

PLANNERS NETWORK

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Welcome to our snazzy new format—letterhead design courtesy of Anthony Bernheim, an architect who also, in his spare time, is Keeper of the Network Mailing Lists, Files, and other Important Papers. Next issue on glossy paper with four color format.

Future Directions for the Network: A conference held at VPI in early May, titled "The Structural Crisis of the 1970s and Beyond: The Need for a New Planning Theory" wound up having important implications for the Network. Out of the conference came a strong push for some kind of national organization, publication, future conferences, all tied in (possibly) with the Network. A Steering Committee was established to follow up. The best way to inform people about this is to reproduce the summary of the conference prepared by Sara Rosenberry and Harvey Goldstein, and then (probably you'll find it elsewhere in the newsletter, as it arrived in a form that did not need typesetting but was the wrong width for easy placement in our normal layout) an "Open Letter" by five people from the UP Urban Studies Program who attended. Following that, I'm also adding a self-explanatory letter from Bill Peterman (Toledo Metropolitan Mission, 2130 Madison Ave., Toledo OH 43624).

Obviously the question of what, if anything, we do with the somewhat unorthodox, amorphous thing we've created together over the last three years is being called. Just as obviously, we need lots of input from you out there in Planning Land if we're to make correct, sound decisions. So, the dialogue is open—I hope to devote most of the next newsletter to responses to this question of where we go from here. If lots of good responses come in soon, I'll even try to get the next newsletter out before two months are out, to speed along the process. The ball's in your collective court.

"On May 4-5 a Conference on Planning Theory was sponsored by and held at the Division of Environmental and Urban Systems at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va. The theme of the conference was 'The Structural Crisis of the 1970's and Beyond: The Need for a New Planning Theory.' Over 60 people from all sections of the U.S. (and one person from Canada) participated in the conference. Formal papers were delivered in four sessions with audience-wide discussion following each session. During an informal session on 'planning education and reality in cities,' a number of issues were raised on dilemmas of being professionals *and* radicals as well as discussion on appropriate action to be taken by radicals in protesting the forthcoming AIP Convention to be held in a non-ERA state. A petition statement was drafted and is being sent to AIP.

"Aside from the academic contributions to the development of an alternative planning paradigm, probably the most important result of the conference was a generally-shared *strong* commitment to continue the dialogue and work begun in Blacksburg through an on-going organization. The degree of formality which this organization should take was not agreed upon, however. Specific issues which need to be decided include the kind and manner of dissemination of knowledge in radical planning theory and *praxis* (e.g. a journal, an occasional paper series, an annual?); the frequency, regularity, and format of subsequent conferences; what kind of projects should be undertaken besides conferences (e.g. study kits, counter-urban impact statements), and the relationship that this organization ought to have to the Network itself. At this moment we are only 60 or so loosely connected individuals. We hope that many Network readers will join us in helping make some important and critical decisions at what we feel may be a strategic juncture in the development of radical planning theory and practice in North America. An ad-hoc volunteer steering committee was formed at the conference to facilitate the solicitation of ideas and to make recom-

mendations to 'what is to be done.' I strongly urge interested Network readers to express your thoughts on these and related issues with any member of this committee and/or directly in the Network newsletter itself.

The members of this committee are:

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P.S. There will be a publication of the Proceedings of the Planning Theory Conference coming out sometime this summer. Watch for the announcement in the Network newsletter or write to Planning Theory Conference Proceedings, c/o Harvey Goldstein or Sara Rosenberry to have your name placed on the announcement mailing list. The cost has not yet been determined."

Bill Peterman: "Now that a little time has passed since the ASPO meeting in Indianapolis, I want to relate to you some of the happenings and the outcome of our Planners Network Meeting.

There was a lot of activity at the conference about the ASPO-AIP proposed merger. Visible opposition to the merger was heavy in the form of buttons and brochures prepared by the Vote No Merger Committee, which included Network members Toner, Popper, Taylor and Peterman, and by buttons prepared by the Ohio Chapter AIP. There was also considerable debate on the merits of merger and there were a wide variety of reasons given for opposing the merger. Perhaps the strongest anti arguments relate to the uniqueness of the two institutions and the weakening of purpose if the two are combined and elitism which seems to permeate the structure of the proposed American Planning Association. Anyway, opposition seemed to be quite strong and it is possible too the vote will fail.

Eight of us gathered for the Planners Network session on Monday evening. The conversation, I guess, was dominated by Tom Angotti, Morris Zeitlin and myself. I think that what we talked about relates to ASPO, AIP, any organization and the future of the Network as a viable alternative. It was decided that

what brings individuals into the Network is a genuine concern for people and the future of our cities, rural areas, etc. Thus, we are not profession-oriented like ASPO or AIP, but people oriented. We do provide a meaningful, significant and potentially viable alternative organization. The question is, however, how does one become and maintain viability?

Reports from the local groups are not encouraging. The Midwest group may be in trouble and both Boston and New York seem to have lost their initial steam. Whether or not a Network can exist for long without a greater level of organization is probably debatable but our consensus was that it cannot. Since both ASPO and AIP are meeting next in non-ratified ERA states and since neither seems to be moving towards an opening of concern, we felt that the time was ripe to try to see if there is enough interest on the part of radical planners to formalize the Network into the organization.

Thus, I was given the task of writing to you to sound out your interest in calling together an organizing conference for the Network to be held sometime this summer or early fall somewhere in the Midwest. We envisioned some 20-40 people who have a record of interest and involvement in the Network and would hope that the existing local groups could even send delegates. The purpose of the meeting would be to define the National Network to outline what the Network can do and to plan for at least short-term Network activities. One kind of outcome we thought of was a national Network sponsored meeting on key planning issues in 1979, to be held separately or in conjunction with ASPO or AIP. A more limited goal might be planning and carrying out some sessions within the ASPO or AIP meeting structure.

Personally, I feel the whole idea of organizing nationally is a bit risky and if we would fail it could mean the end of the Network. My experience with SERGE cautions me to not overestimate your possibilities. Nonetheless, without any cohesive Network purpose, failure is also possible. Already the Midwest group is likely dying because of lack of purpose and other groups may be in the same situation.

Well, this is the letter I promised to write and it is an issue with which we are concerned. Please give it your careful thought and we will look forward to your response."

Further thoughts on future directions for the Network are contained in the following "Proposal for a Proposal" prepared by Steve Barton for development of a funded Volunteer Service for the Bay Area Network, an idea which could work for other areas as well. As Steve is about to move, comments should instead be sent to the SF Network coordinator, Jerry Horovitz, 1489 Sanchez, SF 94131. If interest is expressed in following up on the idea, we'll call a meeting together soon.

"In the San Francisco Bay Area the planning process is a major vehicle of social conflict. Environmental impact reports, housing and redevelopment plans and zoning changes are the vehicles for major decisions about community life. An increasing number of community organizations are coming to Planners Network for assistance in analyzing plans for their neighborhoods and developing alternatives which take community needs fully into account. We propose that Planners Network seek funding for an office and two staff people to create an expanded and more systematic assistance program for community organizations.

"One staff person would be an organizer, who would search for volunteers to help with projects among university teachers and students and the various government bureaucracies and planning firms. At the same time this person would also function as an organizer for Planners Network as a whole, getting people on the mailing list and active in other Network activities. The other staff person would be a project coordinator, who would look after projects which required at least one person who was available at any time, would make sure that those people who volunteered were properly oriented to the project, and generally ensure that the work got done.

"Such an organization would require a budget of about \$30,000 a year for the two staff people, an office, phones, copying, etc. Eventually it might be possible to get grants specifically for particular projects in sufficient amounts to cover at least the project coordinator. Foundations generally like volunteer services, on the other hand they don't like radicals, and don't like continuing funding, so the long run is a problem.

2

"In the short run the possibility of receiving funding is good. Stern Fund gives grants in the \$20-\$30,000 range and a number of liberal Bay Area foundations support technical assistance projects of one kind or another. Dues, government contracts with high overhead, tithes by employed planners, any ideas you have on continuing sources of income would be welcome.

"Another important open question is the governance of such an organization. Should it be separate from Planners Network except through informal ties and overlapping membership or should its board of directors be elected by Planners Network members?"

FROM THE REGIONS:

New York Area Notes: (via Tom Angotti, Div. of Urban Planning, Columbia Univ., New York, N.Y. 10027): Planning Students Assist Neighborhood Planning Bodies. "Last year, New York City's Charter Revision, which gives advisory powers to 59 Community Boards, went into effect. Columbia's students in several courses have done work with community boards, helped administer a comprehensive questionnaire with the Community Service Society, and participated in a lecture series on the problems and potentials of decentralized planning.

The conclusion is summed up in the statement that 'The decentralization provided for by the 1976 Charter amendment holds great promise for the City's residents, but that promise remains largely unfulfilled.'

