PLANNERS NETWORK
360 Elizabeth St.
San Francisco, Cal. 94114
[415] 282-1249
#5-June 18, 1976

Dear Network People:

The main happening between the last Network mailing and now is that a bunch of regional meetings have been held, putting people in direct contact with one another and setting in motion a process which can possibly move things more quickly. The first section of this mailing will consist of reports and (edited) minutes of the various gatherings, to give everyone an idea of what's happening.

WASHINGTON, March 23-24, in conjunction with AIP/ASPO meeting (Carla Cohen): More than one hundred people attended an evening session in Washington, D.C. designed to bring together people who are dissatisfied with the emphasis and direction of "planning profession." The group discussed a broad range of issues:

- What is a radical planner?
- What are the relevant issues for planning?
- Should there be a set of professional ethics, a Hippocratic oath?
- Why doesn't the AIP fund local CDC's like AIA does?
- How do we make a greater impact on next year's professional meetings?

How do you get a coherent socialist strategy for the country? Following a free ranging and rather disjointed discussion of some of these issues, the meeting broke into regional groups which established local networks and meeting times.

A much smaller group (twenty) reassembled the following day, and struggled for hours to try to develop the next professional meeting-a specific workshop in which people involved in local communities could compare experiences and increase their awareness of social justice issues.

There was both in the evening and the next day a demand for working towards a more coherent agenda, out of which we could innovate, experiment, and advocate. David Harvey, Professor of Geography at Johns Hopkins, attended the evening session. His book Social Justice and the City, which deals with this issue, is highly recommended.

Alan Kravitz from New York pointed out that lots of planners are frustrated, don't understand why their plans aren't working. They are being asked to do too much. There are a number of people who have been developing alternative frameworks-these ought to be explored.

Wayne Hays, from New Jersey, said that planners have to have a better sense of identity so that they can use themselves more effectively. We have to examine the forces which create our work. We need to look at the sources of power, before we can become planners in a more authentic fashion.

Bill Cohen, from Delaware, asked that we pull people together to look for means of solving problems, get in a position to riot social injustice, and be willing to take positions.

BOSTON, March 30, May 4 and May 24 (Barbara Beelar and others). The Boston folk will meet again on Wednesday, June 23, 8 p.m., at the Joint Center for Urban Studies, 53 Church St., Cambridge. Contact person is Carl Sussman, Camb. Policy Studies Inst., 123 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge.

The first meeting will be on Wednesday, May 12, 8 p.m., at the Joint Center Library, 53 Church St. in Cambridge at 7:30, Monday, May 24. We will begin with an informal half hour or so around beer and wine. After an information sharing session like the first part of the May 4th meeting, we will have a featured program-in this case Tunney Lee will show his slides of China and discuss his trip there. Finally, we hope to have time for a large group informal session where people can share ideas and talk about whatever they want.

Skill Bank Questionnaires-Comments (Mike Sherman)

So far the response to the skill bank questionnaire has been slow, about half a dozen, but the responses have been generally enthusiastic.

There is a lot of interest, mine included, in the setting up of a job bank which would be a kind of volunteer job bank where people can offer help in particular areas such as planning, to one another. People are interested in helping each other.

As the bank was conceived at the last meeting, it will exist as a resource for people's participation.

The meeting did not attempt to create a well-defined image for the whole group. Rather we used the group as a forum for individual interests and concerns. Some of these interests included: exploration of a work collective (are there as many people out of work in other cities? many people at the meeting who were unemployed or soon to be so; development of study and research groups (though no particular content areas were identified); creation of a skills bureau which will list planner-types with progressive/ left perspectives who might be able to share their skills with groups requiring technical assistance; creation of a jobs bank; and, the designation of a central information number (617-547-4473).

Access to the skill bank was another issue the questionnaire raised. At this point, the consensus seems to be that the group should be advised of what requests are being made, but that approval need not be specifically given, unless a large commitment of time and people is requested. When we have a few months more experience in what kinds of requests are being made, and how the requests are being made, we may be able to form a more clear policy.

Another thing the questionnaire did not get into was means of contact. One suggestion in the response involved setting up seminars and workshops for people interested in particular planning activities. It seems that spending some time looking at the assumptions that lie behind patterns of land use, for example, or to schedule a seminar within the next month. Topics are open.

