Bet you never thought you'd see two issues of the Newsletter in such rapid fire order. We're doing it because we wanted to devote a special Newsletter issue to the decision on whether to create a radical planners organization, and since we have the material ready, want to get it out to you before the Cincinnati American Planning Association meetings, and are guest-producing the issue from Chapel Hill (partly to give the Berkeley folks a much needed rest from their labors of getting out #25 with its new roster.)

Before we go into the issue of the issue, we've got to talk about money. Getting out the roster and #25 literally broke us (financially). It cost twice as much as any previous roster issue, and we actually went $300 into the hole, so before reading further, take a moment to get out your check book and write out some nice fat sum and sent it to the letterhead address at once. Then you can come back to read the rest of this in good conscience. Seriously - we are for the first time in real financial trouble, are producing this issue with debt financing, and if we can't get back into the black the future of the Newsletter in its present form (free, financed solely by voluntary contributions) will have to be reconsidered.

To recap the various steps of the recent past re-creating an organization:

* The question has been with us starting from Newsletter #1 (August 1975) and has been raised in one form or another in nearly every issue since then. It is obvious that few of us feel APA meets our political and work needs (I would estimate that less than five percent of Network members are APA members), and that although lots of us are already in political organizations, there's a long-standing and pervasive feeling that forming an organization/union of left planners, urbanists or whatever common work identity we now have would be a useful step in making our individual work and lives more effective politically.

* Most recently, the two national radical planning conferences - at Blacksburg, Va., and Ithaca - and the five regional meetings that followed the April, 1979 Cornell conference (as ably summed up in Ed Bergman's report in #25) have created a momentum, albeit a cautious one, toward formation of such an organization.

* Various informal, ad hoc conversations and meetings have also been held around this subject over the past few months, which I tried to sum up in a memo, sent out in June, to about three dozen Network people across the country, in order to bring together what people are thinking and saying.*

* Based on responses to that memo, which have been reviewed with some people down here in Chapel Hill (particularly Ed Bergman and Hilary Greenberg, a Network member from Grand Rapids who is a first year planning student here and wound up being assigned to me as a research assistant), we have prepared a specific proposal regarding formation of a radical planners’ organization which will be annotated/adumbrated with direct and indirect comments from some of those who responded to my June memo.

To get by a threshold issue: Virtually everyone agrees that the Planners Network in its present form - as a communications vehicle via the current Newsletter format - should continue, separate from (but obviously related to) any organization created out of the present Network. It is likely that the majority of the 1300 present Network members will not want to join the organization, and the non-demanding outreach function performed by the Newsletter should continue as a way of keeping people in touch, drawing people in gradually, etc. Ideally, the Newsletter would continue to be produced by a distinct group, separate (geographically separate too, if possible) from the organizational locus.

The exact relationship between the two functions will have to be worked out, but the principle is that the organization would not subsume or replace the existing Network, but rather would be a spinoff of its more active members. There are unknowns and dangers in this formulation, of course: one specific concern is that an unsuccessful attempt to form an organization may rub off and doom the Network too; another is that there will be insufficient energy to do both, that the same people likely to play an active role in forming and sustaining an organization are those who would be active in putting out the Newsletter, and there isn't enough time or energy for both. This is a risk, to be sure, but I strongly suspect we'll continue to find people to do the Newsletter. Elsewhere in this issue, the Western Urban and Regional Collective asks for proposals for others to take over the Newsletter after one or two more issues (they will have done it for a year); we'll see what response comes from that announcement, and there is always a possibility I can resume putting it out when I return to the West Coast at the end of the year.

That three-old issue crossed, it seems clear from virtually every response to my June memo that those who have thought carefully about the question feel the time has come to form an organization. (The only strong dissenting view comes from John Friedmann of UCLA:

"I'm afraid that organization will lead to sectarianism very quickly, and little people will compete for little power and control. I really don't like the idea.

Anyway, what would we want to accomplish? What would the organization allow us to do that we can't do otherwise?

*Those who received the June memo were the people who had participated in these conversations and who in previous Newsletters and at regional meetings had shown interest in the issue of organization building. (We also asked them to pass the memo on to anyone else who might be interested.) The recipients were: Bill Goldsmith, Pierre Clavel, John Forester, Manning Marable, Elliot Sclar, Peter Marcuse, Robb Burlage, Jackie Leavitt, Harvey Goldstein, David Wilmoth, Marc Weiss, Ann Markusen, Ed Bergman, Donna Dyer. Derek Shearer, Rich Gross, Barry Checkoway, Fran Price, Barbara Beelar, Bob Beauregard, 'Tony Schuman, Bruce Dale, Bob Brand, Norm Glickman, Bobbi Granger-Jaffe, Robert Jaffe, John Beckman, John Friedman, Bob Wilson, Pat Salinas, Tak Nakamoto, Chip Downus, Mary Vogel, and Jean-Louis Sarbib.
My thought (along more positive lines) would be to keep things as they are and to start building up the Network Newsletter to serve a function other than that of keeping people informed about what's going on.

Let's use the Network to circulate reports. Let's use it to write up experiences from an evaluative point of view, so we can learn from them. Let's have an idea exchange on topical questions. Let's discuss questions such as community organization, neighborhood power, and the tactics of citizen action from a perspective of method. Let's have a short book notice section."

Friedman also suggests that beyond this expanded Newsletter - which he feels could be more generally circulated, since many in the APA crowd would like this kind of information and be willing to pay for it - we could continue to hold regional ad hoc meetings and perhaps one national conference a year.

The question of why we should form an organization seems to be answered as follows: It comes out of a felt need to develop and sharpen our sense of political professionalism, to arrive collectively at ideas, analyses, programs that can guide our work, in bureaucracies and in communities, in our writing, our teaching, our study. We represent an alternative to traditional planning, and the best way to develop alternative practice and have it influence the way we live and work in is by acting in a more consciously collective fashion. As Donna Dyer put it, summarizing a meeting of Southeast Planners Network people, "We should seek to define the practice of progressive planning." And in the words of Pierre Clavel (Cornell):

"The role of the new Planning Union (is) ... to encourage the development of 'progressive planning' in support of the popular constituencies exemplified by the Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies; and to lever support for these programs out of the universities, agencies and foundations. Very concretely, their objectives would be immediately furthered if the Union simply helped communicate the dozens of examples of progressive planning practice that already exist. It could hold workshops, publish case studies, perhaps distribute videotapes. These would increase the consciousness of Network-type, progressive planning among ourselves, Conference types, and APA types."