"The students focused on four areas: 1) uniform land use review procedures (they found the procedures basically sound good on paper, but information and technical assistance to Community Boards is often so limited as to make the procedure in practice ineffective); 2) Community Development Act funding and the Boards' roles in it (they found a major lack of coordination and overall planning, and recommended a much greater Board role); 3) seal-up and demolition of vacant buildings (they found a lack of basic community housing plans by which priorities could be guided, inadequate funding, and inordinate delays); and 4) budget and service statements to Community Boards from City agencies (ignoring procedures, or providing information of little use to the Boards).

"Students also worked with several individual Boards gathering data on *in rem* properties, reviewing park operations and plans, surveying housing applications under CD, helping a merchants association sponsored by a Community Board, and working with a Board's health planning committee. Some of this work, particularly on *in rem* and City-owned properties and health issues, is continuing." —Tom Agnotti, Jacqueline Leavitt, Peter Marcuse.

"Courses on Women Planners. Since 1974, 'Women in Planning and Architecture' has been offered by me as an elective in the Division of Urban Planning in the Columbia Univ. Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning. The course has undergone several changes, in part a response to student participation in course development, and in part a reflection of the need to develop materials from scattered research which is rarely disaggregated by sex.

"The outputs from the course itself have been impressive. Some examples have been work developed into a master's thesis on residential mortgage lending and sex discrimination with original research conducted in Norwalk, Connecticut; one master's thesis on part-time employment; a Barnard senior honors thesis on historical and contemporary separatist communities in rural and urban environments; a visual exploration of aspects of space as expressed in Gertrude Stein's writings. I myself have been conducting research on the single family home and its relation to housing movements; as well as continuing work—with support from a HUD dissertation grant—on the impact of female planners. This latter study will include interviews of male and female planners and in part explore aspects of alienation of planners, and identification with women's issues on the part of professional planners.

"The course itself has also drawn on outside lecturers and sponsored its own public lecture series. A bibliography was prepared by myself with the assistance of a graduate student, and limited copies are available on request." —Jacqueline Leavitt

"Book Notes. John Cowley, Adah Kaye, Marjorie Mayo, and Mike Thompson. COMMUNITY OR CLASS STRUGGLE? London, Stage 1, 1977. A most interesting collection of both analytical and descriptive pieces on community organization.

The focus is on the practical questions faced by the community and housing movements in Great Britain, and how these movements relate to questions of class, the state, etc. Clearly written, well worth the reading, even if some of the political conclusions are questionable from the Marxist standpoint it presumes to take.

"Manuel Castells. *THE URBAN QUESTION: A MARXIST ANALYSIS*. Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press, 1976. Castells, a leading European Marxist scholar, has finally had his first major work translated into English. However, this long, dense, complicated, and convoluted piece will hardly attract many to read on. The translation is poor and the cover price (\$25.00) is high. Would suggest you read the Afterword, where Castells summarizes the work and makes some important self-criticisms and additions. —Tom Angotti.

"Gossip. It is true that Jimmy Carter 'lusted' for Ginny Mae?"

The Midwest (via Rich Gross, Design Coalition, 2134 Atwood Ave., Madison, Wisc. 53704): "About 25 people from the Midwest Planners Network met in Milwaukee on April 8. This was the third meeting/Conference that has been held in the midwest. We began as usual with introductions and were pleased to find that we had people from universities, agencies, and community organizations. Four workshops were held during the day on Energy Planning, Alternatives for Home Ownership, Neighborhood Reinvestment Strategies, and Consumer Health Organizing.

"The final session was probably the most valuable of the day. We discussed the future of the Network in the Midwest, a proposal for a summer school for alternative planners, and what people get out of the Network in general. On the last issue it was mentioned that those of us who attend the meetings get more out of the informal discussions over lunch and dinner than out of the workshops. Our next meeting should provide a great deal of socializing and informal get-togethers.

"The summer school for alternative planners, originally proposed by Bill Peterman, was discussed at length and it was decided that we would try to do it in October. Many, many issues need to be hashed out including finding a place, making up a curriculum, and finding teachers or facilitators. All this and more will be worked out at a meeting in Chicago on June 16 and 17. Anyone interested in helping and seeing it through till the end contact Bill or myself. Bill and I will attend the ASPO meeting in Indianapolis and try to hustle up some money possibilities.

"Finally, we passed around the hat and collected \$47 which did not cover the expenses for setting up the meeting. That narrowed down our bank account to about \$45 which will be used to help set up the school.

"Once again, thanks to everyone who helped set up the meeting. Special thanks to Jeff Eagen and Tom Spellman who put in a lot of time in Milwaukee."

Bay Area (from Jerry Horovitz, 1489 Sanchez St., SF 94131 and Vic Rubin): "The technical assistance component continues to function smoothly with work on its projects. Two interesting forums have been held since the last newsletter: 'Carter's Urban Policy: Broken Promises?' was the title of a conference held on April 29 by Bay Area Networkers in association with two citizens' organizations. Eighty people came to hear a presentation from a HUD representative and comments from a panel consisting of Alameda County Supervisor John George and members of the National Urban Policy Collective (most of whom are Networkers), a group established to evaluate the Carter Administration's proposals and disseminate a critique of them.

"Topics for discussion were jobs and economic development, neighborhood 'revitalization,' housing, community organizing, energy and environmental problems, and government reorganization. The discussion was sharply critical of the Policy's proposals. In the words of the Collective's response, 'At best, the policy will serve to transfer resources from the public till, where it is now being used for redistributive programs, to private corporations, without guaranteeing better employment, more stability, or healthier city finances. At worst, the policy will aggravate the urban crisis which it is intended to forestall.'

"Copies of the summary critique are available from David Wilmoth, Dept. of City and Regional Planning, U.C. Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720 (enclose a self-addressed, stamped envel-

ope). A set of materials of use to community organizations and other interested activists is being produced."

From Victor Rubin: "Notes on Planners' Network meeting, April 8, 1978, Oakland, Ca.: The Bay Area Planners Network met on April 8 for discussion of 'The Future of Oakland,' focusing on the ways in which housing and economic development programs have been affected by the recent shifts in political power to a more liberal or 'progressive' administration. The group of about 35 heard from Roger Clay, Legal Aid attorney for people displaced by the proposed Grove-Shafter Freeway, and members of the Oakland Study Center, who have been researching and organizing around the role of the Port of Oakland.

"Clay, who has worked on the Grove-Shafter case for over five years, said that the city bureaucracy has become more responsive to the displaced's proposals since Lionel Wilson was elected mayor last year (and since Governor Brown has made completion of the freeway a key element of his Oakland revitalization strategy). But Clay emphasized that it was community organizing, aggressive lobbying and alternative planning for new housing which has forced the issue. The state is now committed to spending at least \$5 million on four separate projects, including cooperatives, rehabilitation of abandoned single family homes, and non-profit sponsored apartments for the elderly.

"The Oakland Study Center, which includes several Network members, has been organized for three years as an independent, community-based research group, concentrating on economic issues in Oakland and teaching a course on the history and politics of that city. The Port is a largely autonomous agency of the city government which operates the largest containerized shipping port on the Pacific coast, the Oakland Airport, a large business park, and several restaurant and marina complexes. The business tenants of the Port employ over 16,000 people, only 38 percent of them Oakland residents. While successful on its own, business-oriented terms, the Port has been repeatedly criticized for not planning its development with the interests of the city and its residents as the top priority. The current issues include expansion of the airport and marine terminals, effectiveness of affirmative action programs and the 'Hire Oakland Plan,' and the promotion of more labor-intensive alternative investments. The Study Center, which has been raising these issues in the community through slide shows, conferences, radio and other media, would like to hear from anyone with related ideas, experiences, or questions. (Write to Victor Rubin, Oakland Study Center, 4228 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609, 415-658-1427.)"

Boston Area: At their march meeting, "Louise Elving and Bruce Mohl presented a discussion of the *Perez v. Boston Housing Authority* case and the progress of the Master's office in overseeing the management of public housing in Boston. The case is in the first year of a three year consent decree that provides for the reorganization of the BHA under a court appointed Master. Case was initiated in 1975 when tenants and Greater Boston Legal Services brought suit in Boston Housing Court against BHA in order to force the Authority to renovate existing housing. Judge Garrity upheld the suit and the State appealed. The Supreme Judicial Court sent the case back to Garrity who appointed a Master to attempt to force the reallocation of some \$55 million in potential rehab money but BHA failed to respond. In June, 1977, Garrity placed the BHA into receivership and instituted a thirteen point plan to reorganize the BHA during a three year period. A long discussion followed in the Network meeting over the dilemmas of this planning process and alternative strategies."

The May meeting was on the topic of "Manpower, Womanpower, Unemployment and State Labor Planning," with Steve Klein of the State Manpower Services Council and Jay Ostrower of Boston University's Regional Manpower Inst.

A 15-day study tour to Cuba is being organized for community organizers and others interested in urban issues, according to an announcement in the Boston Network's most recent newsletter. Unclear whether others in Network are eligible. Tentative date is Dec. Further information from Peter Drier, Dept. of Sociology, Tufts Univ., Medford, MA (617) 628-5000 x440.

