

PLANNERS NETWORK

January, 1996

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What Future For Federal Urban Policy?

by John Mollenkopf

The president, the Democratic party, and advocates of a renewed federal urban policy face a central dilemma: Such a policy may be substantively necessary, but it is politically impossible. Urban advocates must, therefore, develop policy ideas that not only will be effective but also will help build the political support required to enact them.

Although it may be obvious to many that we need a renewed federal urban policy, it is worth restating the reasons, given the level of skepticism about the efficacy of federal domestic policies. We know that national problems such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment and nonparticipation in

the labor force, AIDS, drugs, and crime are all concentrated in central cities; some, like poverty, have become more so over the last decade. Research shows that place and context count in reproducing these problems. An effective attack on them must focus, at least in part, on places, not just on people.

More controversially, many large central cities serve as the engines that drive economic growth for their metropolitan regions and for the whole country. As the national economy relies more heavily on the advanced corporate services, advanced non-profit social services, and related activities that remain highly clustered in central cities, the problems springing from urban poverty

and inequality will pose an increasing threat to national economic competitiveness.

Finally, despite worsening urban conditions and the importance of central-city economies to national competitiveness, the federal government dramatically reduced intergovernmental transfer payments to local governments after 1978. In contrast to the Carter administration, the Clinton

administration was not successful in enacting an urban-oriented antirecessionary budget package in 1993. Federal disinvestment may well be linked to the worsening of conditions in many cities; it certainly aggravates their fiscal overburden.

But where can one

Where can one find political support for renewing and strengthening federal support for central cities? This has gradually become more difficult and may be impossible in the wake of the last congressional elections.

find political support for renewing and strengthening federal support for central cities? This has gradually become more difficult and may be impossible in the wake of the last congressional elections. Old, place-oriented solutions have fallen into intellectual disfavor, having been sharply criticized by academics, the popular press, and conservative and New Democrat pundits, who prefer people-oriented policies that encourage mobility. National public opinion has shifted away from concern for the urban poor and toward suburban white middle-class issues, particularly anxiety over crime and economic insecurity.

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Bulletin Board

PN'ER UPDATES

- PN'er **Mzwanele Mayekiso's** new book, *Township Politics: Civic Struggles for a New South Africa* has been published by Monthly Review Press. "This insider's account of an extraordinary period of national political transition is also a primer on a new radical philosophy." The book is available for \$15 from Monthly Review Press, 122 W. 27th St., 10th Fl., New York, NY 10001; 212/691-2555.
- The second edition of PN'er **Barbara Phillips'** book, *City Lights*, has been published by Oxford University Press. The textbook, described in the brochure as "perfect for urban-oriented courses such as urban sociology, city planning, urban politics, and urban history," is available (\$35) from Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.
- PN'er **Fred Broadwell** sends word that he is now administering the Alameda County Recycling Board Revolving Loan Fund, part of The Materials for the Future Foundation. You can reach Fred at the Fund, 1230 Preservation Park, Oakland, CA 94612; 510/208-4542; mff@igc.apc.org.

FUNDING

- **Directory.** *The Natl. Directory of Grantmaking Public Charities* is available (\$99.50) from the Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003-3706, 800/424-9836.

JOBS

- **Professor.** The School of Architecture and Urban Planning is seeking an Assistant Professor of Urban Planning. This is a tenure track position, requires a PhD, and applications should be received by February 15. Letter, CV, and names of three references to: William Huxhold, Chair, Dept. of Urban Planning, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413; 414/229-5563.
- **Executive Director.** The National Coalition for the Homeless is seeking an Executive Director. Roles include supervision of 7-9 staff members, fundraising, and public education projects. Six years of professional experience with strong administrative and fundraising experience is required. Salary range is \$48,000 - 55,000, plus benefits. Resumes by 1/31. For full job description, call 202/775-1322.

CORRECTIONS

- Oddly enough, we received two complaints about the roster; one from **Bruce Rosen** of New York, wondering why his biosketch wasn't listed below his name, and one from **Allan Rosen** of North Carolina, wondering where the biosketch listed below his name had come from. If you haven't guessed by now, the biosketch which began "Accidental guerilla . . ." listed under Allan's name should have been under Bruce's. Apologies to both Rosens.
- PN'er **Mary Cassidy**, listed in the Ohio section of the roster, is now in Washington, D.C. Her new address there is 3101 New Mexico Ave., NW, #816, Washington, DC 20016; MCAnger@aol.com.
- PN'er **Richard Hyman** of California's e-mail address was incorrect in the roster. His correct address is: cccgrove@scrznet.com
- PN Conference Coordinator **Jennifer Fuqua's** phone number was listed incorrectly. It's 718-636-3506.
- After having delayed the roster a couple of months to allow more people to submit their listings, we still received a few after publication. Space doesn't allow us to print them all, but they've been filed and will be included in the next edition of the roster.

New York Planners Network Forums

The New York Chapter of Planners Network continues its annual series of forums.

February 2 • Planning Education

March 1 • Beyond Habitat II

March 29 • Health Care

May 3 • Community Based Organizations

Forums begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be held at the Puck Building in Manhattan, 295 Lafayette St.

For more information call Winton at 718-636-3486.

