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 nonprofit 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.

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But 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. 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.
P'N'er Updates

- P'N'er Msuwanele Mayikiso'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 P'N'er Barbara Phillips' book, "Citizen 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.

- P'N'er Fred Brodwell 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@lirc.apc.org.


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 political empowerment of 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.

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

Projects underway for 1996 Planners Network Conference

Renewing Hope, Restoring Vision: Progressive Planning in our Communities
June 14-16, 1996 • Pratt Institute, Brooklyn New York

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 major political parties and organizations involved in debates around the 1996 elections.

For more information about the PN 1996 Conference, go to:

P'N'er's planning on attending the APA conference in Orlando, Florida April 13-17 should contact Ken Reardon (kmrj@ux1.csou.uitc.edu; 217/244-5384) or Tom Angotti (thboc@cnvym.cuny.edu; 718-636-3486). Help is needed to organize a PN session and distribute copies of the newsletter.

P'N'er's planning on attending the Habitat II conference in Istanbul in June should also contact Angotti about PN's status at that conference.
**PLANNERS NETWORK**

### Bulletin Board

#### P*N’ER Updates
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#### Corrections
- Oddly enough, we received two complaints about the roster; one from Bruce Rosen of New York, wondering why his bisnketch wasn’t listed below his name, and one from Allan Rosen of North Carolina, wondering where the bisnketch list below his name had come from. If you haven’t guessed by now, the bisnketch which began “Accidental guerilla…” listed under Allan’s name should have been under Bruce’s. Apologies to both Rones.
- PN’er Mary Cassidy, listed in the Ohio section of the roster, is now in Washington, D.C. Her new address is 1310 New Mexico Ave., NW, 816, Washington, DC 20006; MCanger@aol.com.
- PN’er Richard Hyman of California’s e-mail address was incorrect in the roster. His correct address is: cccgrove@scrutnet.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.


#### 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 Huskhold, 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.

### 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

### PLANNERS NETWORK

#### January, 1996

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For more information about the PN 1996 Conference soon!

#### Going to Istanbul or Orlando?
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**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, nonprofs: $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-page CDC profiles as part of their effort to document the history, philosophy, achievements and challenges of the CD movement. Included are Asian Americans for Equality, the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., Chicagos por la Causa, the E. Los Angeles Comm. Union, The Woodlawn Org., Miss. Action for Comm. Educ., & Watts Black 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; cope@acac.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 on highlighting projects that 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; 312/728-4800 x 116.

- **CDC's.** The Lincoln File Center at Tufts University has published a special report on "The Emergence of a National Tax-Exempting Project in the United States." This report is available from the Center for $10. Lincoln File Center, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155; 617/627-3549. Other recent publications include "Examining 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 Flr., Oakland, CA 94612; 510/834-8920; apen@jigac.org.


- **Urban Ecology.** Issue 84 of 1995 of *The Urban Ecologist* featured an article entitled "Designing for Urban Agriculture and Social Ecology" by Ariel Rubinow Okamoto, about a grassroots planning process taking place in East Palo Alto, CA. The journal is available from Urban Ecology, 450 14th St., Ste. 701, Oakland, CA 94612; 510/251-6320; urbancology@jigac.org. Membership is $35 and includes a year of the quarterly journal.

**HEALTH CARE**


- **Insurance.** "Number Without Health Insurance Remains at Record Level" at a 6-pg. Oct. 1995 report from the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 777 N. Capitol St. NE, #705, Washington, DC 20002; 202/408-1080.


- **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.

**Housing**

- **Affordable Housing.** "Building Inclusive Community: Tools to Create Support for Affordable Housing" (63 pp., appx., 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 Pollikoff (133 pp., 1995), is available free (but a self-addressed envelope with $3 postage) from Marima Mann, Business & Prof. People for the Public Interest, 17 E. Monroe, #212, Chicago, IL 60603; 312/641-5300. This Urban Inst. publication was prepared for an Oct. 1994 conference on "Housing 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 Pollikoff, attorney in the Gauthier lawsuit.


- **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.