The Policy Training Center is presenting a weekly Alternative Economic Development Series, which began June 1 and goes

through July 20. Remaining sessions are: "Stopping Runaways: Worker and Community Control," "Using CETA for Job Creation," "Tax Policies to Stimulate Economic Development," and "Implementing New Programs—The Political Dimension." Further information from the Center, 4 Nutting Rd., Cambridge, Mass. 02138, (617) 547-4473. The Center also has a free (bimonthly?) newsletter.

So. Calif.: From Bill Allen, 606 Ashland Ave., Santa Monica, 90405: "Following on discussions/analysis by So. Calif. Planners Network last Dec./Jan. concerning rent control I have with the help of others been attempting to support the local rent control election with a research project. This research has been aimed at clarifying and articulating the economic and political motives of the opposition to rent control.

"Two compilations of the research effort are available. The first consists of and introduction to a full research outline and the outline itself. It's not particularly concrete but attempts to provide a full view of the political economy of a community with respect to property ownership and rents. The second piece is a more specific record of particular tasks which are directed towards gathering data for the full outline. It suggests several tasks, their method, some trial data gathering, and some of the compiled data itself.

"These pieces might be helpful to others involved with a similar effort; additionally, any feedback on them would be appreciated. I'll be glad to send out copies at cost of repro and mailing, about \$1.00."

Sadly, as you may know, the rent control initiatives in Santa Monica and Santa Barbara both lost. We hope to publish some analysis of these campaigns in the next newsletter.

I've just returned from the 8-day Community Action in Europe Symposium in La Rochelle, France. I wanted to see what was going on in the way of parallel activity, make some contacts, etc. (Fear not, however—Network funds were not used for the trip.) About 125 people were there, from most European countries. It was organized by a group in Paris called Dilemme and was (I believe) the fourth such annual gathering. It was somewhat chaotically organized, in large part intentionally, reflecting the strong "self-organization" (or anti-organization) principles among many of the participants, mistrust of hierarchy, etc. I found the gathering somewhat more "alternative-y" and "counterculture" than I had expected or desired—most of the people there seemed to be involved in activities, projects, organizations that represented a "doing one's own thing" approach, creating alternative lifestyles, systems, etc. that represented a withdrawal from the dominant culture and its politics rather than an attempt to directly organize within to influence and change the society. There seemed a good deal of mistrust of left political parties, "development" thinking, and the quality of life that would exist and does exist under most socialist systems. Nonetheless, there were some very interesting people there involved in some very interesting projects—too much to go into in any detail in what is going to be a fairly long newsletter anyway. Two specifics I'd like to mention, however:

1) The gathering decided to continue and strengthen the Community Action in Europe Network begun at last year's conference (held in Christiana, a "free city" within Copenhagen). We produced a 26 page Newsletter at the symposium, with reports from most countries attending; and plans are to put the Newsletter out monthly. It is written in English, and people who want to keep in contact with this Network should probably contact directly either the editors, the ASH (Arbeiter Selbsthilfe) collective, Am Burghof 20, 6000 Frankfurt 56, W. Germany, or the permanent address for the Network, Dronningsensgade 14, DK1420, Copenhagen K. Denmark.

2) Next year's symposium is scheduled to precede and then overlap a few days with the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development, in Vienna. Aug. 15-22 for the symposium, Aug. 20-31 for UNCSTD. It will be in the nature of a counter-conference.

I have about a dozen extra copies of the Newsletter we produced in La Rochelle; people should write (and send some postage) if they want one.

MONEY: We still limp along—about \$700 will be in the bank account after getting this issue out. Towards the end of the year we'll want to revise the membership list, a very expensive job for typesetting and printing, but really useful for our work. The postage increase affects us big, too. So—how's about some bucks??

I'd like to note some articles and writing projects I've been involved in recently that may be of interest to some Network people:

1) A more extensive and analytical account of the International Hotel struggle is contained in the May-June issue of *Radical America* ("San Francisco's International Hotel: Case Study of a Turf Struggle"). You can get a xerox copy from me, or—better—write and/or subscribe to RA, P.O. Box B, N. Cambridge, MA 02140. 2) "The Big Squeeze" (not my title) is an article on rent control I had in the May-June issue of *Politics Today* (nee *Skeptic*). Again, a xerox from me or the whole shebang from them, Presidio Plaza, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. 3) Michael Stone and I have a chapter called "Housing: A Radical Alternative," which offers a socialist housing model for the U.S., in a collection snappily titled *The Federal Budget and Social Reconstruction: The People and the State*, edited by Marcus Raskin. It's a Transaction book put out by the Inst. of Policy Studies and has 22 chapters, each taking a more or less radical approach to some aspect of federal budget spending. 4) The upcoming issue of *Social Policy* has a good exchange of articles, for which I've written an introduction, by Howard Waitzkin and John Grady-Charlotte Ploss, re the Mission Hill (Boston) neighborhood's attempts to deal with Harvard Medical School's expansion; the series offers a nice representation of different views about radical organizing. SP's address is Rm. 1212, 33 W. 42 St., NYC 10036.

JOBS:

1) Cleveland City Planning Comm. is looking to add two people (a project director and a planner) to its staff for a study of the city's capital facilities. The project director should have at least five years' relevant experience and MCP or related degree; the planner, two years' relevant experience and MCP or related degree. Salaries open. From John Wilbur, a planner on their staff: "The Cleveland City Planning Comm. has developed a tradition of being active in city policy decisions and advocating solutions to the problems of low and moderate income people. We hope to attract personnel who are dedicated to the shaping of policies which benefit those city residents with the fewest options." Resumes to Edward Waxman, Director, Cleveland City Planning Comm., 501 City Hall, Cleveland 44114.

2) Calif. Dept. of Transportation is interviewing for the position of Chief, Div. of Transp. Planning (\$34,000-\$36,000). Resumes due in by June 23 to Peter Oswald, Dep. Dir., Dept. of Transp., 1120 N St., Sacramento 95814.

3) Coordinator, North County Housing Projects for the Santa Barbara Community Housing Corp. \$1100-\$1200/mo. Deadline was June 2, but it may still be possible to sneak in. Contact Jennifer Bigelow, Director, Community Housing Corp., 703 W. Micheltorena, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, (805) 963-3466.

4) Open Road is (was?) looking for a director for its New Enterprises Project. Open Road is a project that researches, plans and develops small, labor intensive economic enterprises which will provide apprenticeship opportunities for unemployed young people. Its aim is to create an interdependent network of businesses which share technical management skills, do business with each other whenever possible, and contribute a portion of their profits to a capital pool to expand the network. A So. Calif. network already exists, and the goal is to replicate the concept in No. Calif., Hartford, and a third region still to be selected. Home base would be either Santa Barbara, LA or SF. Deadline was April 30, but again... it may still be open. Resumes to Donald Olson, Open Road/New Enterprises, 1323 Anacapa St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (805) 966-2258.

Re jobs: Since we come out only bi-monthly, and jobs/announcements have a way of having deadlines that don't coincide with our publication schedule, it would make sense if people in the Network actively looking for a job or change of job let us know, so if things come up we can directly notify you, in addition to putting notices in the newsletter.

Indian Planning is a new monthly newsletter put out by the Indian Planning Consortium of Central Calif. (1044 Fulton Mall, Rm. 207, Fresno, CA 93721); appears to be free.

"Neighborhood Revitalization" was (sorry about the timing) the title of a national conference held in NYC June 13-16 sponsored by the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs and Citibank (sic). Registration fee was \$100-\$150, so it may not have been exactly for low-income neighborhood people. Anyway, if you want ex post facto information about the conference, contact Ed Dulcan at the NCUEA, 1521 16th St. NW, Washington 20036.

From Richard Glance (82 Pilgrim Rd., Carnegie, Pa. 15106): "My interest has shifted away from new town development (see interesting article in the *NY Times*, 3/29/78, p.33) and environmental psychology to large scale site analysis (soil, geology, food plains, landslides, etc.) and design. Let me know if I can be of assistance to anyone regarding the above subject matter."

Another ex-conference, this one on "The Economics of Alternative Energy Technologies in California," held May 11-12 in SF. It was sponsored by Public Interest Economics-West, and information is available from them, 1095 Market St., #604, SF 94103.

Again on that subject (it is really annoying that people ignore our publishing schedule when setting up conference dates), a "Whistleblowers Conference on National Security" was held May 19-20 in Washington. It featured a session on the personal experience of various national and local public officials who blew whistles, panels on the nuclear threat, "Personal Conscience and National Security," and "Blowing the Whistle on the CIA" and workshops on legal options for the whistleblower, caring for the personal needs of the whistleblower and the congressional executive connection. Speakers were Sen. James Abourezk, Daniel Schorr, and Daniel Ellsberg. Information from Ralph Stavins, director of the Government Accountability Project at the Inst. for Policy Studies, 1901 Que St. NW, Washington 20009.