The Boston Folk noted that they would need more responses, so please get them in. I could also use some feedback.
Minutes of May 26

Following an extended period of informal chat and popcorn munching, the points of business listed below were discussed:

1. On behalf of the folks at Urban Planning Aid, Barbara Beelar thanked everyone who helped make the May 22 hearing before the Community Services Administration a success. The purpose of the hearing was to show cause for UPA to be re-funded. There was no indication as to the determination the hearing administrator will make, but UPA’s case was well presented.

2. Several suggestions were made regarding the mechanics of these meetings:
   - Carla Oktige and Carl Sussman, who have handled distribution of meeting minutes, etc., up to this point, suggested that we rotate responsibility for preparing the minutes, chairing the meeting, etc. There was general agreement on this point.
   - Barbara Beelar will handle this mailing; a list was circulated to determine when various people would have time to help with mailings.

3. The Skill Bank: Mike Sherman has received 10 responses to the questionnaire. No particular needs for skilled individuals have been expressed. For now, he will contact whoever appears to be qualified for any positions which come to his attention. If you have any contacts, please send them to Mike Sherman, c/o Carl Sussman, P.O. Box 731, San Francisco.

4. A management/planner position will be available with Resource Planning Associates within the next month or so. Salary: $16K-20K. For further information, contact Bruce Post, 661-1410.

5. If your organization needs some help this summer, but can’t afford to pay for it, contact Ken Geiser or Jon Pynoos. They have a conglomeration of undergraduate and graduate students with a wide variety of skills and interests, and can do work for non-profit organizations. For more information, contact Ken Geiser at 741-4632.

Tunney Lee showed a fantastic collection of slides from his recent trip to China. A wide-ranging informative discussion followed the presentation. Tunney plans to write about the trip as soon as time permits.

NEW YORK, May 27 (Bruce Dale and others). Next meeting will be Saturday, June 26, 10 a.m. (all day) at Lewisohn Hall, Columbia University. Contact Urban Deadline, 2246 Broadway, NYC 10024, 724-7200 for further details.

People have been very eager to talk to each other, to hear what others had to say. Not to get into the numbers game, there were several estimates: 100, 125, and 150—the actual number does not mean as much to us as the potential significance of what any of us guessed would show up. When we got to the “once around the room” introductions Peter Marcuse kept statistics on who we were indicating that the largest number of people were students, adding that a substantial number worked for NYC departments, and the remainder represented a miscellany of private agency employees, non-profit bodies, other professionals (health, law, etc.), and unemployed.

And thanks to a little preparation by a small group of us Jackie Leavitt, the Chairperson, was able to handle the difficulties we knew had to be confronted.

Organizational: Do we need it or are we to remain, for at least, now, a loosely bound network? (According to Webster’s: “A fabric or structure of cords or wires that cross as regular intervals and are knotted or secured at the crossings.”) In any event, best describes our decision to accept a temporary volunteer steering committee for the tri-state region, and their mandate is to set up a New York newsletter and to organize a second get-together. To accomplish these aims we are asking all people in the Network who relate in some way to New York to communicate to us immediately their thoughts, ideas and proposals for our next move.

We are prepared to put together these proposals and distribute them to people who signed the mailing list April 27 or communicate their desire to participate by writing to the above address.

As for the second get-together we are asking people to set aside June 26th, 1976, a Saturday. More precise information will be available after the next steering committee meeting, scheduled for May 26th. We are hopeful that the second get-together will generate more of that same good feeling people had April 27.

It was also decided, about the same time, that each other, and the Network was considered a good medium to exchange ideas and for some of us an opportunity to explore various possibilities to develop our unified approach. There are ideological differences, as well as operational differences to be resolved. There is still the question of whether or not New York can maintain a local newsletter and whether this will be an insert in the national network newsletter or separate? There is talk of an institute and the problems of how to define membership. But, we feel the consensus is that it was a good start.

Those of us who attended the first get-together for the Network in New York found a lot of people, as individuals and representing existing groups, who think the Network idea of making connections across the divided community was a good idea. Some are working directly on local problems together, can work in the New York area. To get things moving, a volunteer steering committee was formed, the point of which was to decide how the network should be patterned after and tied to Chester’s national letter, but emphasizing New York (Tri-State) communications, what our groups are doing, and the question of establishing some structure to the network.