This raises a related concern: the degree to which an organization can maintain the healthy balance and tension between practitioners and academics (faculty, researchers, and students) that characterizes the present Network. David Wilmoth (Berkeley) noted:

"I agree on the need for avoiding academic domination. Not only do we here (in the Western Urban & Regional Collective - the group currently putting out the Newsletter) have that - at least at the 'starting leadership' level, but we are comprised of graduate students and junior (or not yet tenured) faculty, without time or in some cases long-term commitments to the area..."

But as Bob Wilson (Austin) points out, "... any national organization should not be dominated by academics, but at the same time it is likely that the academics have more resources and time available..." The conclusion seems to be that there will be an inevitable tendency for academics to play a disproportionate role, given their available resources, but that we all see the need to keep practice at the center of our concerns, with academic input always focused on how practice can be analyzed and bettered.

What specific form the organization should take beyond a widely varied of views and proposals. The very concrete structural proposal put forth by the New York Area regional meeting for a Union for Progressive Planning (reproduced in #5) struck many of us (including some of the New Yorkers, upon further reflection) as unrealistic at this point; there simply is too much "uneven development" among the various Network regions at this time to expect success for such an elaborate organization proposal. The differences in outreach style, commitment level, political cohesion,

2 geographic centrality, size, etc. among the New York Area, Midwest, Southeast, Boston and Bay Area groups are enormous, and the general feeling seems to be that we ought to let each region function, at least initially, in whatever way seems most appropriate to it. Bill Peterman (Univ. Ill.-Urbana) describes how the Midwest group has functioned over the past few years and says:

"I hope, therefore, that whatever structure emerges there is an understanding and emphasis on the role of local semi-autonomous groups. We in the Midwest do not seem to be inclined to take up projects or even to do things as a group. Occasional sharing of joys and concerns and recharging of batteries seems to be as far as we are able to go. Geography and the resulting differences in problems faced seem to mitigate against anything more formal. I for one want to keep our Midwest group going and would hate to see any national structure which would have the net result of destroying our weak but existent efforts."

If not the elaborate formulation the New York Area group put forth in #5, what form should the organization take? The two models put forth with some frequency were: 1) the Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies; 2) the National Lawyers Guild. The Conference is a loose and somewhat amorphously defined association of progressive public officials and private groups, which has a central national meeting, is fairly well funded, with several fulltime staff members, and undertakes a substantial publications/distribution program to disseminate examples of progressive ideas and programs. The NLG has a sharper and narrower professional identity (i.e., attorneys), a more structured and participatory decision-making process, a more coherent and specific political identity, and something many people found particularly appealing - a work agenda built largely around project task forces (many of which are separately funded and semi-autonomous).

With due allowance for the fact that planners and the world they relate to are not nearly as sharply defined as lawyers and world they relate to, most people seem to prefer the NLG model - Inssofar as it reflected a more coherent organizational form, identity and operating style than is true of the Conference, a more participatory structure, and Inssofar as the "project" work style seemed to catch the fancy of many respondents to my June memo.

From David Wilmoth:

"I like NLG as a model and dislike CAS&LP because of the latter's diffuseness, though I think CAS&LP do good work in their area and would be appropriate fraternal partners. If we emulate them, we probably should become part of them. On the other hand, NLG has both a well-entrenched profession and a strongly institutionalized set of state practices to fight against and from within. We have neither, and suffer lack of such focus. APA isn't powerful enough to fight and the planning profession, as I see it, is in a crisis of identity."

From Bob Wilson:

"I endorse the idea of a 'loose' national structure organized around projects and task groups. I have come to this position because beyond being an organization for providing mutual support, which I believe the Network is already admirably accomplishing, a national organization will be most useful in placing a 'progressive agenda' before planners and the public for discussion. The most practical way of accomplishing this, it seems to me, is to create projects on a number of issues of central importance to Network members, and publish the results of these projects."

From Jean-Louis Sarrib (World Bank, Washington):

"I tend to agree with your seeming preference of an NLG format. The danger, however, is that planners have a less clearly defined professional image than lawyers do. That 'muddled' professional image seems to me to represent an ideal focal point, where academic and field practitioners can come together. In my view, the role of such an organization would be to define the meaning
that can be given to the combination ‘red and expert’ in the U.S. of the ’80’s.’

So what we have so far is a strong feeling that we ought to start an organization, and more or less a consensus that it should have some but not excessive structural formalism (i.e., an office, staff, democratically selected and accountable leadership structure representing the regions), and that the organization’s work - which would include hold a annual conference and perhaps undertaking a publications program of alternative planning proposals and practice analogous to that of the Conference (and perhaps done in cooperation with the Conference) - would be largely carried out by project task forces. Some of the specific ideas thrown out for task force work include: fiscal crisis monitoring, housing reform/rent control, what the public sector in health should look like, mass transit improvements, model housing legislation, and even the oft-raised idea of starting a radical planning journal. Jean-Louis Sartib adds a note of caution about project-oriented work:

“Concretely it implies a focus on project related work and periodic conference-like coming together. But it would be important for everyone to come to such meetings not simply to find recipes and cookbooks on organizing (though that’s important) but also to think through the political/structural implications of each project. What alliances can be built on the basis of such projects? Who do we find ourselves working with? Are our partners/clients the same on every issue or is it possible to clarify the sources of support on different issues (environment; housing; gentrification; . . .)?”

How do we get from here to there? There is strong support for holding a founding conference at the time and place put forward In Newsletter #25; Jan. 9-11 at the 4H Conference Center in Washington, D.C. (with some thought that we may want to push the date back two to three months, to insure adequate preparation for conference.) That conference would be a combination (maybe one-third to two-thirds, respectively) of organization formation and substance. The consensus seems to be that it should be a conference open only to current Network members, but with the possibility of one or two speakers who might give some historical perspective on what we are attempting to do (Bertram Gross, a CUNY professor and author of the new book Friendly Fascism, has been suggested as one possibility - Beri is a Network member, by the way.) How much to strive for political unity, particularly in the form of adopting some kind of overall political statement, is still an open question. It relates to some extent to who in the present Network wants to join the organization. As Bob Beauregard (Rutgers) sees it:

“If people think that only a small number of individuals out of the existing Network might join a formal organization, then that suggests to me the possibility of more tightly defining our goals and political position. The debate about progressive vs. socialist has, in part, pivoted upon whether we want a broad-base or narrow-base organization. If the latter is indicated by a combination of labeling and the political leanings of the group from which we must draw, then let us take a more explicit, radical stance.”