Michael Appleby (College of Arch. & Urban Studies, VPI, Blacksburg VA 24061) continues to present workshops on citizen involvement and community development (the most recent being at ASPO's Indianapolis conference). He has available a 48-page paper he presented at the 1978 Nat'l. Conf. on Public Administration, titled "Performance Criteria and a Method for Organizing Participatory Public Decisions."

"Political Economy of Land Use" is a new newsletter on the theory, methodology and instruction of that subject. It's quarterly, and we received their second issue, somewhat cryptically marked "circulated privately only." Further information is available from John Paez, Regional Science Dept., Univ. of Penn., Phila., PA 19104.

Special Zoning Districts: "San Francisco is in the midst of reworking its entire residential zoning code, and will soon be undertaking a similar study of commercial zoning. Community groups in Chinatown have learned a lot about zoning in this process, but have found that conventional zoning techniques do not adequately address the unusual and complicated land use problems in Chinatown. Seattle has tried to come to terms with this problem by creating a special International District that encompasses several Asian minority communities. The International District has a separate zoning board and permit review structure from that of the rest of the city.

"We would like to know if any Networkers have had any experience with the International District in Seattle, or other similar districts elsewhere. Especially of interest are zoning and land use provisions that deal with Asian or other minority communities, those that regulate certain types of uses (particularly tourist shops, import-export shops, banks, conversions from residential to commercial, etc.), and those that enable the improvement of high density, low quality housing. We are most concerned with methods of establishing planning and zoning institutions that are community controlled. Any information or ideas Networkers can provide would be greatly appreciated. Please reply to: Tim Dean, Chinatown Neighborhood Improvement Resource Center, 1441 Powell St., San Francisco, CA 94133."

5

Re our recent blurbs on AIP and ERA, from Jackie Leavitt (Div. of Urban Planning, Columbia Univ.): "Something did happen around AIP and ERA. At the October, 1977 AIP Conference in Kansas City, Missouri (a state which has not ratified the ERA), people attending a session where I gave a paper on "The Impact of Women Planners" subsequently met. Holding several break-fast sessions on issues affecting women and AIP, the women's caucus focused on the upcoming conference in yet another state where ERA had not been ratified. The caucus drafted two resolutions which were presented to the AIP Board of Governors. (See below.) The first called for AIP support of ERA and that the Board of Governors endorse the passage of ERA. The second part was a resolution that the Board of Governors urge chapters to endorse passage of ERA. The second part was deleted at the request of the Board of Governors. The resolution as amended passed but with two Governors against it, and three abstaining; all female Governors present voted in favor of it. The second resolution asked that AIP conferences meet in states where ERA had been ratified. This motion was tabled and when supporters of the resolution returned to present it again the next day, they found the Governors' meeting was a closed session. Subsequently, in discussions held by representatives of the women's caucus with the members of the AIP Board of Governors, requests were made that women be sought to participate at the National Conference in Louisiana on panels which were to be offered at prime time. Indeed a request has gone out for papers and participation. Subsequently, in April 1978, the AIP New York Metropolitan Executive Committee passed a resolution to ask the Board of Governors not to have the National Conference in Louisiana because the state had not ratified the ERA; other chapters have apparently also taken this position. Further, the Chapter has written to all Chapter presidents and has put the issue on the Chapter Presidents' Council agenda on April 29 in Indianapolis.

"There has been some discussion that people not go to Louisiana at all; others have argued that should the attempt to get the conference moved from Louisiana be unsuccessful, people who go to Louisiana should meet and organize inside and outside the Conference around ERA. It would be helpful if Network people would respond to the two possibilities.

"Let me respond to the comments made in the newsletter that Networkers have not responded thus far, perhaps because they are not members of AIP. I do not have figures for Networkers but at no time in AIP's history has it had more than approximately 6% female membership. Females in 1974 filled about 10% of professional planning jobs, 23.7% of technical positions and 16.9% of specialized professional positions. Over a fifty year period the estimate of planning degrees awarded females ranges between 5 and 8%.

"Let me also comment on the statement that the action for AIP to meet in Louisiana is all the more disgraceful because its president is a woman. This rather simplistic statement belies the figures regarding membership in the organization which is predominantly male and which represents a male-dominated profession. The statement also implies that decisions are made on the basis of some great person theory, rather than analyzing both the structural conditions under which planning operates and the function served by a professional organization. Should indeed one woman be unduly singled out? The statement fails to come to terms with the unpleasant fact that women professionals in male dominated professions are faced with professional and personal contradictions in their roles, a situation which will not change until progressive planners analyze the situation and act to correct it."

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, The purpose of the American Institute of Planners is to 'foster the public welfare and help achieve communities and environments that are responsive to the needs and problems of society and in which each individual is encouraged and enabled to seek the highest fulfillment of personal potential';

WHEREAS, The Institute has previously advocated equal treatment of women employed in the planning profession; and

WHEREAS, The intent of the pending 27th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is a legal expression of the Institute's purpose as expressed in its bylaws; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, on this eleventh day of October, 1977, that the Board of Governors of the American Institute of Planners formally endorses the ratification of the 27th Amendment, otherwise known as the Equal Rights Amendment, to the United States Constitution, and that this position be publicized and made known to the membership, and

RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors urge chapters to endorse the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

A RESOLUTION ON AIP CONFERENCE SITE SELECTION

WHEREAS, The Board of Governors of the American Institute of Planners has endorsed the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Governors has urged chapters to endorse the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in their separate states; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, on this eleventh day of October, 1977, that the Board of Governors does adopt a policy of holding the annual conference of the American Institute of Planners in those states which have ratified the 27th, or Equal Rights, Amendment to the United States Constitution.

"Synergy: Path to Human Liberation" is a 16-page paper available from Jim Craig, co-director of the Center for the Study of (Synergic) Power, Box 9096, Berkeley, CA 94709. Free, or 50 cents to cover printing and postage if affordable.

Pam Sheen (403 W. 13th, Little Rock, ARK 72202) recommends "The Polis Perplexity: An Inquiry into the Size of Cities" by Kirkpatrick Sale in the Jan-Feb. 1978 *Working Papers*. "And for visual fun, don't forget any of Jacques Tati's films about urban inanity, like *Playtime*."

Susan Williams (2819 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD21218) is doing research on the role of city government in gentrification for her MCP thesis. "I am looking for information on the relationship between capital improvements and gentrification, cost benefit analysis of capital improvements, and why people move back to the city." Network people working on the gentrification process should certainly make contact with one another. One highly useful product might be a Network publication on the subject—data, case studies, and an analytic framework.

The Fourth Annual National Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies is being held in St. Paul-Mpls. July 13-16. More than 600 state and local public officials, community leaders, public advocates and labor leaders are expected, with workshops on every conceivable topic. Speakers include William Winpisinger, Carol Bellamy, Tom Hayden, Gar Alperovitz, Rudy Perpich, Michael Harrington, Marion Barry, Ken Cockrel. Further information from the Natl. Conf., 1901 Que St. NW, Washington 20009.

The Best Eight Blocks in Harlem: The Last Decade of Urban Reform by John Goering, Knight Hoover and Maynard Robinson is a case study of UPACA (Upper Park Avenue Community Assn.), "one of the most successful community housing developers in the US [which] formed relationships with some of the most prestigious and powerful social reform and housing organizations, including the Ford Foundation. After 1970, struggles for power over the organization and outsiders' attempts to 'professionalize' UPACA began. After 1973, resources available from housing and anti-poverty programs contracted, and these struggles tore UPACA apart." 219 pp., \$8.25, from University Press of America, 4710 Auth Pl. SE, Washington 20023.

Mike Townsend, who teaches in the Child, Family and Community Services program at Sangamon St. Univ. (Springfield, Ill. 62708), whose interest is in organizing at the neighborhood level, has sent in a copy of a local Springfield paper he works on—"The People's Press"—plus descriptions of several courses he teaches, including "Community Outreach Work: Discovering the Strengths of Low-Income Neighborhoods."

Bob Brister (4308 Rhodes Ave., Memphis 38111), a community organization student at the Univ. of Mich., is "drawing up a reading list of political economy and direct action strategies for a fall special studies course." Any suggestions should be sent to him. People doing lists like these should let us know when

they're completed and make them available to other Networkers interested in the subject.

Displacement from historic districts: From Susan Chelone (3703 Alabama St., San Diego, 92104): "I am just beginning to work with the Gaslamp Project Area Committee in San Diego. The Gaslamp area is one of the oldest areas in San Diego and has been proclaimed a historic district. The project area takes up about three square blocks and is a combination of residences (mostly residential hotels) and businesses (largely pawn shops, porno theaters, cafes, taverns, and small businesses). The residents are mostly elderly, single men. It was originally a Redevelopment Area, but the PAC fought to get out because they feared a loss of control; the Gaslamp is currently an independent project.