The follow-up meeting of the volunteer steering committee drew 18 people. The group decided to get the newsletter started, and to set aside June 26 for a one day meeting to discuss possible activities and direction for the network through an in-depth analysis of one particular local issue (topic to be determined).

We are also considering a film screening focusing on planning issues. If you have films to suggest, or some ideas on how to organize the film screening(s), please let us know.

On May 26 the steering committee had its second meeting to clarify the form and content of the June 26 meeting.

One of the basic network ideas is that to join it is to participate, passive readerships being discouraged. To get the New York network together the steering committee is asking each of us to send in a brief description (one page maximum) of our interests and work. This information will be copied and distributed at the June 26 meeting. (Be sure to send it to Barbara Beelar, 2nd floor, 1300 Broadway, if you can) to help cover costs of reproduction. The collected responses will, in effect, constitute the first New York area newsletter.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8: About 75 people attended the all-day meeting (somewhat curtailed because we learned at the last minute we could use the school building we had reserved for six hours maximum). Most were from the Bay Area, but people came from all over in the B.U. urban intern program. Perhaps as a result, there was a lot of enthusiasm for getting together as soon as possible. Following the presentations, people threw out their ideas on possible activities within the Network—no less than 71 ideas were listed on a big recording sheet. Following lunch people broke into groups to work on some of these ideas, formed out of a number of the morning’s ideas: 1) Support functions for people working in public agencies; 2) Research, technical assistance and advocacy groups; 3) Consulting; 4) Coordination and networking aimed toward the public; 4) Internal Network processes (e.g. study groups); 5) Developing, taking and supporting political action; 6) New additions is that people frequently want to look at past mailings. It's a problem for the Network to have them reprinted, in part because much of the material is outdated. What I plan to do is make a condensed version of the first mailing and have that printed for those who are working in New York found a lot of people, as individuals and representatives of community groups, who think the Network idea of making connections across the divided community was a good idea. Some are working directly on local problems together, can work in the New York area. To get things moving, a volunteer steering committee was formed, the point of which was to decide how the network should be patterned after and tied to Chester’s national letter, but emphasizing New York (Tri-State) communications, what our groups are doing, and the question of establishing some structure to the network.

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We’ll continue to report on these gatherings to the Network as a whole, and send copies of the SF meeting to all interested.”

Notice about the Network have also appeared recently in Planning, Urban Research News, Workforce and The Progressive, all of which have put new people in touch with us. A VERY SIGNIFICANT E.L.S. COURT RULING was handed down recently in Minneapolis. Jack Cann, a community organiz-
On March 29 in Minneapolis, Federal Judge Miles Lord set some useful housing and environmental precedents when he adopted a Special Master’s findings in the Cedar-Riverside Environmenal Impact Statement case. Judge Lord stressed the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Statement for a large scale HUD New Community project near downtown Minneapolis. The New Community was planned for 13,000 new highrise units and would have involved the expenditure of about $800,000,000 in public and private investment over 20 years. In addition to finding the EIS inadequate because of failure to disclose significant environmental effects of air and noise pollution, traffic congestion and lack of open space, the Court found: 

- Failure of a proposed development to meet an area’s pressing housing needs is a serious negative effect which must be considered when exploring possible alternatives. In this case, not a single unit of low income housing for larger families was proposed.
- Absentee ownership creates significant negative environmental effects which cooperative ownership avoids.
- An EIS must include enough detail on a project’s proposed financing to allow an assessment of interests that decision-makers might be weighing in opposition to environmental concerns. In this case, the judge held that “... high densities and high-rise construction were directed only by profit-making and, probably, tax-shelter considerations.”
- It was also held that an EIS must be a decision-making tool, with alternatives seriously considered and compared.
- The Court’s order was not just that a new EIS be prepared, but that the new EIS conform to the court’s findings and that any future development conform to the new EIS.

The main practical and immediate effect of the decision is to push the case even closer to foreclosure and put the neighborhood Tenants Union and Community Development Corporation in a better position to pick up the pieces.

WALTER THABIT has sent in a good 14-page report called “Buckeye Village: Beyond the Headlines,” documenting how that community was destroyed via foreclosures, abandonment and demolition, and the recovery attempts on the part of the remaining community. Copies available from Walter at 17 Murray St., NYC 10007.