Most people felt that discussion of substantive issues for the founding conference should be well prepared for in advance. Donna Dyer wrote:

“I personally feel the organization will not be ready to take stands on issues in January, and that it would be a mistake to try to do that. Issue papers, if commissioned, would be to provide some practical suggestions on how to attack certain problems and should outline one perception of what a progressive planner’s role should be in solving the problem.”

Just how concrete and unified the positions on substantive issues coming out of the founding conference can and should be needs to be explored more fully.

A final issue is the practical one of finances. Starting an organization and sustaining it needs far more money than has been needed heretofore to feed the Network. And the conference itself will cost something (the 4H Center has the virtue of being quite cheap - $30/day per person for room, 3 meals and conference facilities) - but we may want to subsidize travel for some people coming from far away and we’ll have lots of other expenses. Derek Shearer (Coop Bank Board and UCLA) has offered to use his contacts to help get us some foundation money for starters. But a commitment to be in an organization is a commitment to pay dues; what the dues structure will be (and it certainly would be based on progressive principles) is still to be decided, but they must be more than nominal and voluntary if we are to function effectively.

Okay, the “bottom line” summary of what is being proposed: That a radical planners organization be formed, modeled roughly along the lines of the National Lawyers Guild and that a founding conference be held the weekend of Jan. 9-11 at the 4H Conference Center in Washington, D.C.

CINCINNATI: The American Planning Association conference in Cincinnati Oct. 25-29 (held at the Convention Center, Netherlands Hilton and Stouffer’s Cincinnati Towers) gives us a good opportunity to advance work on this entire venture, since lots of Network people will be there (and hopefully even more will plan to come after reading this.)

At present there are three formal Network events planned, for Sunday the 26th and Monday the 27th:

1) On Sunday, 3-4:30, Pierre Clavel of Cornell (and the Network) will be moderating a panel he has put together titled “Planning Under Austerity: Emerging Progressive Roles.” On it will be: Network member Eve Bach, a special assistant to Berkeley City Manager Wise Allen; Network member Judith Kossey, who works for HUD in Washington; and the former Deputy Mayor of Hartford, Nick Carbone.

2) On Monday, 11:00-12:30, Peter Marcuse of Columbus (and the Network) will be moderating a panel he has put together titled “Fiscal Constraint and Political Protest.” On it will be: Network member Cushing Dolbeare, President of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition; Network member Chester Hartman, on “sabbatical” leave at the Univ. of North Carolina; and Grace Raines of People Against Displacement.

3) On Monday, 5:30-7:30, the Network will be hosting a three-part session, to consist of: a) a showing of the superb slide show on displacement “We Shall Not Be Moved” about Cincinnati’s Over-the-Rhine area; b) an introduction to the Network for Interested APA members and c) socializing.

Based on a similar, but less grandiose package of events some people put together for last October’s Baltimore APA meetings, we can expect several hundred people to attend one or another of the sessions. It will be an excellent opportunity to expose planners to Network people, ideas and plans.

It will also provide an opportunity for some intensive work around planning for the founding conference. Lots of the people who have been involved in the exchange of ideas reported in this issue will be in Cincinnati, and we expect to meet during large chunks of Sunday and Monday to move the proposal along, to the point where a task force/steering committee takes charge of organizing a national meeting and planning for its content. (This committee also will be authorized to “pull the plug” if it turns out that the poll results (see below) indicate an insufficient level of interest, and to decide to postpone the founding conference for a month or two, if it appears that additional time is needed to make it happen right. For the time being, assume it’s Jan. 9-11, however, and hold open the dates.)

We will make sure the times and places of these planning meetings are well publicized at the Cincinnati Conference Center - and we may even have a Planners Network exhibition table. So if you’re there - and we hope you might get so turned on by the prospect of what we can accomplish over those two days that you’ll decide to come - plan to attend those meetings. We are trying to arrange some cheap housing for Network
people with some local Cincinnati folk, but we won’t know for a while if it is available. And on conference registration fees; you certainly don’t have to be registered to attend the Monday evening gathering and the small, informal planning sessions Sunday and Monday, and we suspect you wouldn’t have any trouble getting into the Clavel or Marcus sessions in an unregistered state either.

A note on process to date with regard to all the foregoing: The various meetings, memos, etc. have involved a relatively small and self-selected subgroup within the Network (although there has been discussion of these issues in recent Network Newsletters and at the regional meetings, with opportunity for those who wanted to involve themselves do so). This has, I guess, been inevitable, given the amorphous nature of the Network so far and the absence of any representative, accountable decision-making body. But there is no “in-group” or elite in the Network. It is not only desirable, but a necessity that more Network people take leadership roles and generally participate if the organization is to become real. All this to say we hope that the fact that communication to date has been among a small group will not put anyone off from jumping in as a full-fledged participant.

And to add a further note on participation, from Donna Dyer:

“...We should take care to involve more blacks and women. And to be grassroots even among ourselves, not falling into an organization dominated by a few people. If only a few folks are willing to do a lot of the work, the national organization is not worth having.”

Finally, it seems to us that we need to have some more structured, formal mechanism to test interest in forming this new organization from the 1300 of you now in the Network. What we’re looking for is not a pledge to join or attend a founding conference, but some kind of clear mandate, first on whether enough people feel it is time for an organization to evolve out of the Network (while retaining the present Network intact, rather than substituting one for the other); second on whether enough people would likely become members and/or attend a founding conference; and third on what type of organization people think it should be. We also want to get some rough idea of whether we’re talking about a 50-person or 300-person conference (obviously, very different events to plan for.)

So - we are asking you to fill out the short poll below and mail it no later than Nov. 4 (Election Day) to Bob Beauregard, Dept. of Urban Planning, Livingston College, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J. 08803.

The group meeting in Cincinnati will make some decision as to what constitutes a level of response sufficient to give a green light and what level of response strongly suggests dumping the whole idea at this point for lack of sufficient interest. If only 25 or so of you send back these poll forms, the answer will be pretty clear. Enough said from us, Think about it, and let us hear from you by Nov. 4th.

- Chester Hartman

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NORTHWEST PLANNERS NETWORK: (From Isaac Stringer, Benton-Linn CSA, 2730 N.W. Polk St., Corvallis, OR 97330 (503)757-6966). “Several of us have been talking about trying to organize (very loosely) a Northwest Planners Network. We’ll be doing a mailing in the next couple of weeks, to test the water, from lists we’ve been able to generate. However, since most of us are in Eugene and Corvallis, our lists are heavily weighted toward western Oregon. A note in the newsletter would be very helpful in reaching people we’ve overlooked. We’d like the thoughts of folks in Oregon, Washington, D.C., Alaska, Idaho, and Montana on whether some type of regional information and resource exchange should be of value and, if so, what form it should take (newsletter, periodic meetings, or whatever).”