Renewing Hope, Restoring Vision: Progressive Planning in our Communities

June 14-16, 1996 • Pratt Institute, Brooklyn New York

Projects underway for 1996 Planners Network Conference

Project on Community-Based Planning

This project will present case studies of communities throughout the United States that have undertaken a proactive approach to planning and set forth an independent vision for their future. The case studies will focus on planning as an integral part of a process of political empowerment in communities that have historically been marginalized. The cases should be varied geographically and reflect varied experiences.

The project will engage in a discussion of the varied experiences, seek to extract common lessons and identify unique conditions. Discussion papers and action resolutions will be presented at the PN 1996 conference.

Project on a Progressive National Urban Policy

This project will identify specific federal policies that affect central city communities, and propose changes that would promote community preservation and development. Federal policies examined will include housing, transportation, environmental protection, health care, social welfare and education. The analysis will include grant and aid programs, tax policy, and regulatory actions.

The project will generate discussion leading to the drafting of a proposal for an alternative national urban policy, and resolutions to be presented at the 1996 conference. After the conference, the proposal will be distributed widely to the major political parties and organizations involved in debates around the 1996 elections.

Project on Globalization and Habitat II

This project will seek to develop a progressive agenda for cities on a global scale that reflects the interests and needs of the majority of urban dwellers throughout the world who are poor, live in substandard housing and have inadequate services. The analysis will consider the urban impacts of globalization and the structural adjustment programs mandated by international lending institutions. It will entail an examination of the official positions taken by the United States delegation to Habitat II, and delegations from other "developed" nations.

The end product of the project will be position papers and resolutions to be submitted by Planners Network at the Habitat II conference, to be held in Istanbul June 3-13, 1996. The Planners Network National Conference will include workshops to discuss the Habitat II Conference and its outcome.

For more information and to participate in any of these projects, contact Tom Angotti or Winton Pitcoff at the PN Office 718-636-3486.
E-mail: thobc@cunym.cuny.edu, wintonp@ix.netcom.com.

SPONSORS WANTED:

The APA New York/Metro Chapter has agreed to co-sponsor the PN 1996 conference. We appreciate their support. In order to help keep costs down for registrants we need several more co-sponsors. Please contact us if your organization is interested in co-sponsoring the conference.

Watch for more information about the PN 1996 Conference soon!

Going to Istanbul or Orlando?

PNer's planning on attending the APA conference in Orlando, Florida April 13-17 should contact Ken Reardon (kmjr@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu; 217/244-5384) or Tom Angotti (thobc@cunym.cuny.edu; 718-636-3486). Help is needed to organize a PN session and distribute copies of the newsletter.

PNer's planning on attending the Habitat II conference in Istanbul in June should also contact Angotti about PN's status at that conference.

Resources

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Small Business Loans.** "Small Business Lending for Econ. Dev., Vol. 1 (Strategic Response for Urban Communities) and Vol. 2 (Model Urban Programs)" are available (\$10 each, \$15 both, nonprofits; \$20 each, \$30 both, for-profits) from The Woodstock Inst., 407 S. Dearborn, #550, Chicago, IL 60605; 312/427-8070.
- **CDC Case Studies.** The Community Development Oral History Project is being conducted by the Pratt Inst. Center for Comm. & Econ. Dev. They have just prepared 15 2-page CDC profiles as part of their effort to document the history, philosophy, achievements & challenges of the CD movement. Included are Asian Americans for Equality, the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., Chicanos por la Causa, the E. Los Angeles Comm. Union, The Woodlawn Org., Miss. Action for Comm. Educ., & Watts Labor Comm. Action Comm. For copies of the profiles, as well as of the documentary video Building Hope (shown on PBS in April 1994), contact PICCED, 379 DeKalb Ave., Steuben Hall, 2nd fl., Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718/636-3486.
- **Journal.** *The Popular Economist* is a semi-annual newsletter of the Center for Popular Economics, PO Box 785, Amherst, MA 01004; 413/545-0743; cpe@acad.umass.edu.
- **Resources Catalog.** A 48 page catalog of publications is available from The National Council for Urban Economic Development. The catalog includes listings of books, periodicals, software, reports, and videos, and is available from the Council at 1730 K St., NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20006; 202/223-4735.
- **Welfare Funds.** The January/February issue of *The Neighborhood Works* features a special section highlighting projects which have developed welfare funds which contribute to community development. The magazine is \$30/yr from The Center for Neighborhood Technology, 2125 W. North Ave., Chicago, IL 60647; 312/278-4800 x140.
- **CDC's.** The Lincoln Filene Center at Tufts University has published the 1995 Richard Schramm Paper on Community Development, entitled "Headaches, Tears and Healing: Organizing for Ownership and the Role of a Community Development Corporation," by Tito Meza and Laura Buxbaum. The 20 page paper is available from the Center for \$10. Lincoln Filene Center, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155; 617/627-3549. Other recent publications include "Reexamining the Roles and Relationships of Voluntary Organizations and Government," by Brian O'Connell, and "Redefining Success in Community Development: A New Approach for Determining and Measuring the Impact of Development," by Sherry Salway Black.