SEATTLE: Alan Robinowitz sent in the following mini-report:

For a week, some people with some free time, and below, the State of Washington and the Seattle area are good places to live, but drastic changes in the system will not come easily, and some of the most drastic changes would merely bring Washington up to the level of other states.

We have a most regressive state-local tax system, with no income tax, with a sales tax on all commodities including food, and with the only tax on property which does not have some “circuit-breaker” features. The biggest issue at the moment is school finance, and many good people are working on some des­perately needed improvements in that system.

Washington, having come to statehood in 1889, wrote a constitution with particularly strong prohibitions against the lending of public money for private purposes. While perhaps not difficult for industrialists to get municipalities to build pollution control facilities for them, it has also operated to reduce the urban re­newal approach to invisibility, to make programs for rehabilita­tion housing almost impossible, and to foster the suspicion that there is something insidious about public programs of assistance to any but the very poor.

In sum, there is some action toward a policy about redlining in Seattle, some action stirring about school finance, and very little else. The Model Cities Program in Seattle was importantly worked up in downtown commercial renewal rather than in a skid row. There is little concern at all about housing or about discrimination in hous­ing. There is little concern about migratory workers, Indian Tribes, restrictions on agribusiness and major logging compa­nies, and so on. Some of these are political issues, of course, some of these are political in that system. Washington.

There is little state-local regulation of a new form of open space. I would be interested in finding out what the details of this occurrence are, that much of the remainder (from the Battery to 46th St.) is closed pending reconstruction. In the interim the closed portion of the roadway has become a new form of open space. I would be interested in finding out what the details of this occurrence are.
COUNTERBUDGETS: Ann Markusen (Cromwell, Minn. 55726) has done some work on local counter-budgets and would like to get in touch with others interested in this.

"It's a really sound idea, I think, and one that organizers often overlook. In 1971, someone gave me the idea of modelling a local budget attack along the line of the recent Urban Coalition's na
tional effort. We did it for East Lansing, we did it for East Lansing to rechannel a lot ($50,000-100,000) away from 'downtown beauti-
fication' toward human services. Also managed to embarrass the local administration. We never got the obvious amount of money we'd budgeted. Most residents cannot get a copy of the city budget, much less understand if they do. This includes, incidentally, city council members themselves, who usually are afraid of blowing their cool and simply pass on the recommendations that are passed on to them.

As a strategy a counterbudget effort is successful if it does emb
dersever the turnover of funds from for-profit to public ef-
forts without putting the city in control of those operations. For instance, in East Lansing we merely requested that the city pay the rent for the drug education center, the women's center, et
so that they would not have any control over the ideas or actions of those groups. It also has long run payoffs in forcing the city to be more open in its budget-making process. You just go to the council meetings and ask embarrassing questions, demonstrating to council members that they don't know the half of what is going on.

I have the sense that the relation line is between when a counterbudget effort is a good consciousness-raising reform and when it is a waste of effort leading to merely small improvement in the lot of a few. We worked with the city council in Boulder this year and had good feelings about the whole thing. Boulder exhibited typical trade unionist attitudes toward their jobs while others were really interested in community/workers coalitions and excited about the prospect of pursuing funding for projects over some of the city operations. Well, anyway, this is for a long run conversation that the network might have about the validity of a militant attack to redirect the blood of a city—its budget."

RICK SURPIN writes:

"The kind of discussion of alternative programs and visions suggested by Elliot Sclar is also something that I think should be pursued. While such journals as Working Papers and Social Policy concern themselves with the refinement of ideas for work that is either contemplated or has already been initiated. Often such ideas are shared in mimeographed working papers whose circulation is limited to dependence on the representativeness of close association. As a consequence, many ideas develop from personal/small groups dis-
cussions that someone might find worthwhile to write a short statement on but could not find the time or have the inclination to develop in a more formal article. In any case, the Network is an obvious outlet for such work as well as a fairly diverse source for feedback, further exploration and possibly the connecting of in
dividuals with ideas of a similar concern."

MURRAY SILVERSTEIN would like to call people's attention to the recently published book The Oregon Experiment (Oxford Uni.

R. HALL, Columbia University, NYC 10027. I sent off a $1000 contri-
bution from Network funds, as mentioned in the last newsletter, as a way of offering to object.