Contact Isaac if you‘re interested in a NW PN.

RADICAL PLANNERS IN LOS ANGELES (from Goetz Wolff and Delores Pruett, 2939 Kelton Ave., LA 90064): “Just a brief report from the Networkers at UCLA. Seeing the need to make the radical perspective more visible, several of us worked over the summer to organize the Radical Planners Group at UCLA. Our intention was to reach beyond the boundaries of the campus to other communities in the Southland, and to practitioners as well. One of our main concerns is to insure that not only is the radical perspective refined and articulated, but that it is applied through action.”

A copy of a leaflet describing the group asks “What is the Radical Planners Group?” We use radical analysis as a way of understanding and addressing social, political and economic inequities arising from class and race exploitation and sex oppression. We have organized to raise questions not asked by conventional politics, conventional economics and conventional education. These questions search for the root of the problem, rather than looking only for short term causes. Planners and architects already live by influencing decisions about their social, political, economic, and physical environment. As professionals, we are obligated to understand the fundamental relationships among socioeconomic and political processes that create and determine everyday life.”

Copies of a listing prepared by the group, “Resources for Progressives”, are available from the above address.

PROGRESSIVE PLANNERS’ NETWORK IN CANADA: We received the first issue of “Communiqué”, a newsletter which arose out of a conference last January in Toronto (mentioned in FN #5). The introductory note states that “At the final session of the week-long conference the participants agreed that it would be useful if there was some informal forum through which politically active people involved in planning issues could keep in touch with one another, share ideas and information, and develop more sense of community and mutual support. A number of different options were discussed and it was agreed that the most practical first step would be to establish a communications network. The word ‘network’, rather than newsletter or journal, was quite consciously selected because we are not an organization with a formal membership but do wish to publish detailed research articles. At this stage it was felt that we simply needed a means which in which to communicate with one another and, more importantly perhaps, use the communications network to discuss future directions - both politically and organizationally.”

This first issue contains notes on the proceedings of the conference. To receive issue number two, “send a contribution (both comments and a couple of dollars) to: Montreal Communique Group, c/o Alex Kowaluk, 5431 Duquette Ave., Montreal, Quebec H4A 1J7.” Booray for more networking!

PROGRESSIVE PLANNERS IN PHILADELPHIA/ORGANIZING STYLE (from Bob Kaplan and Carla Dickstein, 292 S. 48th St., Philadelphia, PA 19145): “Our group started with a note on the door of the City Planning office at the Univ. of Pennsylvania. But, from the start we’ve been a mix of students and practicing planners. This mix has proven to be important because the students need and want to hear what’s happening in the world of practice, while the practitioners need and want people with whom they can take time to reflect on what they’re doing and to discuss issues more openly. The other aspect of our group which I feel has been quite important has been the style of our gatherings. We tried having formal discussion or study topics, but it didn’t work. Rather the key to our success has been our sharing of good food, good laughs, and different people’s houses) and our very personal style of providing support to each other. So, now we have a group of progressive planners who have a definite group identity and a natural inclination to keep meeting. And we still have plenty of time and mental energy for discussing whatever issues come up. On a very practical level, we’ve been able to get each other jobs and to provide a lot of ideas and contacts for those who are working with various community groups and agencies here in Philadelphia. The reason I’m emphasizing our group’s style is that I feel that our process, our very human way of relating to each other is an essential component of any progressive political/social movement such as the Planners Network. I haven’t seen much written about this topic in the newsletter. So, when we attended the New York conference this kind of sensitivity was much lacking at what we felt was a very dry, overly academic gathering. I think that most of us in Philly have some sort of
commitment to building a movement of progressive planners and social activists, and our experience tells us that the foundation for such a movement will be our love and caring for each other, as well as our theory and organization.”

FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED SHARING OF SPACE WITH THE PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS FOR HEALTH PLANNING: In the last issue we asked for comments from Network members on the Progressive Caucus’ request to have a regular column in the newsletter. Here are the comments we’ve received to date:

“I oppose the sharing of space in the newsletter with the Progressive Caucus for Health Planning. I have nothing against the Caucus or against health planning, but if we set aside space for a regular feature, this is just another step, and a big one at that, away from an informal sharing of ideas and information and towards a magazine type format. Most people I know in the Network find it hard to read, poorly organized and containing uneven material, but wouldn’t have it any other way. I, like my colleagues, put everything aside when the Network arrives and read it from cover to cover. Don’t turn it into just another one of the newsletters which end up in a pile on my desk…”

William A. Peterman

“(I) express my support for Greg Parston’s proposal that news, etc., from the PCHP be included on a regular basis in the Network newsletter. I say that (naturally enough) because health planning is my primary interest - but I also feel that the categorization of health planning apart from housing, transportation, and other sorts of planning is quite arbitrary. It’s important, I think, for those of us who are trying to introduce some progressive energy into this whole planning activity to recognize that all these areas affect and are affected by each other.”

Bob Adams

No decision about PCHP’s request has been made yet and we’re still interested in hearing what other Network members think about this request. If you have comments, please let us know before November 5, 1980.

JOB: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER: (Job description accepted August 22, 1980).

“…To promote and represent national network of Community Design Centers. Must establish Washington office and be capable of financial development. Background in architecture, planning and/or community development helpful. Send resume to Phyllis Sachs, CDC Directors’ Assn., c/o Neighborhood Design Center, 22 E. 25th St., Baltimore, MD. 21218.”

COSTS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH (from Roger Friedland, U.S.B., Santa Barbara, CA 93106): “Working on the fiscal costs of urban economic growth at the moment. Is private investment really fiscally profitable? Does anybody know any good studies of whether economic infrastructure is self-financing?”

ENERGY AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (from Margaret Hilton and Richard Mounds, Center for Renewable Resources, 1001 Colan. Ave., NW, Wash., D.C. 20036): “We are conducting a study of the ways in which community governments and community organizations can encourage use of conservation and renewable energy resources while also creating jobs in low-income urban neighborhoods. We are seeking information on the following: (1) successful examples of smaller-than-projected non-profit energy-related businesses (including CDC’s) located in low-income communities; (2) examples of active involvement by elected city officials in the establishment and maintenance of such businesses or in developing larger conservation-related infrastructure projects (such as district heating systems or solar heating in public housing); and (3) specific tools for establishing and maintaining such businesses or projects; public and private financing sources, market development, job training, etc. Please write if you have had experience in any of these areas, or know of someone who has. Thanks!”