ENVIRONMENT

- **Community Empowerment.** *APEN Voices* is the quarterly newsletter of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. The Fall 1995 issue is devoted to community empowerment. Contact APEN at 1221 Preservation Park Way, 2nd fl., Oakland, CA 94612; 510/834-8920; apen@igc.apc.org.
- **NAFTA.** "NAFTA at Two Years: The Human & Environmental Toll," by Sarah Anderson, John Cavanagh & Ajantha Subramanian (8 pp., Nov. 1995), is available (likely free) from the authors, Inst. for Policy Studies, 1601 Conn. Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009; 202/234-9382.
- **Urban Ecology.** Issue #4 of 1995 of *The Urban Ecologist* featured an article entitled "Designing for Urban Agriculture and Social Ecology" by Ariel Rubissow Okamoto, about a grassroots planning process taking place in East Palo Alto, CA. The journal is available from Urban Ecology, 405 14th St., Ste. 701, Oakland, CA 94612; 510/251-6330; urbanecology@igc.apc.org. Membership is \$35 and includes a year of the quarterly journal.

HEALTH CARE

- **Lead.** "Citizen's Guide to Reducing Lead Exposure" (42 pp., May 1995) is available from the Hazardous Materials Trng. & Research Inst., 500 Belmont Rd., Bettendorf, IA 52722; 319/344-0358.
- **Language Barriers.** "Limited English Proficiency as a Barrier to Health & Social Services," a 145-page report, prepared for the Dept. of Health & Human Services' Office of Civil Rights by Macro International, may be available from Dennis Hiyashi, HHS, 330 Independence Ave., 5400 Cohen Bldg., Washington, DC 20201; 202/619-0403.
- **Insurance.** "Number Without Health Insurance Remains at Record Level" is a 6-page, Oct. 1995 report from the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 777 N. Capitol St. NE, #705, Washington, DC 20002; 202/408-1080.
- **Family Health Care.** "The Big Red How-To Guide: Planning a Health Fair for Children & Families" is available (\$15) from the Natl. Health & Educ. Consortium, 1001 Conn. Ave., #310, Washington, DC 20036; 202/822-8405; nhec@iel.org.
- **California Medicaid.** The California Budget Project has new publications on Medi-Cal and the impact of Medicaid block grants on the state. Possibly free, from 921 11 St., #701, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916/444-0500.

- **Managed Care.** "The Managed Care Consumers' Bill of Rights: A Health Policy Guide for Consumer Advocates" is available (\$5) from the Public Policy & Educ. Fund of NY, 94 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206; 518/465-4600.
- **Minority Health Resources.** The Office of Minority Health Resource Center (HHS) has a toll-free number, 800/444-6472, for ordering publications and use of their database for assisting with resource persons, funding, data & statistics, mailing labels & lists, minority media contacts, programs, organizations & literature.
- **Children's Health.** "Where the Kids Are: How to Work with Schools to Create Elementary School-Based Health Centers" is a primer for health professionals (38 pp., 1995), available (\$15) from the Natl. Health & Educ. Consortium, 1001 Conn. Ave., NW, #310, Washington, DC 20036; 202/822-8405.
- **Disability.** "Disability: Challenges for Social Insurance, Health Care Financing & Labor Market Policy" is the 8th annual conf. of the Natl. Acad. of Social Insurance, Jan. 25-26 in Washington, DC. Info. from the Academy, 1776 Mass. Ave. NW, #615, Washington, DC 20036-1904; 202/452-8097.

HOUSING

- **State Housing Profiles.** "State Housing Profiles," a new AARP Chartbook, includes state-by-state charts, graphs & rankings on housing characteristics for households aged younger than 50, 50-64, 65-75 and 75+. Included are homeowner data by gender & ethnicity, ownership among low-income households, property values, ownership & rental costs as a % of income, and households without telephones or complete plumbing facilities. A 2-page summary of Profiles is also available, all free from the PPI Consumer Team, AARP, 601 E St. NW, Rm. B6-341, Washington, DC 20049.
- **Housing Patterns.** "Kaleidoscope: Housing's Changing Patterns" is the 9th annual conf. of the NC Low Income Housing Coal., Jan. 24-25 in Winston-Salem, with a pre-conf. trng. seminar for CHDO's Jan. 23. Inf. from the Coal., 3901 Barrett Dr., #200, Raleigh, NC 27609; 919/881-0707.

POVERTY / WELFARE

- **Time-Limited Welfare.** "Implementing Time-Limited Welfare: Early Experiences in 3 States," by Dan Bloom & David Butler (89 pp., Nov. 1995), is available (possibly free) from the Manpower Demonstration Research Corp., 3 Park Ave., New York, NY 10016; 212/532-3200.
- **Welfare Reform.** "Infusing Humanity into Welfare Reform: A Statement of Principles for a New Social Contract" (61 pp., 1995) is available (a \$20 contribution is suggested) from HomeBase, 870 Market St., #1228, San Francisco, CA 94102; 415/788-7961.
- **Home Relief.** "Public Policy/Private Pain: No Home, No Relief -- The 90 Day Limit on Home Relief" (24 pp., May 1995) is a publication of SENSES (Statewide Emergency Network for Soc. & Econ. Security), 275 State St., Albany, NY 12210; 518/463-5576.
- **Welfare Bill.** "The Conference Agreement on the Welfare Bill" (18 pp., Dec. 1995), analyzing the freestanding welfare bill under consideration in Congress (at the time of this writing), is available from the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 777 N. Capitol St. NE, #705, Washington, DC 20002; 202/408-1080.
- **Urban Poverty.** The Policy Conference on Persistent Urban Poverty, held in Nov. 1993 by the Social Science Research Council, has just released for distribution the 23 papers commissioned for the conf. Subjects are wide-ranging, authors include Elliott Currie, Michael Katz, Douglas Massey, Sandra Newman, Arthur Naparstek, Gary Burtless, Margaret Weir and Chester Hartman. For listing, contact the Natl. Center for Children in Poverty, 154 Haven Ave., New York, NY 10032; 212/927-9783; ejs22@columbia.edu.