A GOOD JOB: COMO (Communities of the Outer Mission Organ-
ization), a strong and well established San Francisco neighbor-
hood group, is looking for a new staff director. Contact Larry George, the present director, at 601 Tomkins Ave., SF 94110, (415) 648-5605.

HABITAT: Not that many of you expressed plans to go there and in interest in getting together, so a special mailing didn’t seem waranted. I hope those of you who were there managed to make some contacts with one another and good things on that.

JEFF BALOUTINE writes: "I will be on the road this summer looking for interesting work in (or related to) land use planning/policy development (or related to) community/gender work in the Northeast. Background: masters in planning from U. of Texas, plus two years experience working with local governments in Texas. I live in St. Paul, MN. Box 26A, Los Angeles 90026, (213) 935-8692, is a public-interest group that does research, litigation, legislative advocacy and publicity around a variety of housing, health care and political reform issues. They've been involved with red-lining and redevelopment problems in the LA area. People in Southern California (and others interested in similar projects elsewhere in the country) can get more information from their executive director, Cary Lowe.

NEIGHBORHOODS is a good Philadelphia-based newsletter, put out by the Institute for the Study of Civic Values, 401 N. Broad Philadelphia 19108 (215) WA-5060.

TRAINING FOR URBAN ALTERNATIVES is a coalition of people and groups working cooperatively in New Haven. A report on their first year's program (dealing with childcare, a feminist credit union, a community newspaper, housing, and women and children's theater, women's health projects and food coops) is available from the Unschls Educa-
tional Services Corp., P.O. Box 753, New Haven, Conn. 06503.

SEVERAL PEOPLE have asked me to put Networkers to at-
tention a good radical British quarterly, Race and Class, available from the Institute of Race Relations, 24 Pentonville Rd., London N1 (subs are $15 a year).

THE FEDERATION OF ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, CHEM-
ISTS AND TECHNICIANS was a union of professionals in the design and planning (among other things). Contact Mr.

And account to the membership at frequent open meetings.

Though there was much internal ferment regarding activities

The union was organized on national, regional and local levels.

In its hey day, the union had a national membership of 60,000

The union was unique because its professional membership and radical leader-

ship evolved it into a sort of cross between a labor union, a pro-
fessional society and a radical activist organization. "Planning"

and "union" were dirty words among professional and intellec-
tual workers in those days. They were "Bolshevik,"

"commu-
nist," "red," and "un-American." The FAECT pushed to make them respectable. And one of those who contributed in this was

our own Hans Blumenfeld, one of the earliest activists in the

and what the future prospects are for reconstruction. If any of

the future prospects are for reconstruction. If any of

your Eastern correspondents could fill me in, I'd be appreciatev."

COUNTERBUDGETS: Ann Markusen (Cromwell, Minn. 55726) has done some work on local counter-budgets and would like to get in touch with others interested in this.
C/O, A JOURNAL OF ALTERNATIVE HUMAN SERVICES, has begun publishing again after a year and a half hiatus. Jeff Unsicker (621 Fourth Ave., San Diego, Ca. 92101), a member of the editorial board, would like to hear from anyone interested in contributing to the journal.

COMMON GROUND is an excellent quarterly put out in Minneapolis, a good model for a local radical magazine. The latest (Winter-Spring, 1976) issue contains a special section on local organizing. It contains articles on local labor struggles and local cultural history. Their address is 2214 Elliot Ave. S., Minneapolis 55404. Another local magazine you might want to look at is Community: A Journal of Constructive Social Change (P.O. Box 11922, Fresno, Ca. 93711).

IT'S ABOUT TIME is a brand new publication subtitled "A Search for Radical Perspectives on Aging." It's put out by a collective of the same name, reachable c/o the Heller School, Brandeis Univ., Waltham, Mass. 02154.

STEVE SOLOMON (8012 Denrock Ave., L.A., Ca. 90066) has two ideas to put forth for the Network:

"First of all, I am most willing and eager to organize a comprehensive anti-war effort. Our campaign could be an alternative occupation for planners and student organizers. This would involve Network member input regarding alternative planning positions (e.g. consultants to tenants' organizations, planners for community development corporations, community-based neighborhood organizations, planning, environmental groups, etc.). Also, 'straight' planning jobs could be included (i.e. local, state, and federal government openings). My interest in undertaking this action stems from my activities at UCSB in 1972 where I organized a Symposium on Alternative Occupations (while working with the Undergrad Sociology Union and the Thomas Fire Bart Brigade and a woman from NACL). The purpose of the Symposium was to educate sociology students and other interested students as to what alternative occupations existed and the work involved in these jobs. For satisfying projects, the people attending, and an area that I personally was interested in and felt that other students at UCSB were also concerned about. I would really appreciate any comments and suggestions from yourself and other Networkers regarding this proposal—especially from Vocations for Social Change, who pioneered compiling lists of alternative occupations.