NEO-MARXISM AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY (from Helen Ketelbev, P.O. Box 12109, Mill St., Cape Town, South Africa): Helen writes that she is working on a paper which “concerns the area between our needs as a third world country, and the current local definitions of our advanced status as a capitalist economy. To the planner, it would seem that the many contradictions in our planning objectives flow from a lack of clarity about our issues, from the way we regard ourselves as a mixed first/third world economy, or whether we are a highly industrialized country charging along an under-developed sector. A provisional title for the thesis is ‘The challenge of neo-marxism and the South African business community’. It may be that in the denser urban environment in which you work in America, you might be able to pass the word along about the work that I am involved in, and that some feedback may occur that will be beneficial to the ‘north-south’ dialogue.”

SELF-RELIANT COMMUNITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED (from C. Miles O’Bryan, The Inst. for the Human Environment, 312 Sutter St., Suite 608, S.F. CA 94108): “Here at The Institute for the Human Environment we are working on a series of proposals to develop more self-reliant communities within which people with various handicaps might better meet their special needs. We are trying to learn as much as possible from others who have experience in applications of appropriate/alternative technologies, as well as community living… I would very much appreciate any information Networkers might be able to share with us.”

MARKET STUDIES (from A. Alibhan, P.O. Box 3242 St. 1, Kingsville, TX 78363): “I’m very interested in Marxist studies, especially its application and perspective in curriculum planning and teaching. I would appreciate it if anyone could assist me by informing me of materials and resources which are available.”

NEIGHBORHOOD VS. THE CITY (from Frances Goldin, 305 East 11 St., N.Y.C. 10003): “I have been caught up in a fight on the block on which I live to get rid of a tow operation, licensed by the city to tow supposedly illegally parked cars from mid-town Manhattan to this residential block on 11th St., which also houses an elementary school of 700 children. It’s been an exhausting but exhilarating struggle, and we’ll win it, sooner or later. See you at the meeting. I’ve never felt like the city, a million-dollar company and the Mafia and you think you can win, you’re either crazy or a communist with great faith in the people united. Two Fact Sheets tell a small part of the story. It’s too long for Network, but anyone interested in more details can write to me.”

ENERGY ISSUES/CONFERENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA (from Kristin Dawkins, Inst. for the Study of Civic Values, 401 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, 19106): “We are planning a conference on Oct. 11 with GRASP, The Grass Roots Alliance for a Solar Pennsylvania. Other immediate issues are a 18% $304 million Electric Co. rate hike, the state’s Low Income Energy Assistance Program which is being sued by Community Legal Services for failing to spend $6.9 million last year and which we are trying to change from a cash rebate system to heating system and housing improvements, and a whole bunch of other projects and ideas…”

SMALL HUMANISTIC COMMUNITIES (from Jesse Schwarz, P.O. Box 797, Bollnas, CA 94924): “I’m interested in the design of small communities on a humanistic basis and have had some practical experience with at least one aspect, namely intensive horticulture. I would be pleased to meet with people in the Bay Area who are also interested in such things.”

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PLANNING, CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (from Hillary Greenberg, 3918 Wynford, Durham, N.C. 27707): Hillary writes that if any Networkers are considering graduate schools and want some information on the program at Chapel Hill, they should feel free to write to her.

FEMINIST EXPEDITION: AFRICA (from Mary Vogel, 31 Heyford Ave., London SW3): “I’m a feminist activist from the U.S., where I’ve been active in the Women’s School of Planning and Architecture and the Int’l. Assn. for Advancement of Appropriate
Technology in Developing Countries, I'm hoping to organize a group of feminists with similar interests to go on an African expedition whose central focus will be Women's Participation in Economic Development.

Since the African women I met at the 'Mid-Decade Forum on Women and Development' (July 14-24, 1980), in Copenhagen, seemed to be pursuing some of the most non-traditional roles for women anywhere in the world and playing some of the most integral roles in shaping their countries' development, I feel there is much we can learn from them. So the trip will intend a two-way exchange of information, skills and ideas. A major outcome will be network-building for the future.

The expedition will go by truck and camp out in tents for the entire 4-6 month journey. I am writing a proposal to try to get the trip funded and another proposal to get funds to make a film.

To go on the expedition you must be in good health, capable of doing the heavy physical work the journey may require (such as pushing a truck out of a ditch) and possess skills/background in one or more of the following areas: planning (social, economic and physical), community development, architecture, building, technology, crafts, film-making, motor vehicle maintenance and repair and other practical skills (languages, navigating, cooking). I would like to make this a multi-racial/ethnic/cultural experience and am looking for female applicants with a sincere interest in furthering their knowledge about global issues and developing their own and other women's abilities to do something about them. If you're interested, please drop me a line and let me know how I may reach you.

URBAN HISTORIES (from Paul Glover, 11150 Aqua Vista, N. Hollywood, CA 91602): "I was in San Francisco earlier this year, employed to write a history of the city for the 75th anniversary of the Great Earthquake... Now I'm similarly employed in Los Angeles, and would like to compare planning precepts with Network members."

MOVING HOUSES (from Linda Convissor, Route 7, Box 87 A, Durham, N.C. 27707): "I'm doing a project on the feasibility of moving houses to provide low cost housing. I am searching for relevant material and experiences. In particular, I would like information on the changing technology of house-moving, and technologies used in other geographical and cultural settings; legal aspects, including insurance coverage and title searches, i.e., is it necessary to trace the house's history for mechanics' liens? the experience of living in the same house in a new location; examples of moving houses for people displaced by highway construction; houses built with the expectation of being moved, e.g., houses on the coast moving to avoid beach erosion; documentation of specific moves, including costs, problems and recommendations; how to locate houses that are available for moving; and house moving by governmental agencies. Can anyone help?"

COMMUNITY BANKER TRAINING PROGRAMS (from Erica Pascal, 7054 S. Jeffery Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649): "The South Shore Bank will be sponsoring a series of Community Banking Training Programs in the fall. One will be held in October for bankers, to teach them the ways of neighborhood development lending 'a la South Shore Bank.' People working with or against their local banks might want to make the appropriate people aware of this course. A second course will be held later for community organizers and people working with housing and economic development groups, to teach them how banks think about lending, how to structure a loan proposal, and how to use the Community Reinvestment Act. Anyone interested can write to Beth Wagner, South Shore Bank, 7054 S. Jeffery Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649, or call 312/288-1000."