**State Housing Profiles.** "State Housing Profiles," a new AARP Chartbook, includes state-by-state charts, graphs and rankings on housing characteristics for households aged younger than 50, 50-64, 65-74 and 75-79. Included are homeownership 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.** "Kalidoscope: Housing's Changing Patterns" is the 9th annual conf. of the Natl. Low Income Housing Coal., Jan. 24-25 in Winston-Salem, with a pre-conf. tram. seminar for CHDO's Jan. 23. Conf. from the Coal., 3901 Barrett Dr., #208, Raleigh, NC 27609; 919/881-0707.

**POVERTY / WELFARE**


- **Welfare Reform.** "Influencing Humanity into Welfare Reform: A Statement of Principles for a New Social Contract" (61 pp., 1995) is available (distribution 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. & Eco. 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.

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- **NAFTA.** “NAFTA at Two Years: The Human & Environmental Toll,” by Sarah Anderson, John Cavanagh and Anjatha Subramaniam ($8 pp., Nov. 1995), is available (likely free) from the authors, Inst. for Policy Studies, 1601 Conn. Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

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**HEALTH**


- **Minority Health Resources.** The Office of Minority Health Resource Center (HHS) has a toll-free number, 800/444-6472, for locating publications and use of their database for assisting with health programs, funding, data & statistics, mailing labels & lists, minority media contacts, programs, organizations & literature.


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- **Insurance Redlining.** “New Evidence Shows Redlining on the Rise by Nation’s Largest Home Insurers: State Farm, Allstate & Nationwide” is a Sept. 9, 1995, press release from the Natl. Fair Housing Alliance, 927 15th St. NW, #600, Washington, DC 20005; 202/971-4974.

- **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.

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**Families and Disability.** "Families and Disability Newsletter" is the official newsletter of the Center on Families, Children & Disability, 3111 Haworth Hall, Univ. KS, Lawrence, KS 66045; 913/864-7600; beach@doe.kl.ksu.edu. The Winter 1995 issue focused on "Dads & Disability." They also have a publications section.

**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 this 1990 Census" (128 pp., 1995) is available (free) from William O'Hare at the Annie Casey Foundation, 701 St. Paul St., Balit., MD 21202; 410/547-6624.


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**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.


**Globalization.** "Dismantling Corporate Rule: Towards New Forms of Politics in an Age of Globalization" is a 50-page report on the effects of welfare reform on teenagers & their children, immigrant children & their families, education issues.

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**Race / Racism**

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

**Women, Children and Family.** "Children. Critical Issues for Children & Youth" 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 94024; 415/848-3896. Articles cover children's health & the environment's effects of welfare reform on teenagers & their children, immigrant children & their families, education issues.
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**Affirmative Action.** Economic Perspectives on Affirmative Action, a new book from the Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies, contains 3 studies: Andrew Brunner's work showing that discrimination blocks in education & employment has cost the US economy more than $241 billion; Cecilia Cowdery'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 associated with 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 Mentone Center, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17500-0500; 717/559-1151; JMS@unc.up.edu.

**Racism and Poverty.** "Intentional Racial Discrimination & Segregation by the Federal Government as a Principal Cause of Concentrated Poverty: A Response to Schill & Wachtler," by Florence Wagman Roisman, appeared in vol. 143 (May 1995) of the University of PA Law Review. Copies of the 28-page article (addressing 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 University School of Law, 6601 Concord Pike, PO Box 4744, Wilmington, DE 19803-0474; 302/477-2100.

**Chicano History.** Viva La Causa! 50 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 (insts).; the entire Chicano History Teaching Kit (video, curriculum guide, book) is $112.50, from SWOP, 211 10th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102; 505/247-8822.

**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 x6525.

**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.


**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; 212/533-4441; x888fund@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 20888-6015; 202/544-1000.

**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-484.

**Subsidies for the Wealthy.** "The Wealth-For-Resume 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.

**Families and Disability.** Families and Disability Newsletter is the 2-monthly bulletin of the Center on Health, Disability, & Policy, 3111 Hawthorn Hill, Univ. KS, Lawrence, KS 66045; 913/864-7600; beach@dole.ksu.ks.edu. The Winter 1995 issue focused on "Dads & Disability." They also have a publications list.