- **Affordable Housing.** "Building Inclusive Community: Tools to Create Support for Affordable Housing" (65 pp. + apps., 1995) is available (\$20 suggested donation) from HomeBase, 870 Market St., #1228, San Francisco, CA 94102; 415/788-7961.
- **Housing Mobility.** "Housing Mobility: Promise or Illusion?," ed. Alexander Polikoff (133 pp., 1995), is available free (but with a large, self-addressed envelope with \$3 postage) from Marissa Manos, Business & Profl. People for the Public Interest, 17 E. Monroe, #212, Chicago, IL 60603; 312/641-5570. This Urban Inst. publication was prepared for an Oct. 1994 conference on "Housing Mobility as an Anti-Poverty Strategy" and consists of a 101-page review, by George Peterson & Kale Williams, of what housing mobility programs have accomplished, a paper by Philip Tegeler, Michael Hanley & Judith Liben on "Transforming Sec. 8 into a Regional Housing Mobility Program," and an Introduction by Polikoff, attorney in the Gautreaux litigation.
- **Insurance Redlining.** "New Evidence Shows Redlining on the Rise by Nation's Largest Home Insurers: State Farm, Allstate & Nationwide" is a Sept. 11, 1995, press release from the Natl. Fair Housing Alliance, 927 15th St. NW, #600, Washington, DC 20005; 202/371-9744.
- **State and Local Housing Strategies.** "Slicing the Pie: A Report on State & Local Housing Strategies" (47 pp., July 1995) is available (\$20) from the Low Income Housing Information Service, 1012 14th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202/662-1530.

- **Female-Headed Households.** "The Poorest of the Poor: Female-Headed Households in Non-metro America" (84 pp., Sept. 1995) is available (\$8.50) from the Housing Assistance Council, 1025 Vermont Ave. NW, #606, Washington, DC 20005; 202/842-8600.
- **Transportation and the Poor.** "The Power to Shape the Future: An Analysis of Decision Making in the Regional Transportation Process & Impacts on the Urban Poor" is a 32-page, Oct. 1995 report available (possibly free) from Wendy Siegel, Chicago Institute on Urban Poverty, 208 S. LaSalle, #1818, Chicago, IL 60604; 312/629-4500 x4525.
- **Income Trends.** "Unequal Shares: Recent Income Trends Among the Wealthy," by Isaac Shapiro (10 pp., Nov. 1995), is available from the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 777 N. Capitol St. NE, #750, Washington, DC 20002; 202/408-1080.
- **Electronic Benefits.** "Using a Plastic Card to Access Public Benefits: The Advocates' Guide to Electronic Benefits Transfer Systems" is a 127-page, Sept. 1995 product from the Center on Social Welfare Policy & Law. \$25 (\$40 for libraries, govt. agencies, pvt. contractors) from the Center, 275 Seventh Ave., 6th flr., New York, NY 10001-6708; 212/633-6967.
- **Welfare Reform.** "Welfare Reform" is a Twentieth Century Fund "Guide to the Issues," 23 pp., 1995. Possibly free (along with a similar guide, "Medicare Reform"), from the Fund, 41 E. 70 St., New York, NY 10021; 212-535-4441; xxthfund@ix.netcom.com.
- **Welfare and Child Care.** "Welfare to Work: Child Care Assistance Limited; Welfare Reform May Expand Needs" is a 32-page, Sept. 1995 report (GAO/HEHS-95-220), available, free, from the US General Accounting Office, PO Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015; 202/512-0006.
- **Entitlements.** "Wide Cast for Safety Net: Over Time, Middle Class as well as Poor Rely on Entitlement Help," by Howard Chernick (16 pp., Nov. 1995), is a Briefing Paper, available (\$5) from the Econ. Policy Institute; 800/EPI-4844.
- **Subsidies for the Wealthy.** "The Wealth-Fare Reform Organizing Kit: A Guide to Cutting Unproductive Subsidies for America's Wealthiest Corporations and Individuals" is a new action and organizing resource including fact sheets, organizing tips, and background articles. Available for \$6 from Share the Wealth, 37 Temple Place, 3rd Fl., Boston, MA 02111; 617/423-2148.
- **Affirmative Action.** *Economic Perspectives on Affirmative Action*, a new book from the Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies, contains 3 studies: Andrew Brimmer's work showing that discrimination against blacks in educ. & employment has cost the US economy more than \$241 billion; Cecilia Conrad's work showing that the direct cost of enforcing AA in private industry is on the order of \$12 per employee per year and that there are no measurable impacts on productivity; M.V. Lee Badgett & Heidi Hartmann's study showing that AA programs are having a positive impact on employment. \$18.95 from University Press of America, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706; 800/462-6420.
- **Racism Video.** "Free Indeed" is a 23-minute video drama about racism "that challenges viewers to think about the privileges that come from being white in North America." The film is a finalist in the NY Film Festival and comes with a study guide. It's available for free rental, \$20 purchase, from the Mennonite Central Committee, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500; 717/859-1151; JMS@mcc.org.
- **Racism and Poverty.** "Intentional Racial Discrimination & Segregation by the Federal Government as a Principal Cause of Concentrated Poverty: A Response to Schill & Wachter," by Florence Wagman Roisman, appeared in vol. 143 (May 1995) of the University of PA Law Review. Copies of the 28-page article (responding to "The Spatial Bias of Federal Housing Law & Policy: Concentrated Poverty in Urban America," in the same issue) are available, free, from Prof. Roisman, Widener Univ. School of Law, 4601 Concord Pike, PO Box 7474, Wilmington, DE 19803-0474; 302/477-2100.
- **Chicano History.** *Viva La Causa! 500 Years of Chicano History* is a new, 2-part educational video (in English - a Spanish version is forthcoming), suitable for grades 5-12 and up, a joint project of the SouthWest Organizing Project & Collision Course Video Prods., co-edited by Doug Norberg & Elizabeth Martinez, editor of *500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures*, the book upon which the video is based. A 70-page curriculum guide for elem. & secondary school teachers accompanies the 60-min. film. Video is \$37.50 (indivs.), \$52.50 (inst.); the entire Chicano History Teaching Kit (video, curriculum guide, book) is \$112.50, from SWOP, 211 10th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102; 505/247-8832.

WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILY

- **Children.** "Critical Issues for Children & Youths" is the theme of the Summer/Fall issue of *The Future of Children*, available, free, from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, 300 2nd St., Los Altos, CA 94022; 415/948-3696. Articles cover children's health & the environment, effects of welfare reform on teenage parents & their children, immigrant children & their families, education issues.

RACE / RACISM

- **Census.** "Changes in the Census Categories: What are the Issues?," by Carol Rinehart, is a 4-page publication prepared for and available from Community Change, 14 Beacon St., #602, Boston, MA 02108; 617/523-0555.

- **Families and Disability.** *Families and Disability Newsletter* is published 3 times a year by the Beach Center on Fams. & Disability, 3111 Haworth Hall, Univ. KS, Lawrence, KS 66045; 913/864-7600; beach@dole.lsi.ukans.edu. The Winter 1995 issue focused on "Dads & Disability." They also have a publications catalog.
- **Women.** "Affirmative Action: Beyond the Glass Ceiling & the Sticky Floor" is the current issue of *Issues Quarterly*, published by the Natl. Council for Research on Women. The lead article is "Affirming Diversity: Building a national community that works"; other articles report on California's Civil Rights Initiative, the Family Medical Leave Act, the Women's Bureau's "Working Women Count" survey, a summer camp that teaches girls economic literacy and a loan program for women business owners. Single issues are \$5, subs. \$35 from the Council, 530 Broadway, 10th flr., New York, NY 10012-3920; 212/274-0730.
- **Children Demographics.** "KIDS COUNT Data on Asian, Native American & Hispanic Children: Findings from the 1990 Census" (128 pp., 1995) is available (free) from William O'Hare at the Annie Casey Foundation, 701 St. Paul St., Balt., MD 21202; 410/547-6624.
- **Unwed Mothers.** "Report to Congress on Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing: Exec. Summary" (29 pp., Sept. 1995) is available from the Natl. Center for Health Statistics, 6525 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, MD 20782. The full report (S/N 017-022-01320-7) is \$20 from the Supt. of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954; 202/512-1800.
- **Families and Neighborhoods.** "Strengthening Families & Neighborhoods: A Community-Centered Approach: Final Report on the Iowa Patch Project" (152 pp., Aug. 1995) is available from James Dolson, Adm. for Chn. & Fams., 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, DC 20447.
- **Urban Agenda.** "Toward a Comprehensive Urban Agenda" is the 18-page policy recommendations draft report of the Oct. 1995 Safe Communities Conf. sponsored by the Marin Inst. at St. Helena, SC. They are looking to collect additional models to include in their final report. Deadline: Feb. 1. Contact Makani Themba, Marin Inst., 24 Belvedere St., San Rafael, CA 94901; 415/456-5692. They also have available for distribution "Nuestro Bienestar: A Latino Model of Health Promotion."
- **Urban Political Economy.** Urban Political Economy will be the theme of a special issue of the *Review of Radical Political Economics* honoring the memory of Matthew Edelman, an activist scholar whose work integrated race, gender and class in a domestic as well as global context. A Call for Papers has been issued. Contact RRPE, Dept. Economics, Univ. Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.
- **Economic Rights.** A Bill of Economic Rights & Responsibilities will be drafted at a Global Town Meeting, being organized by the Center for American Studies at Concord, April 15-21 in Concord, MA. For a copy of the Call to Participate, contact Stuart Weeks at the Center, 196 Elm St., Concord, MA 01742; 508/287-5305.
- **New York News.** *City Limits* magazine has begun a weekly fax-news service, sending out a two-page issue of New York-focused news briefs to subscribers. The service is free. For more information, or to subscribe, call 212/925-9820.
- **Internet Resource.** An internet resource not mentioned in the last Planners Network issue is the Usenet group (also known as a newsgroup) called alt.planning.urban. Like the listservs mentioned last month, it provides users with a forum to post queries and hold "discussions." Rather than postings being transmitted through e-mail, though, they are archived in a listing format.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Social Health.** "1995 Index of Social Health: Monitoring the Social Well-Being of the Nation" (17 pp.) is available (no price listed) from the Inst. for Innovation in Social Policy, Fordham Grad. Center, Tarrytown, NY 10591; 914/332-6014.
- **Motor Voter.** "Cheating Democracy: Discrimination in the Implementation of Motor Voter Laws" is a 19-page, Dec. 1995 investigative report by ACORN & Project Vote. Avail. (no price listed) from ACORN, 739 8th St. SE, Washington, DC 20003; 202/547-2500.
- **Globalization.** "Dismantling Corporate Rule: Towards New Forms of Politics in an Age of Globalization" is a 50-page "set of working instruments for social movements prepared on behalf of the Internatl. Forum on Globalization." Available (no price listed) from the Forum, 950 Lombard, SF, CA 94133; 415/771-3394; vmenotti@igc.apc.org.
- **Habitat II.** Information on the upcoming Habitat II United Nations Conference on Human Settlements is available on-line at <http://www.igc.apc.org/habitat/>. An electronic mailing list about Habitat II (a "listserv") is also available. To subscribe, send a one-line message: "subscribe Habitat 2 your_name" to listproc@cedar.unvie.ac.at
- **Books On-Line.** The Association of American University Presses has made their catalog available on-line. It includes searchable bibliographic data and descriptive text from more than fifty scholarly publishers. The internet address is <http://aaup.princeton.edu>