NEIGHBORHOOD U Dag (from Erica Pascal, South Shore Bank, 7054 S. Jeffery Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649): "We are working on the idea of a neighborhood U Dag for our commercial strip in South Shore, and would like to hear from people who have put together successful neighborhood U Dag proposals." Please contact Erica at the above address or call her at 312/288-1000.

WORKPLACE DEMOCRATIZATION (from Michael Smith, Dept. of Political Science, Tulane Univ., New Orleans, LA, 70118): "I would welcome correspondence from any Networkers who have information about the different structural barriers facing

Sions, contrary to all the myths being bandied about."

HUMAN SCALE PLANNING (from Kirkpatrick Sale, 115 West 11 St., NYC 10011): "As I trust at least some of you know by now, I have just completed a book called 'Human Scale', published by Coward, McCann and colegian, which I think speaks directly to planners whose concern is human and communitarian values. Particularly the sections where I work out what is the optimum human-scale size of buildings, plazas, neighborhoods, communities, and cities, which I think should be both constructive and fun. I would appreciate hearing any comments from the Network."

LOW COST HOUSING FOR FORMER MENTAL PATIENTS (from Matthew Edel, Urban Studies Dept., Queens College, Flushing, N.Y.): Matthew writes that he is involved in "a project on coop (and condo) conversions, which is part of a HUD funded study run by a couple of the neo-classical economists at Queens. Despite differences in basic theoretical outlook, we are agree on a tremendous lack of information on what happens to the buildings that actually are converted, both before and after the conversions, and are trying to fill some of the gaps in information. I am trying to gather data on a sample of buildings in New York... I'd like to hear from others who are working in this field."

WOMEN AND IF/WHEN TO HAVE KIDS (from Matthew Edel, Urban Studies Dept., Queens College, Flushing, N.Y.): "Kim Edel and I are doing an ongoing study on the pressures that confront women who consider having children after they are thirty, and the job pressures that confront women who don't 'postpone' at least until then. We have found evidence of all sorts of exaggeration of risks in even the best of the popular literature that is beginning to emerge to encourage 'older' mothers, and are also working on the evidence on career effects. We hope to get a preliminary report out soon, and then seek support for more indepth studies. We would like to contact people who have done work either on medical or jobmarket issues related to this, or to talk to people whose own lives are affected by these pressures."

MIAMI RIOTS/HUD HOUSING MOBILITY PROGRAM (from Simon R. Ruderman, Metro-Dade County Planning, 909 S.E. First Ave., Suite 900, Miami 33131): "In the wake of the recent 'riots' I have been trying to explore for my office, the Metro-Dade County Planning Dept., the role that planning will have in re-building the area, and more importantly, in solving some of the fundamental problems of the affected neighborhoods. I'm afraid that some of the deeper problems will be glossed over in an attempt to provide a quick fix, for political reasons, particularly in an election year. While jobs are the primary problem, the lack of adequate housing is more my area of expertise, I'd like to get some opinions on the following about 2 months prior to the 'disturbances' HUD turned down an application for rehab of about 300 units of housing in that area, on the basis of the fact that there is an overconcentration of minority and low-income persons within the area. There is currently approximately a 2% vacancy rate in the county. The 'disturbances' area is the location for the route of the rapid transit system under U Dag construction which will facilitate access to jobs. I think that dispersal of the upper is necessary and important, but a more 'liberal' concept of this will diffuse the only chance Blacks may have of getting political power here (if districting of elective offices is ever finally instituted), result in their relocation in areas further from employment, and gentrify downtown. I would like to know if other planners are fighting HUD's housing mobility programs, and patients. There are an estimated 40,000 former patients in NYC and our agency provides one of the few housing resources available to emotionally disturbed adults on fixed incomes. I would like to hear from other readers who know of similar programs."

HUD STUDY ON CONDO CONVERSIONS (from Matthew Edel, Urban Studies Dept., Queens College, Flushing, N.Y.): Matthew writes that he is involved in "a project on coop (and condo) conversions, which is part of a HUD funded study run by a couple of the neo-classical economists at Queens. Despite differences in basic theoretical outlook, we are agree on a tremendous lack of information on what happens to the buildings that actually are converted, both before and after the conversions, and are trying to fill some of the gaps in information. I am trying to gather data on a sample of buildings in New York... I'd like to hear from others who are working in this field."

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NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION AND DEPLETION
(from Nathan Weber, 150 W. 21 St., NYC 10011): Nathan sent in a comment-letter which he wrote for the AFA Journal published in July, 1980. We felt it was too long to reproduce, since it is available in the Journal, but are calling your attention to it and experiments in workplace democratization in the United States, Britain, and Yugoslavia. This would be useful for a book I'm writing on the subject. I'd also welcome any feedback on my recent book "The City and Social Theory" (N.Y.: St. Martin's, 1979; Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1980).*

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE ON HOUSING: The fourth annual statewide Housing Action Conference sponsored by the California Housing Action and Information Network (CHAIN), will be held November 15-16 in Long Beach. Tenants, housing activists and concerned organizations are invited to "share information and strategies, and provide each other with support." There will be workshops, films, speakers and much more. For more information contact Karen Croner, CHAIN, 2647 E. 14th St., Oakland, CA, 94601, or call 415/533-1470.

CRIME AND PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC HOUSING (from Don Perlgut, P.O. Box 40, North Adelaide, South Australia 5006, Australia): "I am currently directing an environmental crime prevention research project sponsored by the Australian Criminology Research Council. I am also undertaking a Ph.D. thesis on public housing estate (project) management in Australia, with comparisons to the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. Am getting into issues of resident management and all of the gritty details of the often-maligned project managers. I will be visiting the U.S. (LA, SF, NY and Boston) in December and early January, and would be interested in hearing from people who are interested in these issues and perhaps getting together during my U.S. trip. (Note: I'm an American living in Australia)."

STOPPING CONVERSATIONS (from Hans Jorvis, Housing Coalition of Greater San Diego, 1172 Morena Blvd., San Diego, CA 92116): "We have recently contacted all S&L's in this area, and presently we are also contacting commercial banks, in order to induce them to stop financing conversions. We have had some interesting responses, some commitments by rather substantial institutions, and of course quite a few evasions. An intern is following these up.

It is a novel idea, and if nothing else, at least it should raise the consciousness of some people. We may ultimately consider advising our members to put their savings into S&L's who do not use their money to displace them. (For sample copies of the letter write to the above address.)"

I would like to call your attention to two reports, that, though they are written for local conditions, have general application in many respects and may be helpful. (1) "The Housing Crisis and the Impact of Condominium Conversions," from above. Cost: Plastic bound $2.50. Paper $1.50. (2) By Calpirc, 3000 "E" Street, San Diego 92102, "Tenants Displaced" Cost: $1.00.