"There are extensive plans of large scale rehab, and as is usual with this sort of project, there is concern about displacing residents, the PAC is working to develop housing, employment, and social service policies and programs aimed at keeping the present Gaslamp community intact, avoiding displacement, and improving the living conditions of those people currently living in the area. We are hoping to get in touch with other people who have had experience working with this sort of situation and can give us some information and suggestions."

Relatedly, from Tom Logsdon (81 E. Lincoln St., Columbus OH 43215): "My neighborhood, Italian Village, Columbus, Oh., has been selected 1 of 6 target areas for the next three years of the CDA program. About \$2.3 million will be spent in an area having less than 300 single and double structures and less than 100 row house units. From \$700-800,000 will go towards rehab loans and grants. In the previous three years the area received 21 loans and grants averaging about \$8000. This area is also a part of an area two or three times as large which will be a Section 8 rehab strategy area to absorb around 300 units, the amount generally rehabed in the entire city each year.

"The question now facing many long-term residents is whether or not they want to remain, and if so, will they be able to. Already the city has stepped up code enforcement even though no money will be available for quite a while. I am sure this situation is occurring in many cities.

"Two problems neighborhoods face in this situation are: 1) Forcing the city to hold off on code enforcement until the loans/grants are available. (The planners realize the importance of this but can't control the code enforcers.) 2) Taking time and effort to explain to old people the program. Many of them are frightened when confronted with government carrots and sticks.

"The Sec. 8 CDA target combined coverage is something I fought for as a planner and a resident. But I see that the code people are pressuring owners of poorly maintained row houses to sell to Sec. 8 rehabers. End result will be that all row houses will have the same rehab treatment and a physical sameness. Plus, owners will be forced to sell before loans are available."

San Francisco's Anti-Speculation Campaign: The San Francisco Housing Coalition has been preparing a summary of the extensive research it has conducted into housing speculation in SF along with a history of the anti-speculation campaign in the city to date. For more information contact Michael Harney, Research Coordinator, SF Housing Coalition, 944 Market St., SF, 94102, (415) 397-8589.

People & Design is a new quarterly soon to be published by John Grifalconi. Network people can write him for the first copy at Aalto House, Box 9, Kingston, RI 02881.

The Nat'l. Commn. on Neighborhoods now has a newsletter, which appears to be free. Write 2000 K St. NW, Suite 350, Washington 20006.

"Cambridgeport . . . A Fight for Survival" is a 40 pp. brochure giving the background and current status of the struggle this community has waged to save itself against MIT's expansionism. Available from Bill Cavellini, c/o The Simplex Steering Comm., 130 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

"Saving Neighborhoods: Programs for Housing Rehabilitation and Neighborhood Revitalization" is a 64-pp. report by Cary Lowe of the Calif. Public Policy Center. Available for \$2 (\$4 for institutions) from 304 S. Broadway, Suite 224, LA 90013.

Visitor from England: John Shutt (165 St. Saviours Rd., Saltley, Birmingham 8) will be in the US from July 22 to Sept. 19, with the last month in NY. "For the last four years I have been working on Saltley Community Development Project in East Birmingham, on housing, building and property issues with local residents, tenants, and trade unions. Now that the Project has closed I am doing some research on the role that pension funds and insurance companies are playing within the property market over here.

"Is there anyone in the network who is engaged in similar research/struggles against property companies? I would also like to know of anyone doing work on multinational property companies and their investments, e.g. MEPC.

"More generally, I'm just interested in getting to know what's happening, and with meeting people involved in similar work to CDP." People who have information or similar interests should write him.

Community Reinvestment Act: From a longer paper by Rich Kazis of the Inst. for Local Self-Reliance: "For anti-redlining and reinvestment activists across the country, the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA) is landmark legislation. Although it came into being with little fanfare as Title VIII of last year's Housing and Community Development Act, the law is now attracting much attention and concern from both community groups and the financial industry. Both sides realize the significance of the legislation, which requires financial institutions to service the credit needs of and to be accountable to, the communities in which they are chartered. And each side is actively trying to influence the regulations for implementation of the Act—before they are issued this summer. For community groups, the Community Reinvestment Act could become an important organizing tool for forcing accountability in local lending institutions. Even now, before the regulations have been issued, community groups in several cities have put the legislation to the test.

"The Provisions of the Act. Financial institutions have always been required to 'serve the convenience and needs' of communities in which they were chartered to do business. Traditionally, this has referred only to the deposit needs of local residents. The importance of the Community Reinvestment Act is its insistence that 'convenience and needs' includes the need for credit services as well. The law stipulates that regulated financial institutions (banks, savings and loan associations and mutual savings banks) have a 'continuing and affirmative obligation to help meet local credit needs.' It further specifies that lenders must serve 'the entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.' Such services include: loans to moderate income housing cooperatives; low interest second mortgages for home rehabilitation; availability of bilingual loan officers; and budget counseling for moderate income homebuyers. These are examples of lending policies and procedures that institutions could adopt to help meet previously ignored neighborhood credit needs. . . .

"Community groups in cities such as Boston, New York City and Gary, Indiana are currently preparing bank challenges under the new law. The procedure, however, is not a simple one. For example, New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) has organized bank challenges and anti-redlining actions in Brooklyn. They have had to research the target bank's lending record from mortgage disclosure data and evaluate the neighborhood's deposit base from the Real Estate Register. They have organized enough community support to be able to confront and make demands of bank officials. And they have put much thought and energy into developing a workable strategy and set of demands. Missouri ACORN also did its homework before filing its challenge. They received helpful technical assistance in their challenge from the Nader-affiliated National National Public Interest Research Group and the Center for Community Change (CCC). CCC is monitoring all savings institution applications covered by the Act and is soliciting from community groups the names of the least responsive financial institutions in their neighborhoods. The Center will then be able to inform them when their target institutions have submitted applications for a merger or a new branch. If a group wishes to mount a challenge, the Center will provide technical assistance. If your community group is interested in pursuing this issue, contact Jeff

Zinsmeyer, Center for Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007, (202) 338-8920; or Jon Brown, Public Interest Research Group, 1346 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 419a, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 833-3931."

High-Rises in SF: The SF Ecology Center and SF Tomorrow are planning an eight-session summer course on the impact of high-rise development in SF. The coordinator has asked whether the Network would be interested in running a wrap-up workshop at the end of the course, to sum up what has been learned and put forth some possible recommendations and solutions. We've got to let them know about this very soon. Would anyone who is interested get in touch with us right away—Jerry Horowitz at 285-4169 or Chester Hartman at 282-1249.

Neighborhood Planning in SF: The *Elsie Street Plan* is a specific proposal from a neighborhood to set out criteria for residential development in its area. The Plan was prepared by the Northwest Bernal Block Club with the aid of architectural and planning consultants (including several Network members), was authorized by the SF City Planning Commission and was made possible by a \$5000 grant from the Vanguard Foundation.

The *Elsie Street Plan* addresses three major concerns: 1) inadequate fire and emergency vehicle access on the steep and narrow 100 block of Elsie Street, 2) the monotonous and bulky box-like design of proposed single family dwellings, and 3) the impact of expensive new houses on the make up of the neighborhood. Bernal Heights is a racially integrated, working class neighborhood. Recently, however, inflation and rampant housing speculation have caused rising assessments and doubling and tripling rents. Working people are being priced out of their homes, their neighborhood, their city.

The block club has actively been trying to ensure the safe and rational development of its area for many years and has halted one speculative developer backed by a large savings and loan institution for over two years. The study started with a 7-page survey taken door-to-door by over 30 block club members. Over 200 households responded (out of 500 in the organizing area). Design issues and the more general problem of housing speculation and the inability of low and moderate income people to continue to live in San Francisco formed the basis for most of the study.

The *Elsie Street Plan* contains proposals for: 1) a Street Improvement/Open Space Plan for the 100 block of Elsie Street; 2) a set of Building Criteria (including Design, Energy and Cost Guidelines) for new construction, implemented by a Neighborhood Building Review Board; and 3) a program for direct neighborhood involvement in the development of housing for low and moderate income people. The project is an ongoing one, and technical (engineering, architectural design) and planning assistance (housing development corporations, rehabilitation programs) is needed.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the *Elsie Street Plan*, contact Roger Borgenicht, 63 Winfield St., S.F., CA 94110, (415) 826-3959 or 821-4417.

The Older Person's Handbook, Ideas, Projects and Resources for Neighborhood Action (93 pp) has just been published by the Mutual Aid Project. Seems to be free. Available through Rick Surpin, 17 Murray St., 4th floor, NYC 10007.

Housing Discrimination Against Children: Leslie Sandford (59 S. 5th St. #7, San Jose, CA 95112) is working with the Fair Housing Coalition trying to persuade the city to pass an ordinance barring such discrimination. She wants references to any literature on the subject, including law review articles; evaluations of efforts that went into passing the Berkeley and SF ordinances, etc.

