and Latino communities, South Africa, Mexico, and El Salvador. For a sample copy or to subscribe: Crossroads, P.O. Box 2809, Oakland CA 94609, (510) 843-7495.

[Boxed section on RESEARCH/MILWAUKEE, 9th Annual Research of Working Women is seeking a Research Director, $30-35,000. Letter/resume/writing sample to them at 238 W. Wisconsin Ave. #700, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

[Boxed section on ENVIRONMENT/S.F, Citizens for a Better Environment is seeking a Grant Writer (half-time) and a Development Associate (half-time). Each is $25,000 FTE. Resume/
Steering Committee Ballot

Vote for candidates individually or the entire slate.

- Emily Achtenberg
- Tom Angotti
- Luis Aponte-Parés
- Teresa Cordova
- Dana Driskell
- Ann Forsyth
- Chester Hartman
- Peter Marcuse
- Barbara Rahder
- Ken Reardon
- Peg Seip
- Andree Tremoulet
- Robert Yabes
- Jordan Yin

- Entire slate
- Co-Chairs Tom Angotti, Ann Forsyth, Ken Reardon

Send by JUNE 15, 1995 to Planners Network/Pratt GCPE, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205. Please put your name on the envelope but not on the ballot to ensure confidentiality.

the Republican bill to establish federal and state funds intended to ease the problem of funding shortfalls in the cash welfare proposal; What Do We Spend on "Welfare"?, by Sharon Parrot (14 pp., Feb. 1995). Contact CBPP for price.

Women and Families

□ INTEGRATED SERVICES. Principles to Link By: Integrating Education, Health and Human Services for Children, Youth and Families — Systems That Are Community-based and School-linked, a Final Report from over 50 national organizations concerned with the well-being of children, youth and families, is available (free) from 601 13th St. NW, #400 North, Washington, DC 20005; 202/347-8600.


Misc.

□ EQUALITY. The Joint Project on Equality is a new endeavor, headed by S.M. Miller, focusing on concentrations of wealth and power in the US and how these endanger economic and social health, and challenging these structures and their beneficiaries. For information, contact Miller at the Commonwealth Institute, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge, MA 02139-1307; 617/547-4474.

- □ DIALOGUE ON THE LEFT, Crossroads is a monthly magazine devoted to open dialogue on the left. Recent articles include "The Poverty Epidemic," by Pierre Marie Kennedy and "Who Killed L.A.: The War Against the Cities" by Mike Davis. Special issues have focused on environmental justice, the Bell Curve, immigration, the labor movement, strategies for African-American and Latino communities; South Africa, Mexico, and El Salvador. For a sample copy or to subscribe: Crossroads, P.O. Box 2809, Oakland CA 94609; (510) 843-7495.

Jobs

- □ RESEARCH MILWAUKEE. 9.65, National Association of Working Women is seeking a Research Director. $30-35,000. Letter/resume/writing sample to them at 238 W. Wisconsin Ave. #700, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

- □ ENVIRONMENT/S.F. Citizens for a Better Environment is seeking a Grant Writer (half-time) and a Development Associate (half-time). Each is $25,000 FTE. Resume/
Funding

□ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING. Funding Sources for Community and Economic Development: A Guide to Current Sources for Local Programs and Projects is now available from Opyz Press (4041 North Central Ave., Suite 700, Phoenix, AZ 85012-3397). Price is $47.50, plus 10% shipping and handling for the 752-page document.

□ WORKPLACE GIVING. Charity in the Workplace 1996 is available ($15) from the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, 2001 S. NW, #620, Washington, DC 20009; 202/387-9177.


□ GRANTMAKERS DIRECTORY. The National Network of Grantmakers Membership Directory 1995 is available ($25, $26.75 in CA) from NNH, 1717 Kettner Blvd. #100, San Diego, CA 92101; 619/231-1348. NNG is "an organization of individual grant-makers committed to working for social, political, economic and environmental justice"—the Left of the funding world. The Directory is a useful tool for grant-seekers; it features 146 social granting programs.