The first report addresses many of the myths about conversions, such as: "The chance to own your own home," etc., plus other factors.

The "Calpirc" report is an excellent guideline for a survey of tenants, and it shows how tenants really feel about conversion--including his comments, which follow: "I've also included the official's response (to his letter), which I think distorts my letter, but which is interesting for its observation that, in the American housing market, poor people are hurt by disinvestment, reinvestment and the 'steady state' as well. I wonder if the official realizes that his comment is a telling critique of capitalism?"

THE POLITICS OF RURAL HOUSING: A Manual for Building Rural Housing Coalitions (147 pp.), has just been published by the Housing Assistance Council. It looks very useful. Some 20 state housing advocacy groups have been funded with $20,000 each to set up rural housing coalitions. I'm not sure if it's free or, if not, what it costs, but for copies or further information about this national advocacy effort, write: Marc Brown, HAC, 1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 606, Wash. 20005 or call 202/842-8656.

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THE WOMEN'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER is just what the name says. The center puts out a newsletter that should be of interest to people in this field. Address: HC6, Columbia Univ. School of Public Health, 60 Haven Ave., B-1, NYC 10027; Phone: 212/634-3464.

PEOPLE POWER: What communities are doing to counter inflation. Includes stories of group projects that cut costs or provide needed services in the areas of food, housing, energy and healthcare; extensive resources, and highlights of selected Federal assistance programs. FREE, Writer People Power, Consumer Information Center, Dept. 882-H, Pueblo, Col. 81009.


BLOCK GRANT ENERGY CONSERVATION: HUD has published a booklet describing energy related Community Development Block Grants in ten communities. Copies available from HUD, Washington, D.C. 20410.

PLANNING IN UTAH: (from Stephanie Loker, Salt Lake City Planning Commission, Salt Lake City): "Planning in Utah is alive and changing rapidly to meet the challenges we face with rapid growth and energy concerns. I find my self taking an MSW degree and using it as a Community Development planner for the city. Since it is a system and planning process that needs some change it is a good place to be for now... Let me know if I can be of any help here in Utah! Being the newsletter Editor for our AFA chapter I appreciate the job you do. I frequently cite new publications available from FN. Please keep up the quality and quantity of your writings..."

PROGRESSIVE UTILIZATION THEORY: (from Rob Kaplan and Carla Dickstein, 922 S. 48th St., Philadelphia, PA 19143): "The brief description of PROUT in the March issue of Planners Network was overly abstract and said nothing about PROUT's relevance to progressive/radical planning...

PROUT is a comprehensive social, political, economic philosophy which is based on a spiritual perspective of human nature. PROUT feels that the key to building a truly progressive society lies in encouraging people's psychological and spiritual advancement as well as in the forging of new socio-economic and political institutions. Some of PROUT's basic points:

PROUT's economic program calls for decentralization through the establishment of socio-economic units or regions which are self-sufficient in the basic necessities. PROUT also advocates worker control of most industry and businesses through cooperatives, limits on the accumulation of wealth, and incentives to encourage socially beneficial efforts at increasing productivity.

PROUT's political program calls for strict ethical standards by which to hold political officials as well as extensive educational programs to improve people's capability of being a responsible and socially aware electorate. PROUT also advocates a withdrawal of the state's interference in cultural, educational and journalistic affairs in order to maintain a true freedom of speech.

In the U.S., members of Proutist Universal are publishing papers in Seattle, Wichita, Carbondale, Ill., Chapel Hill-Raleigh, Washington and Philadelphia which provide a progressive/radical perspective on the news. Members are also active in local political and social movements such as starting CDCs and coops and linking efforts to develop decentralized regional economies.

The North American office (Proutist Universal is a worldwide movement) is P.O. Box 56456, Washington, D.C. 20011. Planners with particular interests in PROUT as a new theory of planning (that's how we see it) can write us.

COLUMBUS TENANTS UNION (from Deb Herzberger, Columbus Tenants Union, 5 W. Northwood Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43203): "The Columbus Tenants Union has existed for 9 years.
ADDENDUM TO SEPTEMBER, 1980 PLANNERS NETWORK ROSTER

JOHN T. BEST, 302 N. Edgewood St., Philadelphia, PA 19139. Currently engaged in building a community education program. Involved in setting up a community development corporation. Appreciate data and information on CDC's. Also HSA interest.

WINI BREINES, 30 York Terrace, Brookline, MA 02146


BARRIE FIEDLER, 38 Chalcot Crescent, London NW1, England. "Since November 1979 I've been working as a Housing Officer for Circle 33 Housing Trust. Circle 33 is a registered housing association which provides rehab and new-build housing, with government grants, for low income people, and others with special housing needs, in inner London. I'm particularly interested in East Coast news."

ROGER FRIEDLAND, Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

MICHAEL HIBBARD, CSAP, Univ. of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. Phone: 503/686-3897 or 686-3807. "I've taken a job at the University of Oregon School of Community Service and Public Affairs. CSAP is an interdisciplinary applied social science program offering BA/BS degrees in community development, human services, public policy, public management, and international studies; and MA/MS degrees in public affairs and international studies. The faculty is a mix of planners, sociologists, political scientists, social workers, and psychologists. As a group, we're most interested in state and local affairs (even the international studies people focus on rural development in the third world), community control of the welfare state apparatus, decentralization of public-decision-making and management, etc. My personal interests continue to run in the directions of housing and rural - especially American Indian - community social and economic development."

GERARD LEBBINK, Geldropweeg 12, 5611 SL Eindhoven, Holland.

ALAN LEIDNER, 225 Park Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11238

PAUL R. LEVY, Office of Housing and Community Development, 703 City Hall Annex, Philadelphia, PA 19107 Phone: 215/WA2-8960 (work).

D. LOGGINS, 723 E. 10th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230

KEVIN LYNCH, 85 Russell Ave., Watertown, MA 02172.

PETE NELSON, 1020 N. Park Ave., Pomona, CA 91768. "In the past I've been involved with local citizen groups which provide input for the City's two CDBG programs as well as the updating of the general plan. I am currently looking for a position in the Los Angeles urban area more directly related to advocacy planning for the disadvantaged."

LELAND NEUBERG, 37 Winthrop Rd., Brookline, MA 02146. Working on a book on controlled experimentation and public policy which concentrates on a critique of the four income maintenance experiments which have been conducted in the last decade.

ERICA PASCAL, 71st and Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649. Phone: 312/288-1000.