Notes from PN Steering Committee

The PN Steering Committee met on January 14 in Brooklyn to discuss the overall direction of PN and plan for the June conference. The day-long session was wide-ranging in scope. Items covered include:

- **Planning Profession and APA.** We would like to increase efforts to promote progressive urban policies in the planning profession, particularly through the APA (American Planning Association), the largest professional organization in the U.S. PN'ers who will attend the APA conference in Orlando April 13-17, contact Co-Chair Ken Reardon or Co-Chair Tom Angotti to help organize a PN activity there. Tom will be participating in a panel co-sponsored by Architects, Designers and Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR). Other ideas on how to reach out with a progressive agenda to the planning profession are welcome.
- **Local Organizing.** We would like to promote more local PN activities like the successful New York monthly forums. Peg Seip and other New Yorkers will share the lessons of the New York work, and PN will provide some seed money to launch forums, discussion groups, action projects or other activities. Top candidates are places with significant numbers of PN members -- Boston, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Chicago, Washington, DC, and Minneapolis. If interested in starting a local activity, contact Peg (212-979-9544).
- **Habitat II.** PN Steering Committee members Peter Marcuse and Tom Angotti plan to attend the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul June 3-14. PN'ers Ayse Yonder, and Charles Pill in Istanbul will also attend. PN is accredited as a participating NGO (Non-governmental Organization). Anyone else interested in taking part should contact Peter or Tom.

Note to all PN'ers:

As a network, PN needs your participation. Please keep PN in mind by:

- Adding us to your organization's mailing list
- Volunteering to distribute PN material and recruit new members at your school or workplace
- Mentioning PN in your organization's newsletter, as well as at meetings and conferences
- Contributing suggestions for articles or items for our resource directory
- Making a financial contribution

Clip this out and post it on your bulletin board so you'll keep PN in mind!

- **Web Page.** PN is developing a page on the World Wide Web. It is part of the Pratt Institute Web page, and is still being put together. It will include the PN Statement of Purpose, conference information, Steering Committee information, and instructions on how to contact PN members in different regions. The address for the initial page is: <http://www.pratt.edu/PICCED>

- **Member Contributions.** While PN is financially stable, and enjoys many benefits from its host institution, Pratt Institute, the Steering Committee took note that 40% of PN's membership have not contributed financially. We will continue to purge our mailing lists on a regular basis, but urge everyone to consider contributing something in accordance with their ability to pay.

- **Conference Update.** A mailing will go out in late February or March with conference information and registration forms. The conference is shaping up as an exciting experience. It will include workshops in Brooklyn communities hosted by local organizations; workshops on globalization, national urban policy and community-based planning; a local and national keynoter; pre- and post-conference walking, bus and bicycle tours; an exhibit of plans by communities; and a major cultural event. People who have volunteered to help will be contacted very soon. We need more volunteers for workshop facilitators. We need to raise funds over the next month so we can keep the registration cost affordable. Ideas, efforts and contributions are urgently needed!

PN'ers on the road:

If you're going to the Habitat II conference in June in Istanbul, or if you'll be at the APA conference in Orlando in May, please contact Winton at 718-789-4447 or wintonp@ix.netcom.com.

Planners Network On-Line

Planners Network operates an on-line listserv for members to stay in touch, discuss issues, and exchange ideas. It only works if people participate, though, so sign up today!