□ DATA BASE. The Pocket Donor is a new database, listing 501(c)(3) social change grantees that are supported by progressive foundations. Information from Alan Rabinsnowitz, Washington Foundation, 603 Stewart St. #1007, Seattle, WA 98101; 206/583-8170.

Conferences

□ CONFLICT RESOLUTION. "Working It Out: Creating Inclusive Social Structures," a national conference on peacemaking and conflict resolution, will be held May 26-30 in Minneapolis. Information from NCPCR, c/o Creative Meetings, 2626 E. 82 St. #228, Minneapolis, MN 55425; 800/958-8875.

□ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/MANAGEMENT. The Tufts University Management and Community Development Institute will be held June 3-10 in Medford, MA. Some 50 short courses are offered, taught by (among others) Kim Bobo, Michael Swack, Robert Engler, James Stockard, Charlotte Ryan, Ron Hollister, Kris Rondeau, Louise Dunlap and Chuck Collins. Information from MCDI, Lincoln Fihlen Center, Tufts, Medford, MA 02155; 617/627-3549.

□ COMMUNITY DESIGN. The Association for Community Design is holding a conference June 9-10 in Los Angeles. The conference will provide an update on the direction of ACD's work, share issues in focus workshops and discuss the expansion of ACD services. A special panel will explore community development and the role of design centers in economically distressed areas. The conference will be held at the Clark Residence, 306 Loma Drive. For information, contact Ren Curry, ACD/Pratt Institute, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718/636-3486; fax: 718/636-3709.

□ POLITICAL SCIENCE. "Capitalism vs. Democracy: Struggles of Resistance and for Social Change" is a conference sponsored by the International Political Science Association and the Caucus for a New Political Science, June 16-18 at Suffolk University in Boston. Contact John Berg, Dept. Gov't., Suffolk University, Boston, MA 02108-2770; 617/573-8126.

□ PUBLIC HEALTH. The Summer Minority Public Health Institute will be held June 18-23 at University of North Carolina. Information from Mary Everette, Dept. Biostatistics, UNC School of Public Health, CB# 7400, 3108 McGavran-Greenwood, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7400; 919/966-4032.
Funding

- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING.** Funding Sources for Community and Economic Development: A Guide to Current Sources for Local Programs and Projects is now available from Oryx Press (4041 North Central Ave., Suite 700, Phoenix, AZ 85012-3397). Price is $47.50, plus 10% shipping and handling for the 752-page guide.

- **WORKPLACE GIVING.** Charity in the Workplace 1994 is available ($15) from the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, 2001 S. NW, #620, Washington, DC 20009; 202/387-9177.


- **GRANTMAKERS DIRECTORY.** The National Network of Grantmakers Membership Directory 1995 is available ($25, 26.75 in CA) from NNG, 1717 Kettner Blvd. #100, San Diego, CA 92101; 619/231-1348. NNG is "an organization of individual grant-makers committed to working for social, political, economic and environmental justice"—the Left of the funding world. The Directory is a useful tool for grant-seekers; it features 146 social grant-making programs.

- **DATA BASE.** The Pocket Doctor is a new database, listing 501(c)(3) social change grantees that are supported by progressive foundations. Information from Alan Rabinowitz, Washington Foundation, 603 Stewart St. #1007, Seattle, WA 98101; 206/583-8170.

Conferences

- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION.** "Working It Out: Creating Inclusive Social Structures," a national conference on peacemaking and conflict resolution, will be held May 26-30 in Minneapolis. Information from NCCPR, c/o Creative Meetings, 2625 E. 82 St. #228, Minneapolis, MN 55425; 800/958-8875.

- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/MANAGEMENT.** The Tufts University Management and Community Development Institute will be held June 3-10 in Medford, MA. Some 50 short courses are offered, taught by (among others) Kim Bobo, Michael Swack, Robert Engler, James Stockard, Charlotte Ryan, Rob Hollister, Kris Rondeau, Louise Danlap and Chuck Collins. Information from MCDI, Lincoln Filene Center, Tufts, Medford, MA 02155; 617/627-3459.

- **COMMUNITY DESIGN.** The Association for Community Design is holding a conference June 9-10 in Los Angel- es. The conference will provide an update on the direction of ACD's work, share issues in focus workshops and discuss the expansion of ACD services. A special panel will explore community development and the role of design centers in economically distressed areas. The conference will be held at the Clark Residence, 306 Loma Drive. For information, contact Ken Curry, ACD/Prairie Institute, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718/636-3486; fax: 718/636-3709.

- **POLITICAL SCIENCE.** "Capitalism vs. Democracy: Strategies of Resistance and for Social Change" is a conference, sponsored by the International Political Science Association and the Caucus for a New Political Science, June 16-18 at Suffolk University in Boston. Contact Johnberg, Dept. Gov't., Suffolk University, Boston, MA 02108-2770; 617/573-8126.

- **PUBLIC HEALTH.** The Summer Minority Public Health Institute will be held June 18-23 at University of North Carolina. Information from Mary Everette, Dept. Biostatistics, UNC School of Public Health, CB# 7400, 3108 McCraven-Greenberg, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7400; 919/966-4032.

The Planners Network

The Planners Network is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic systems. We believe that planning should be a tool for allocating resources and developing areas that promote equity among households and workers, rather than to maintain and justify the status quo. We believe that planning should be used to assure adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, jobs, safe working conditions, and a healthy environment. We advocate public responsibility for meeting these needs, because the private market has proven incapable of doing so.

The Planners Network Newsletter is published six times a year as the principal means of communication among Network members. Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we need funds for operating expenses. The Board of Directors recommended the following subscriptions and amounts as minimums for Network members: $15 for those with incomes under $25,000; students and unemployed; $25 for those between $25,000 and $50,000; and $45 for those over $50,000.

Members of the Steering Committee: Co-Chair Ann Forsyth, Amherst, MA, 413-545-6634, e-mail: forsyth @lhrp.umass.edu; Co-Chair Ken Reardon, Urbana, IL, 217/544-3384, e-mail: knjdr@uiuc.edu; Emily Ackerberg, Boston, MA, 617/529-3926; Thomas Angotti, Brooklyn, NY, 718/636-3486, e-mail: thoblu@cuaveyn. cu.edu; Luis Aponte-Paredes, Boston, MA, 617/287- 7260, fax: 617/287-7099, e-mail: aponte.paredes@umbkky. co.umb.edu; Teresa Cirodova, Albuquerque, NM, 505/277- 7535, e-mail: tcirodova@venta.unm.edu; Dana R. Driskell, Bronx, NY, 718/220-8505; William Goldsmith, Ithaca, NY, 607/255-2333, e-mail: wsg1@cornell.edu; Chester Hartman, Wash., DC, 202/387-9887; Jackie Leavitt, Los Angeles, CA, 310/825-4380; Peter Marcuse, New York, NY, 212/854-3322; Mike Nachmanoff, Seattle, WA, 206/ 525-9947; Peg Steen, New York, NY, 212/979-9544; Andre Tremonti, Pittsfield, MA, 413-499-9368; Jonathan Yin, Cleveland, OH, 216/961-4242, e-mail: cc53@ greenland.freenet.net.

Newsletter Editor: Thomas Angotti

Enclosed is my check payable to the Planners Network for $
Next Issue Deadline

☐ ARRIVAL DEADLINE FOR PLANNERS NETWORK #111 COPY: MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1995. Be sure to use our new street address: Planners Network/Pratt GCPE, 200 Willoughby, Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718/636-3486; fax 718/636-3709. As always, our thanks to those who can type their notes. It reduces our chances of misreading what you write.