Jobs in New England? Tim Stewart, who has just left his job at the Michigan State Housing Development Authority "for the sake of my personal and moral sanity" is planning on resettling in New England. "If any Networkers know of any planning jobs opening in late August in Maine, NH, Vermont, or Mass., I'd really appreciate hearing from you." (457 Townsend St., Fitchburg, MA 01420).

Property Taxes: From Larry Wolf (Dept. of Geography, Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati OH 45221): "I note in the newsletter (#13) a reference to an attempt to abolish the property tax in California and the characterization of this as reactionary. If real property taxes are to be abolished and the services they support are not to be sustained by some other tax, then, of course, the proposal is reactionary.

"However, the property tax is, in itself, reactionary, and it seems to me that socialists should campaign for its abolition and for the funding of needed public services from other sources. It may seem odd for a socialist to come to the defense of private property, therefore let me indicate the basis for my position:

"1. The function of modern corporate capitalism is to monopolize property—not only the ownership of the means of production, but real property as well. I am sure that it is more congenial for modern capitalism for all property to be held by corporations than by individual owners, particularly if they are low- or middle-income people.

"2. The function of the tax on real property is to maintain residential property as a commodity. Taxes, particularly in inflationary times, are a means of separating low- and fixed-income people from their residences, to the benefit of real estate agents and land speculators. Adjusting property taxes upward in accordance with the urban land market accomplishes this aim very neatly. By forcing those who cannot 'afford' to keep their homes out, particularly in neighborhoods that have become attractive to the affluent, the 'dictatorship of capital' and the desires of the affluent are reinforced.

"3. Real property, for most of us, is a means of obtaining a greater degree of control over our own lives and our own (individual and family) domestic space—an escape from the tyranny of landlords.

"4. Home ownership is a source of *expense*, not *income*. Income has already been taxed as income *per se*—and *again* via sales taxes and hidden taxes of various sorts, and yet *again* via property taxes. Yet only the income tax is directly related to income—to the ability to pay—yet all the taxes must be paid out of income as far as most of us are concerned. Only the 'independently (sic!) wealthy' have alternatives.

"5. The opposition to corporate capitalism, in a society such as ours in which individualism and private ownership of property are still strong traditions, requires a strategy which protects the populace from the rapacity of the corporations, and maximizes their freedom from massive institutions. One important tactic is to render our control of our own residences more secure, not less. To this end, property taxes on home ownership should be abolished.

"I would appreciate hearing from other Networkers on this topic."

In the next Newsletter we hope to have something on the effects of Jarvis-Gann (the property tax initiative just passed in Calif.) and organization in response to it. In brief clarification and response to Larry Wolf (and not at all to disagree with his overall views on the property tax), Jarvis-Gann represents a very inequitable redistribution of the property tax burden (owners of rental property get the same benefits as do owner-occupiers, with no obligation whatsoever to pass on those benefits to their tenants—a sheer windfall); it also, in effect, mandates severe cutbacks in services supported by the property tax that lower income residents use disproportionately (neighborhood health centers, public transportation, general welfare, etc.). Possibilities for raising additional revenues through more progressive means are severely curtailed.

Neighborhood Preservation: Marc Beyeler (35 Arlington Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93101) is looking for a bibliography on neighborhood preservation, broadly addressed. "We have specific interest in ordinances in place or attempted which speak to resident participation, provisions ensuring low and moderate income housing, demolition restrictions, and conversion of condominiums." Again, such bibliographies and compendiums, once assembled, should be shared with others in the Network.

Up Against a Brickwall: The Dead-End in Housing Policy is a 60-page booklet just published by SCAT (Services to Community Action and Tenants). It's available for \$1 from 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1.

Henry Sanoff (School of Design, N.C. St. Univ., Raleigh, NC 27650) has sent in several publications that Network people might find useful:

—"*A Humanistic Approach to the Housing Delivery Process*," paper given at the UNESCO Paris Conference 2001: Urban Space for Life and Work.

—"*An Alternative Strategy for Planning: An Alternative School*" (with George Barbour).

—"*Cherokee, No. Carolina: Community Design Workbook* (by Stephen Frary and Jerry Seleen).

—"*Seeing the Environment: An Advocacy Approach*."

—"*Learning Environments for Children*" (with Joan Sanoff and Anderson Hensley).

"Minimizing Displacement in Hartford" by Patrick Hare is a citywide plan to minimize displacement, rent increases, overcrowding and increased concentration of the poor in the Northeast End as demand for housing in Hartford increases. \$5 from 179 Allyn St., Suite 602, Hartford, CT 06103.

"Telelectures" is another item Hare wants Networkers to know about. "Using what is basically a large speakerphone, groups can hear anyone else in the U.S. for the cost of a phone call. Speakers can talk from their homes or offices, and usually will do so at no charge. A debate format is often better, with two people connected by conversation call, because one speaker, with no visible audience, tends to go dead. And speakers are often attracted by the opportunity to match viewpoints with others in the same field.

"The telelecture unit, which has mikes with long calls so that listeners can ask questions, is available from the telephone company for roughly \$30 per month. Our telelecture seminars have run around \$40 per seminar, but they were held in the afternoon. Telelecture seminars provide instant access to the best minds on a given problem."

Hare has available flyers on seminars he has held: on Rent Control (with John Atlas of Shelterforce and Dennis Keating, speaking from NJ and Calif.), on Monitoring Movement of Low Income Households Caused by Increased Demand for City Housing (with Rolfe Goetze and Roger Allbrandt speaking from Boston and Pittsburgh), and The Impact of Growth in Young Households and Cutbacks in Suburban Construction on the Demand for City Housing (with William Alonso and Franklin James speaking from Cambridge and Washington). Sounds like a neat idea.

The listing of papers published by the Columbia Univ. Div. of Urban Planning in #13 omitted:

Sigurd Grava, "Jitneys in Industrialized Countries"

Janet Scheff, "Need Assessment in Human Service Planning: Who are your clients and What do they need?"

Janet (teaching in the Grad. Planning Program at the Univ. of Puerto Rico) also mentions two of her publications that might be of interest to Network members: *The Social Planning Process: Conceptualizations and Methods* (UPR Press, 1976) and *Client Analysis and the Planning of Public Programs* (UPR, 1972). "I am currently working on a book dealing with conflict positively and the planners' incapacity in this."

TRANET is a quarterly newsletter-directory "of, by and for those individuals and groups around the world who are actively developing Appropriate/Alternative Technologies." Address is Box 567, Rangely, Me. 04970 and is distributed regularly only to members (\$15), but it might be possible to get a sample copy.

The West Bay Health Systems Agency (HSA) offers dues-free membership to anyone living in its service area. The WBHSA is a HEW-designated agency to plan, review and develop health care services in Marin, SF and San Mateo counties. Network member Dan Feshbach encourages people to join and get involved; I assume the same situation exists with other HSA's as well. Write Dan at WBHSA, 215 Market St., SF 94102 for further information.

Red Bologna is a new book I haven't seen yet, but which I'm told is a real turn-on—outlining what the Communist government of that city has accomplished in recent years. It's by Max Jaggi, Roger Muller and Fil Schmid and is published by Writers and Readers Publishing Cooperative, 233A Kentish Town Rd., London NW5. Price is \$4.45. I'm told it's also distributed in the US by Pathfinder Press, but you'll have to locate their address.

A New Development Strategy for Puerto Rico: Technological Autonomy, Human Resources, A Parallel Economy by William Goldsmith and Thomas Vietorisz is a 105 page study just published by the Program in Urban & Regional Studies, Cornell Univ., 209 W. Sibley, Ithaca, NY 14853 (\$3.50). Goldsmith's summary: "In his 1976 message to the legislature of Puerto Rico, Governor Rafael Hernandez Colon proposed the establishment of an extensive network of cooperative, self-governing and largely self-sufficient youth communities. This new program had the potential of alleviating two of Puerto Rico's most serious problems: massive unemployment among young people, and the associated alienation and apathy. Subsequent legislation visualized an integrated parallel economy of as many as 60 communities, with 20,000 to 30,000 new residents entering during each two, three or four-year period. After the legislature message in January, the Governor met with more than 25,000 young men and women throughout the Island in hour-long presentations followed by enthusiastic discussions of the program. The first stage of the program (two pilot cooperatives) began late in 1976 and continued through 1977. Subsequent stages were to be planned later.

"This monograph presents the basic design of such a coordinated economy of self-help cooperatives, intended to work in parallel with the existing commercial and industrial economy of Puerto Rico. The initial operation of the two pilot cooperatives was most encouraging; we believe that the program was headed for success at the point at which a new Republican administration, elected in November, 1976, began to dismantle it

"We are aware that dissonances are likely to arise between the commercial economy and the cooperative economy, leading to conflict and cleavage. The cooperative economy does not miraculously resolve the key conflicts inherent in the situation of Third World countries; at best it channels these conflicts in a way that encourages a rapid growth of production and technological capability. Such growth can then set the stage and improve the chances for successful historical transformations on a larger scale."