To subscribe, send e-mail to:

PLAN-NET-Request@umb.sky.cc.umb.edu

With a one-line message:

SUBSCRIBE PLAN-NET

Conferences and Workshops

- **Social Insurance.** The Eighth Annual Conference and Membership Meeting of the National Academy of Social Insurance, entitled "Disability: Challenges for Social Insurance, Health Care Financing, and Labor Market Policy," will be held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, **January 25-26**. FFI: 202/452-8097.
- **Economic Development.** The National Council for Urban Economic Development will hold an Urban Economic Development Summit in Washington, D.C. on **March 3-5**, an annual conference in Cleveland, OH **September 29-October 2**, and "If You Build it, Will they Come?" on the sports and entertainment industries' effects on economic development from **February 1-3** in Scottsdale, AZ. For more information: National Council for Urban Economic Development, 1730 K St. NW, #700, Washington, DC 20006; 202/223-4735.
- **Habitat II Preparation.** **February 5-16**, New York City. Third Preparatory Committee Meeting of Habitat II: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. Contact Citizens Network For Sustainable Development; 212-431-3922.
- **Housing.** "Housing is Still a Human Right" is the theme of the 1996 annual conf. of the Natl. Low-Income Housing Coal., **February 25-27** in Washington, DC. HUD Sec. Henry Cisneros & Fannie Mae Chair James Johnson are the keynote speakers. Contact NCLIH, 1012 14th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202/662-1530. Some scholarship aid available.
- **Sustainable Energy.** The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association is organizing a joint conference, "Building Energy," between the Solar Electronic Buildings Conference, Renew '96, and Quality Building Conference, **March 4-6** at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, MA. Contact Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, 50 Miles St., Greenfield, MA 01301; 413/774-6051.
- **Community Reinvestment.** The National Community Reinvestment Coalition's National Conference, entitled "Building Individual and Community Wealth" will be held in Washington, DC, **March 6-9**. Contact National Community Reinvestment Coalition, 1875 Connecticut Ave., Ste. 1010, Washington, DC, 20009; 202/986-7898.
- **Wealth Distribution.** "Share the Wealth: Organizing Against Corporate Power," a workshop to educate the public about growing inequality of wealth in the U.S. and its implications for our economy, civic life, and culture. The workshop, sponsored by The Learning Alliance and The Share the Wealth Project will be held Tuesday, **March 12**, 6:30 - 9 p.m. at The Learning Alliance, 324 Lafayette St., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10012. Cost is \$8-12. For more information: 212/226-7171.
- **Livable Cities.** The 18th International Conference on Making Cities Livable will be held in Carmel, CA, **March 12-16**, 1995. The conference will focus on three themes: "Restructuring Urban and Suburban Sprawl," "Creating Successful Urban Places," and "Conversion of Military and Industrial Facilities." For more information about the conference or to request information on presenting papers or case studies: Suzanne H. Crowhurst Lennard, IMCL Conference, P.O. Box 7586, Carmel, CA 93921; 408/626-9080.
- **Cultural Environment.** The Founding Convention of the Cultural Environment Movement will be held **March 15-17** at Webster University in St. Louis, MO. For more information, or for registration materials, contact Cultural Environmental Movement, University City Science Center, 3624 Market St., One East, Philadelphia, PA 19104; 215/387-5303.
- **Land Trusts.** The Institute for Community Economics' annual Community Land Trust Conference and Affiliate Meeting will be held in Washington, DC, **March 15-18**. For more information, write Institute for Community Economics, 57 School St., Springfield, MA 01105-1331; 413/746-8660.
- **Pedagogy.** "Pedagogy of the Oppressed," a conference with sessions devoted to scholarly dialogue and the exchange of information, research methodologies, and pedagogical approaches, will feature presentations by Paulo Freire, Augusto Boal, and Peter McLaren. The conference will be held in Omaha, NE, **March 21-23**. For more information: University of Nebraska at Omaha, Mary Macchietto, Conf. Mgr., College of Continuing Studies, 1313 Farnam, Omaha, NE 68182-0361; 402/595-2355; mmacchietto@uomaha.edu.
- **APA.** The American Planning Association, APA, will hold its annual conference, "Planning for Tomorrow's World," **April 13-17**, in Orlando, FL. FFI: 312/431-9100.
- **Local Government.** The Local Government Commission will host "Putting Our Communities Back on their Feet," **April 26-27**, in San Francisco, CA. FFI: 916/448-1198.
- **Sustainable Resources.** "The Sixth International Symposium on Society and Resource Management: Social Behavior, Natural Resources, and the Environment" will be held **May 18-23**, 1996, at The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. An interdisciplinary symposium dedicated to the study of sustainable relationships between natural resources and society, the symposium will focus on the usefulness of the social sciences to natural resource decision makers and managers. Anyone interested in participating, or presenting a paper can get more information from Jim Finley, Program Co-Chair, School of Forest Resources, The Pennsylvania State University, 2B Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802-2601; 814/863-0401; fj4@psuvm.psu.edu

Policy / continued from page 1

From a pragmatic point of view, the electoral share of the older central cities has been diminishing, and suburbs now cast a majority of the presidential vote. The 1992 redistricting resulted in 98 urban House districts, 88 rural districts, and 170 predominantly suburban districts. Although Democrats still count on their urban base, they must look to the suburbs to construct majorities in presidential elections and Congress.