**Women.** "Affirmative Action: Beyond the Glass Ceiling & the Sticky Floor" is the current issue of Issues Quarterly, published by the National 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, sub. $35 from the Council, 530 Broadway, 10th fl., New York, NY 10012-3920; 212/274-0730.

**Urban Agenda.** "Toward a Comprehensive Urban Agenda" is the webpage for a policy conference sponsored by 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 Makanu Themba, Marin Inst., 24 Belvedere St., San Rafael, CA 94901; 415/456-5692. They also have additional 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 Edel, 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, 190 Elm St., Concord, MA 01742; 908/287-5305.

**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 212/932-9820.

**Internet Resource.** An internet resource not mentioned in the last Planners Network issue is the Unenet group (also known as a newsgroup) called alt.planning.urban. Like the listerserv mentioned last month, it provides users with a forum to post queries and hold "discussions." Rather than postings being transmitted via e-mail, they are archived in a listing format.

**Habitat II.** Information on the upcoming Habitat II United Nations Conference on Human Settlements is available online at http://www.igc.apc.org/habitat/. An electronic mailing list about Habitat II (a "listerserv") is also available. To subscribe, send a one-line message: "subscribe Habitat 2 your_name" to listproc@cedar.univie.ac.at

**Books On-Line.** The Association of American University Presses has made their catalog available on-line. It includes searchable bibliographic and descriptive text from more than fifty scholarly publishers. The internet address is http://aapt.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 members 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).

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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!

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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 winton@ix.netcom.com.

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To subscribe, send e-mail to: PLAN-NET-Request@umbskyv.cumb.edu

With a one-line message: SUBSCRIBE PLAN-NET

**Conferences and Workshops**


- **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, contact the National Council for Urban Economic Development, 1730 K St. NW, 7000, Washington, DC 20006; 202/423-7355.


- **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, 1022 14th St. NW, 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 2700, March 4-6 at the City Plaza Hotel in Boston, MA. ContactNortheast Sustainable Energy Association, 100 Miles St., Greenfield, MA 01301; 413/774-6551.


- **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 Livable Cities will be held in Carmel, CA, March 12-16, 1995. The conference will focus on “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 presenters or case studies: Suzanne H. Crowhurst Lennard, IMCL Conference, P.O. Box 756, 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, contact Cultural Environmental Movement, University City Science Center, 3624 Market St., One East, Philadelphia, PA 19104; 215/587-3530.

- **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 scholar/ideology 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, write University of Nebraska at Omaha, Conf. Mgr., College of Continuing Studies, 1313 Farnam, Omaha, NE 68182-0361; 402/555-2355; mmacchiott@uomaha.edu.


- **Local Government.** The Local Government Commission will host “Putting Our Communities Back on their Feet,” April 26-27, in San Francisco, CA. FTF: 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 3-5, 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, University Park, PA 16802-2601; 814/863-0401; fj@piumd.psu.edu
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- **Web Page.** PN is developing a page on the World Wide Web. It is part of the Pratt Institute Web page, and is being still 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/PCI/CED

- **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 keynote; 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!

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- **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; 202/966-7891.

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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, and 1984, and 1988, the Republicans used racial and class divisions within metropolitan areas to pry suburban white Democrats away from their liberal Democratic constituencies. 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 103rd 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 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, for 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 areas that we must take.

First, we should acknowledge that federal urban policy since World War II has had a majorly 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 that persists in our central cities. 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, more than ever, they need advocates for the urban cause to help them see their path more clearly and to push them along it.

Second, we must review 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 services, 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 intertwined with those of the central cities. We must alter the legal framework that fosters competition between metropolitan 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-needs 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 Mr. 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 renew 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, more than ever, they need advocates for the urban cause to help them see their path more clearly and to push them along it.

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The Planners Network

The Planners Network is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, 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.

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Enclosed is my check payable to
Planners Network for $
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:
Planners Network/Pratt GCPE
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.