FILMS/TAPES: Steve Tilly (60 Main St., Hastings-On-Hudson, NY 10706) sent in an annotated listing of 11 films and tapes, picked up and shown at the March Conf. on Visual Anthropology at Temple Univ., which might interest Networkers. These were organized by the Community Media Workshop, 215 Superior Ave., Dayton, OH 45406, which has been working on methods of using media in community organizing. Steve was very positive about the methods used by the Dayton group: "They force organizers to look at and listen to the community; use images generated in and by the community; and proceed in a style and pace appropriate to local circumstances." Write us or (better) them for a copy of the list.

Adds Tilly: "Another recent event which might be of interest to Network people was a Neighborhood Energy Conference held on the top floor of the People's Development Corporation in the South Bronx (the place Carter visited). Except for the solar collectors gleaming through the skylight, the scene was reminiscent—both refreshingly and depressingly—of the '60s. There was the same sense of urgency and enthusiasm shared by people from a variety of places and groups, accompanied by a tinge of political naivete and even such embellishments as incense, headbands, silkscreened tee shirts and posters. The discussion was gratifyingly free of ideological jargon and bickering, but the much publicized devastation of the area around this energy efficient building made one think about the politics of the energy movement, the tiny scale and fragmented nature of work going on in many areas: housing, energy conservation, health care, etc. We seem to need an energy policy for organizing which tells us how to relate one issue to another and where best to collectively apply our energy at any one time. Anyone have a suggestion? The conference, by the way, was sponsored by ATAC, the Appropriate Technology Action Coalition, 156 Fifth Ave., room 619, N.Y.C. 10010."

The People's Alliance (P.O. Box 998, Peter Stuyvesant Sta., NYC 10009) puts out a (bi-monthly?) "Organizers Bulletin," \$3 a year. They also have produced a working paper on "A Program for Survival in the Cities." Their Nat'l. Comm. has folk from the Black Panther Party, CASA, Clergy & Laity Concerned, NAM, PRSP, WRL, KDP, and many others.

9

Low-income housing in a middle-class suburb, and "job sharing": From Janet Falk (5915 Ross St., Oakland, CA 94618): "I am currently working for the City of Walnut Creek, handling housing and community development issues. I am particularly interested in information others may have on how to construct lower-income housing (especially for senior citizens) in a middle-class suburb when no federal or state financing appears to be available. The City is committed to the extent that it has allocated CDBG funds for land write-down and is willing to grant density bonuses and reduced parking. We have potential non-profit sponsors and a group about to work for an Article 34 referendum. So our biggest dilemma is how to finance the project at a low enough interest rate to make it feasible. Any innovative attempts by others would be appreciated.

"My job here is a job-sharing position, which I worked out after having a baby last May. I work 8-12 five days a week and my 'other half' works afternoons. After a trial period, the City has granted us permanent status and we receive some (but not all) benefits. It's a wonderful way for me to work so that I can have time for my family as well; and the City has realized that they are getting a good deal too. I'd be happy to share my experiences in greater detail with anyone who was interested."

The Voluntary Job Preservation and Community Stabilization Act has been introduced by Cong. Peter Kostmayer. It's intended as a response to the 'Youngstown Sheet and Tube' situation of large plants closing down and leaving communities high and dry. It is intended to encourage employee and community participation in firms that otherwise would close down and move. We've also received a 48 pp. Statement in support of the bill by William Foote Whyte of Cornell. Copies available from the relevant folk.

How Cities Can Grow Small Gracefully (not the title she chose) is a book of 17 essays "on how to manage declining population, with such disparate authors as Roger Starr and our own Alan Kravitz, with Norman Krumholz of Cleveland in between," which Carla Cohen edited for the Subcomm. on the City of the Comm. on Banking, Currency and Urban Affairs before heading off to HUD. I suppose it's available from the Subcomm.

Kristin Dawkins wants Network people to know about the Pennsylvania Federation for Energy and the Economy, just forming, to develop a strategy that would unite social and environmental activists; mass transit may be their focus. They've put out a 14 pp. booklet titled "Power Play: A Call for Action in Pennsylvania," available (free?) from Kristin at the Inst. for the Study of Civic Values, 401 N. Broad St., Phila. 19108.

"Residents' Participation in Revitalization of Housing Areas" is a comparative international study of selected cases being undertaken by the Institut Wohnen und Umwelt (Annastrasse 15, 61 Darmstadt, W. Germany). People who have been involved in or know about such projects should contact Eberhard Muhlich at the Institut, to get more details about the extent and form of information they need.

"Support" is a group of architects, builders and others who share the objective of providing alternative design and building services to community working class and other progressive groups. More information from Tom Woolley, Support, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0AT.

Jesse Schwartz (4467 Valeta St., San Diego, CA 92107) writes: "I'm now into a very different trip . . . One does not often hear of the Shakers, Perfectionists, New Harmonists or Kaweah Co-operative Commonwealth, yet these communities are nevertheless the deepest and most inspiring passages of our history. These communities as well as the numerous New Age communities offer intimations of the future. Am also into French/intensive/biodynamic gardening, a life-giving process whereby any town in N. America can be well along towards self-sufficiency in food."

Groundwork Books (UCSD Student Center B-023, La Jolla, CA 92093) puts out a nice little monthly newsheet on new arrivals, local events, etc.

More on the Community Development Projects in England described in #13, from Robert Kraushaar (Centre for Environmental Studies, 62 Chandos Pl., London WC2N 4HH): "I meant to add in my last statement that two significant developments within these projects are their evolution of an overall radical framework in which to pursue relevant day-to-day activities and their efforts at trying to break down what they saw as the artificial barriers between community and industrial action. I would be interested in knowing if any similar work, on either or both of these developments, has been going on in the U.S."

A listing of the CDP publications is available from Gary Craig, Benwell Community Project, 85/87 Adelaide Terr., Benwell, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 8BB England; Craig also can handle requests for publications.

The Chinatown Neighborhood Improvement Resource Center (1441 Powell St., SF 94133) publishes a (monthly?) newsletter entitled *Neighborhood Improvement Update*; appears to be free.

Postgraduate Course in Urban and Regional Planning (one year), offered by the Planning Dept. at the Architectural Assn.: "Covers physical and spatial aspects of the environment as well as wider economic and social aspects of planning in advanced and developing countries. Option areas include Regional Problems in the EEC, Urbanisation in Latin America, Housing and Community Action, Political Economy of Development, Planning in Socialist Societies, Urban Design."

Nick Jeffrey writes: "Our course is run collectively by staff and students who, since 1970, have been developing a Marxist approach to 'planning' at all levels (urban, regional and national) in the advanced, less developed, and socialist countries. All the staff are members of the Conference of Socialist Economists (the UK equivalent of URPE). We also run courses on Marxist Economics as well as critical courses in the economics/sociology/politics, etc. of Planning."

"Teaching in these Marxist approaches to urbanism was pioneered in this department beginning in the late 1960's. It has involved staff and students in research and action with numerous trade union and tenants' movement groups.

"Like most educational establishments, we have recently suffered from government cutbacks: in our case, the British government (Social Science Research Council) has withdrawn the grants that we had previously utilized to ensure a high proportion of working class students who therefore were not denied the chance to develop a Marxist critique of the spatial aspects of capitalist development through lack of funds. Given the government decision, we are making an effort to broaden our advertising in an attempt to prevent the department from turning into a 'finishing school' for students who would like a year in London. As the AA is a private school, we could be facing a choice between that, and staff redundancies. If we could attract some of your readership, we would be well on our way to ensuring a continuation of the radical traditions we have tried to maintain in the department."

Prospectus and application form available from The Coordinator, Dept. of Planning, AA, 36 Bedford Sq., London WC1.

Corporations and Economic Planning: The *East Bay Voice*, an "opposition newsmagazine for the East Bay" has in its April issue a good piece of investigative journalism on a 23-page document prepared by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp. and submitted to the Mayor, for what amounts to a virtual corporate takeover of Oakland. Copies of the April issue (25 cents plus postage) from EBV, 4228 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609.

10

Greater SouthWest Development Corp. is a rehabilitation group in the Marquette Park area of Chicago. Network member Lynne Cunningham has some interesting marketing materials available as well as observations about how the whole venture is proceeding (she's at GSDC, 6253 S. Western Ave., Chicago 60636).

An item that has come up for the Newsletter is "advertising." It began with fraternal groups like Shelterforce, and *ROOF* asking for space, also Networkers who had written books wanting more than just a blurb. My general reaction was that if it could be done without any expense to us and with minimal extra work that was cool. The main consideration was space and weight—not wanting to go over into another postage category. As long as we get camera-ready copy and the folks asking for the space pay all costs (printing plus their proportional share of folding and collating), that seems reasonable. And as long as the content is within the political framework of the Network. But we've been getting occasional requests for ads on things that begin to stray slightly farther than the narrow boundaries of fraternal organizations/publications and things written by Network members. My inclination in such cases is to say yes but to charge more than actual costs, as a way of bringing in some income we could use to keep ourselves going. Even within that expanded definition of acceptable ads, we'd still only say yes to publications and other requests that fall generally in our political perspective. I don't see it bringing in a whole lot of income, nor cluttering up the newsletter (at most it would be 1-2 additional, separate pages or sides). But before adopting that policy, I'd like to see what kinds of reactions people have. React.