In 1980, 1984, and 1988, the Republicans used racial and class divisions within metropolitan areas to pry suburban white Democrats away from the Democratic candidates. In 1992, Clinton got enough votes from "Reagan Democrats" to win election, but he did so by studiously avoiding being identified with African-American interests or the central cities. Even in the last session of the 103d Congress, the partisan lineup was not favorable to any moves by the president that might be labeled urban liberal. In the House, 171 non-Southern Democrats and 1 Socialist faced 176 Republicans and 87 Southern Democrats in the House. Although all 13 of the new African-American representatives elected in 1992 came from the South, conservative Democrats still commanded about 80 votes, constituting a clear majority with the Republicans. Ambivalence about the resulting legislative record helped to depress turnout in places like New York and Los Angeles in 1994, despite their contribution to the Democratic presidential victory in 1992.

The 104th Congress augurs even more poorly. The 1994 elections brought 227 Republicans and 56 Southern Democrats to the House, far outnumbering northern and western Democrats, despite the African-American House members from the South. In the wake of this election, the talk has been about rolling back urban programs and abolishing the Department of Housing and Urban Development, not enacting new urban programs.

How should those of us who want to advance the cause of large central cities react to this context? Let me suggest four steps that we must take.

First, we should acknowledge that federal urban policy since World War II has had a mainly negative impact on central cities and certainly on the urban poor. Urban renewal, urban freeway construction, and federal housing policy undermined working-class neighborhoods while promoting suburbanization. Although federal policy sought to become more sensitive to central-city neighborhoods during and after the Great Society, it did not noticeably succeed in strengthening such neighborhoods, nor did it undercut the class and racial segregation evident in our metropolitan areas or increase labor-force participation rates among the urban poor. Indeed, federal subsidized-housing programs have probably reinforced the concentration of the poor in central cities. The collapse of political support for existing federal urban policy gives us all the opportunity to rethink it.

Second, we must revise the media and scholarly image of cities as centers of pathology to emphasize that cities are engines of regional and national economic growth. Although some cities have experienced severe declines in population, employment, and median household income, Detroit being the archetype, many other cities that house advanced corporate ser-

vices, nonprofit social services, and other information-intensive activities have done well, as have most people living in them. We need to make the case that investing in cities, particularly in taking steps to lessen the growth of inequality, is a good way to increase national competitiveness.

Third, we must find ways to convince suburbanites and their elected officials that their interests are deeply interwoven with those of the central cities. We must alter the legal framework that fosters competition between suburbs and central cities. In addition to arguing that the parts of metropolitan regions will rise or fall together, we must build upon the fact that many low-tax-capacity, high-need suburbs in the inner ring share an interest with central cities in getting access to metropolitan tax-base increments, good schools, and housing opportunities. We should replicate the campaign being mounted by Myron Orfield, a South Minneapolis legislator, to create stronger metropolitan fair-share schemes for these resources. We should encourage new forms of regional alliances by providing federal incentives for them.

Finally, we must counter the argument that public policy cannot improve the lives of the urban poor or reweave the social fabric of urban places. The community development movement has produced many urban success stories, even as the federal government disinvested in cities and urban poverty became more concentrated. We need to tell the story of the improvement that took place in many urban working-class neighborhoods in the 1980s.

These points suggest that we must add the neighborhood and the metropolitan region to the urban vocabulary. We must seek to strengthen neighborhoods on both sides of the city line. Federal urban policy should enable metropolitan regions to work together, especially at bringing the urban poor into the active labor force. The president and his cabinet have their hearts and minds in the right place, but now, more than ever, they need advocates for the urban cause to help them see their path more clearly and to push them along it.

PN'er John Mollenkopf is a professor of political science at the City University of New York's Graduate Center and director of its Center for Urban Research. His current research includes a collaborative study of New York, Tokyo, London, and Paris as key nodes in the global economy, a study of the children of new immigrants in New York City, and a study of the Clinton administration's urban policy.

This article by John Mollenkopf originally appeared in Urban Affairs Review (30:5), pp. 657-660, copyright © 1995. Reprinted by permission of Sage Publications, Inc.

PLEASE WRITE!

The surest sign of an effective network is as much participation as possible. As we strive to fill *Planners Network* each month with information and resources, we can only do so much without your help.

Send us your:

Resource listings • Job Postings
Article ideas (or articles, even) • Suggestions, comments, critiques of the newsletter.

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 the environment to eliminate the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society, 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 healthful 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 Steering Committee has recommended the following 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. Organizations may subscribe for \$30.

Enclosed is my check payable to

Planners Network for \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Send to:
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Address Correction Requested

Moving?

Please make sure to let PN know if you're moving. It saves us money and helps ensure that you don't miss an issue!

March issue: COPC's

The March issue of PN will feature an article by PN Steering Committee member Ken Reardon on Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC's). If you would like to contribute to the article, or have any thoughts on what constitutes a supportive and progressive role for a University, especially when they can be major property owner and have fundamental conflicts with the communities in which they exist, please contact Ken at 217/244-5384; e-mail: kmjr@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu

NEXT ISSUE

ARRIVAL DEADLINE FOR *PLANNERS NETWORK* #116 COPY:

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1996.

All materials should be sent to:

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200 Willoughby Ave.
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. Feature articles of 500-1,500 words are always welcome; a diskette is greatly appreciated.