VICTOR RUBIN, 316 63rd St. #6, Oakland, CA 94618. Doctoral Student, UC Berkeley City and Regional Planning; research associate, UCB School of Education; Member of Oakland Study Center, a community-based information service.

SIMON RUDERMAN, 7815 Camino Real, Apt. 317, Miami, FLA 33143.

SUE RYBURN, 1575 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego, CA 92107. Phone: 714/222-0048.

KIRKPATRICK SALE, 113 West 11th, New York, N.Y. 10011. Phone: 212/989-5098.

ROBIN SALTONSTALL, SERI, 1536 Cole Blvd., Golden, CO 80401. "I'm working in program planning and policy analysis here at the Solar Energy Research Institute. My particular interests and projects focus on women, development, and solar energy applications in the Third World. I am also reviewing state level solar energy information and outreach programs and local solar energy projects, communities, etc."

ANDY SCHIFFRIN, 331 Chiliverton, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Working for County Supervisor in Santa Cruz and serving on city's Housing Advisory Committee.

ALVIN SCHORR, School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve Univ., Cleveland, OH 44106.

TIM STROSHANE, 107½ Cedar St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060. "I am particularly interested in water resource planning, politics and economics in California."

LANE TAPLEY, 3428 Oliver St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.

ERNIE TURNER, N.Y. Urban Coalition, 1515 Broadway New York City, N.Y. 10036. Phone: 212/921-3500.

GOETZ WOLFF, 2939 Kelton Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064. "I have taught urban politics and energy alternatives for smaller cities at Univ. of North Carolina at Asheville and Univ. of Wisconsin at La Crosse. In both places I was involved in community organizing around housing, energy and other issues. Currently I'm on the National Steering Committee of the Citizens Party."

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Most of our work consists of tenant organizing. We've had a lot of success but also a lot of failures. We hope to learn more about your organizing techniques, your successes, your failures, and what you feel is the best way to organize. We feel you can get other people's input, this will help us in our future organizing."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA (from Don Perlgut, P.O. Box 40, North Adelaide, South Australia 5006, Australia): "A book that Networkers may wish to note - if they can get their hands on it. It's entitled, 'Unemployment: A Social and Political Analysis of the Economic Crisis in Australia' by Keith Windschuttle, published by Penguin books (in paperback here at least). It's an excellent socialist analysis and applicable to the U.S. as well as to Australia."

DANISH HOUSING COLLECTIVE (from Peter Lyngse, Bodkerporten 5, 2650 Hvidovre, Denmark. Tel: (01) 4968 04): Peter writes that he's a 'Danish planner, unemployed, active in the tenants union where I live in a cooperative, non-profit housing complex of 2,500 apartments in a working class suburb of Copenhagen, and on a national basis in the Danish National Tenants Association and in the housing committee of VS, a revolutionary marxist party, bigger than the ones known in the U.S., with about 4% of the votes on a national basis in parliamentary elections. Always glad to receive visitors in the collective.'

AFFORDABLE HOUSING (from Andy Schaffrin, 331 Chilworth, Santa Cruz, CA 95062): "I'm still working for a County Supervisor in Santa Cruz and serving on the City of Santa Cruz Housing Advisory Committee. Both the City and County have voter-enacted growth management ordinances which require that at least 15% of all newly constructed housing be affordable to average and below average income people. Through additional incentives we are generally getting larger projects to provide 25%. The program is really just getting off the ground and the outrageous interest rates have hurt. We don't yet know the extent to which we can meet the goals.

Although we are just tinkering with the basic economic system and its structural inequities, we are trying to maximize federal subsidies, local and state financial and land resources, and contributions from developers to provide, at least, some help to those almost totally excluded from adequate housing opportunities.'

LINKS BETWEEN SPIRITUALITY AND PLANNING (from Bob Kaplan, 322 S. 48th St., Philadelphia 19144): Bob writes that one of his interests is "the relevance of spirituality and spiritual practices to planning theory and practice. For example, I've found meditation and the corresponding development of my intuition to be extremely helpful in broadening my view of social issues, in improving my ability to deal with complexity, and in fostering a greater sensitivity to human and moral concerns.'

RETURNED NEWSLETTERS: Newsletters to the following people were returned undelivered. If they (or someone who knows them) do not contact the Newsletter office with their correct address, they will be dropped from future mailings.


A FINAL NOTE FROM THE BERKELEY FOLKS: For this issue, Daniel Farber, Linda Gardner, Amy Glassmeler, Nancey Leigh-Preston, Ann Markusen, Phil Shapira, Marc Weiss and David Wilmoth handled the regular administrative, writing and editing functions of the newsletter, and the material to Chester Hartman and the North Carolina group for preparing the Union discussion part and producing the issue.

We hope your comments on the discussion in this issue will be forwarded to us in time for the December issue, by November 30. We expect to return to the regular format for the next issue, with a good amount of networking information to share.

We apologize for some administrative boo-boos. The Post Office stored the overflow from our small box and then forgot to tell us about it until after issue #25 was mailed out. We therefore 'retired' some Networkers who had indeed contributed news and money (a supplement to the 1980 Roster is enclosed). We also made some mistakes of our own and sent multiple copies to some people and none to others. Most of these problems have been solved. Please let us know if they remain.

Despite the problems we've encountered producing them, the last few issues have been very rewarding. Our involvement has put us in touch with an impressive movement of people across the country. With each issue something always happens at the last moment. The last issue was no exception; Ann Markusen and Marc Weiss gave birth to a baby boy just before the printer's deadline.

Some are born, some pass on... We would like to pass on the production of the newsletter, thereby relinquishing the West Coast monopoly. We hope that there is a group of Networkers somewhere who would like to take it up for a while. Please let us know if you might be that group.

Nancy Leigh-Preston
David Wilmoth

RETURN BY NOV. 4 TO BOB BEAUREGARD, DEPT. OF URBAN PLANNING, LIVINGSTON COLLEGE, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903.

1A ___ I think it is time for a radical planners organization to evolve out of the Planners Network.

or

1B ___ I think it would be a mistake to form an organization at this time.

2A ___ I would definitely join such an organization.

or

2B ___ I might join such an organization providing it took a form I think is appropriate.

3 ___ I would probably attend the founding conference (assuming time/location are suitable).

4A ___ I tend to favor a loosely structured organization, built largely around task force projects.

or

4B ___ I tend to favor a more tightly structured organization of the type proposed by the NY Area Network.

5 ___ I would be willing to do some organizing work around the founding conference.

Additional Comments: ________________________________

______________________________