The Lost: #13 was returned from the following persons (anyone—especially regional coordinators—having new addresses for them should let us know): John Finke (Urbana), Barry Brodsky (New Bedford), Andrew Sherer (NYC), Mitch Rosenberg (Camb.), Henri Lustgarten (NYC), Mark Kimmelman (Shaker Hts.), Dave Multack (Sacramento), Maria Kallai (San Jose), Ellen Trossman (SF), George Falco (Camb.), Tina McMahon (Denver).

The Helpful: Jane Armbruster, Bill Burke and Gail Bloom did the mailing of #13. Bay Area people who would like to help out in this task should phone or write us. The system is that one person undertakes to coordinate two mailings, then passes the torch to someone else. The coordinator rounds up 3-6 people for a couple of hours of stimulating label and stamp licking, usually on a weekend. Not the most exciting way to while away one's time, but absolutely necessary for the survival of the Newsletter. Help out if you can.

Til August,



Chester Hartman

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AD HOC STEERING COMMITTEE
OF THE BLACKSBURG CONFERENCE

We are writing in the hope that the excitement and momentum generated at the conference in Blacksburg May 4 and 5 can be sustained. We hope that our letter will encourage those who participated to share their reactions to the conference. We have found that many who were not in attendance have also been eager to discuss the proceedings. We invite them to contribute to the discussion that we see ahead. We suggest that the Ad Hoc Committee circulate the observations that follow in whatever form they see fit.

Observations on the Conference

1. First, the conference was a rewarding experience. We came away feeling that we shared something important with those at Blacksburg. Many of us found that there were men and women from many parts of the country who share our intellectual approaches and our commitments to social justice and popular democracy. It was a chance to renew old relationships and establish new ones.
2. As a result of the conference, we are now more aware of the human and institutional resources that are consistent with our intellectual and political aims. There are valuable research and planning activities around the country. This provides a basis for the exchange of ideas, reading lists, course syllabi and papers. For those of us in academic settings this can strengthen our teaching and research. There are others we can turn to for support and assistance in the months ahead.
3. The conference attracted people with a progressive outlook, an interest in planning theory and a commitment to action. Still there was a substantial diversity of interests which engendered some communication problems. The cleavage between Marxists and non-Marxists was conspicuous. Many of the latter felt excluded by the language and quest for methodological purity on the part of the Marxists. It is important to sustain a dialogue between these two groups.
4. In discovering the contours of a progressive approach to planning theory, we should proceed carefully to avoid a series of problems. First, we must avoid theoretical arrogance and not assume that planning theory has an independent and autonomous stature from which a radical practice would flow. Theory does not determine practice, particularly in the American context. We must struggle with the difficult task of unifying theory and practice. Second, we should avoid overly intellectual and abstract formulations which are not grounded in the concrete terms of everyday life. At the same time, we must eschew unreflective activism and anti-intellectualism. The combination of action and reflection remains one of the most critical problems before us.
5. The audience at the conference was almost exclusively academic. While this group needs to work on a number of important educational and practical problems, it may be necessary to expand the audience to practicing planners and others.
6. The conference was able to achieve a sense of common purpose and resolved to establish an Ad Hoc Committee. This is an embryonic organization to further communication, coordinate activities and plan next year's conference.

Issues for Discussion

The conference raised and addressed a number of important substantive issues. Obviously, few of these were resolved. Based on our own observations, we set forth a list of issues that we believe require more discussion. The list is not exhaustive nor will these be common issues for all. Rather, this list is our contribution to the collective elaboration of the agenda for the year ahead:

1. A more elaborate analysis of the structural crisis of capitalism in the late '70s is needed. This would include linking the international aspects of capitalism to the domestic situation in America and examining the role of planning in terms of both the legitimizing and repressive functions of the state.
2. The distinction between planning theory and social theory serves to illustrate the need for developing a "radical planning theory" per se. Planning does not take place in an institutional vacuum. In trying to counteract the dominant paradigm, we have tended to confuse planning theory (a set of principles guiding the planners' practice) with social theory (a critical analysis of the role of planning as a component of the capitalist state). Besides exposing the nature of planning to students, we need to develop theories of planning activities consistent with radical social theory and antithetical to conventional planning practice.

11

3. Rationality, insofar as it entails science and technology as ideology, can lead to the maintenance of domination by experts. Critiques of rationality have suggested that planning education based on models of rationality socializes planners to be politically inept. But the critique of rationality in use should not lead to the abandonment of rationalism.

4. For radical planning theory to be of use to practicing planners, we need to think about the ways in which communities can survey and mobilize their resources. We need to develop the techniques and resources which will assist planners and other citizens in evaluating their local political situations and designing and implementing effective strategies for community empowerment and popular planning. "How to Research Your Local War Industry" and "Dollars and Sense" are useful examples. The suggestion about the development of study kits could be applied to this problem. The knowledge and skills of the group could be used to analyze and interpret concrete urban and planning activities such as the failure of the urban land market, the consequences of the manipulation of large parcels of land for profit and the maldistribution of private property which in turn favors and empowers the ruling interests of society and works against the possibilities for humane and ecologically sound development. Many other urban and planning problems are in need of thorough and specific analysis from a radical perspective.

5. We have to facilitate communication between Marxists and non-Marxists. Marxist terms should be translated into everyday language without sacrificing their potency in the process. Something that allows interpretation in both directions would be useful. However, for many, there are problems in making Marxism "palatable." Still, we must learn to understand each other and share our ideas in both Marxist and non-Marxist terms.

6. We need to think about piecemeal social change in a radical way. For Marxists and many non-Marxists, the distinction between reformist tendencies and revolutionary reforms is critical. A central problem then is to understand, specify, teach and carry out radical practice that can be used to realize revolutionary reforms in everyday life in capitalist America. We must be able to interpret everyday events and decide how to take appropriate actions consistent with progressive commitment. Starting with traffic jams, property tax, pollution, crime, health care, lousy schools, etc. We must provide explanations that make sense to a wide audience, which in turn will lead to progressive actions and change.

7. We must learn to identify and analyze those mechanisms which make us captive. This should be done for those in teaching, research and planning activities. We should be able to specify those arenas in which progressive reform can be advanced. In this connection we need to have a more detailed discussion of the ways in which we have attempted to define practice in our own lives, particularly in radical terms.

8. We need to define our position in respect of professional planning organizations and publications. It may be possible to lobby and promote progressive interests as the Regional Planning Association of America tried in the 1920s. We need to build an organization that can advance our commitment to social justice through planning and planning education.

Proposals

1. We need to build an organization. Between now and September, we can use the Network, the list of the Ad Hoc Committee and the list of those who attended the conference for communication. By next fall we should try to hold regional meetings in order to make more explicit organizational arrangements. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee should try to more formally define issues and designate responsibilities for the coordination of specific projects. Throughout the coming months the Ad Hoc Committee should work closely with Chester Hartman and the Network to facilitate interests and coordination, to integrate common efforts and to cultivate mutual support generally.
2. We need to focus our work during the coming year on a series of projects that could provide a basis for unifying theory and practice and constitute the foundation for next year's conference:

on an ideological level we might work on a manifesto stating our goals, methods and philosophy. This could help in organization building and in publicizing our ideas. It would help to define our own practice as a group.

Carter's urban policy includes a provision for the preparation of urban impact statements. This could be an opportunity to evaluate planning, policy and intervention from a progressive perspective. It would be a challenge to develop a proposal acceptable to government professionals that is also consistent with social justice and progressive practice.

By developing a "radical planning theory" centered around helping communities mobilize their resources, we might begin to define what kinds of "study kits" could be developed. This would entail identifying the clients for which these kits would be useful and the role practicing planners should play in their elaboration.

Each one of these three items could constitute a project for the year. The conference would then be a forum in which the various groups communicate the results of their efforts. The discussion of study kits and "urban impact statements" could help us attract community groups and practicing planners that more theoretical topics may discourage.

3. Some of us will have to take responsibility for planning next year's conference. The site, the form of organization, the topics and other details should be defined by late next fall.

We believe that it is extremely important that the discourse proposed here be expanded. It must go beyond the Ad Hoc Committee and those who met in Blacksburg. We must seek others who share our interests and commitments and embrace them.

Tom Corl
Jose Gemal
Thierry Noyelle
Jean-Louis Sarbib
Christof Schremmer

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

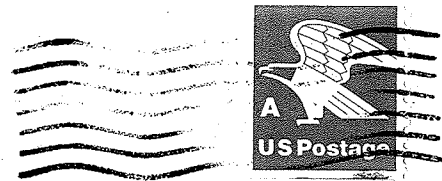
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