Secondly, I am interested in organizing a caucus of Network planning students to provide a forum for sharing interests in planning, and especially of academic work to real life situations, feelings and attitudes about the field of planning and the direction it should take regarding social change, matching the current interests and research of other Network members with student projects. This could include planning students taking an active role in curriculum development, faculty appointments, and internships.

Any comments, suggestions, and other input from Network members regarding these two proposals would be most welcome. I have even come up with a name for the compendium of alternative planning occupations—"Planning for a Change."

THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD is holding its next National Executive Board meeting in New Brunswick, NJ, August 13-16. This is a quasi-conference with workshops and panel discussions, and a good part of the meeting will focus on housing and the problems of urban activists in the area. Any one interested in attending or participating in panel discussions should contact John Atlas of the Shelterforce Collective (which is a Guild project), at 31 Chestnut St., E. Orange, NJ 07018, (201) 673-2405.

SHELTERFORCE is probably known to most of you (I believe every issue of the organization's newsletter also receives a copy of the newspaper of the same name put out by the collective). John Atlas has provided a brief rundown of the collective's activities, other than the newspaper:

1. 1976 Guild Summer Housing Project: This project, in its second year, recruits 10 law students, and legal workers, from different parts of the country to work with community groups or organizations on low-income housing projects of a relatively high success level, emphasizing community urban decay and fighting to regain control over their community and housing conditions.

Last summer the students and legal workers had a visible effect in broadening the base of the community groups with which they were involved. In New Brunswick, preliminary research was done for an 'anti-redlining' campaign; a successful fight was led against middleclass landlords by a 37-year-old lawyer. The lawyer had no previous experience in housing law, but was instrumental in convincing the Community Services Administration to tentatively withdraw all federal support from UPA. That decision is currently being appealed.

I view the Tenants First/UPA conspiracy case as a serious threat to community organizing all over the country. If Max Kargman is able to stop on tenant organizing in his projects by making the courts use sound judgement to shut down effective tenant organizing, the tenant movement is likely to lose much needed national housing movement, and it needs help—mainly bucks. MARTI BIERBAUM, one of the Shelterforce attorneys, thinks the following.

"I would like to urge the people in the network to support Shelterforce—and support it more enthusiastically. The feedback on Shelterforce has been so positive that it has been overwhelming. We are getting mail from planners, lawyers, and tenant groups all over this country, Britain, and Canada. Unfor­tunately, financial support has not been as strong. We feel that if other students at UCSB were also concerned about. I would really appreciate any comments and suggestions from yourself and other Networkers regarding this proposal—especially from Vocations for Social Change, who pioneered compiling lists of alternative occupations.

Well, that about wraps it up for this quasi-bimonthly period. One last note regarding your communications to me: the last newsletter I included as part of some material sent in a few accompanying off-the-cuff comments by the correspondent which he had written in a hurry. I would like to see more consistent drop in periodically, since communications from those of you I have personal relationships with often contain many different kinds of material. I try to use sound judgement in including these materials. The newspaper of the same name put out by the collective there was active in organizing buildings and meeting with tenant leaders to develop new strategies for concerted attacks against slum­lordism.

3. Peopless Law School of Newark: In February, 1976, a coalition of groups including local tenant organizations, the Shelterforce Collective, Rutgers Law School and the Lawyers Guild started a community law school to train organizers. Our first course focused on housing and includes seminars and lectures on the politics and economics of housing, tenants rights and how to organize a tenant union.

The primary goal of NJTO is to correct the inequities in the landlord-tenant relationship through legislative lobbying and tenant organizing within the present economic system. NJTO's effect on changing landlord-tenant laws has been very dramatic. New Jersey has become one of the most progressive landlord-tenant laws in the country, including a prohibition on evictions unless the landlord has a good reason.

NETWORK NEWS:

3. Citywide Tenant Organizations: We are also working with various local tenant organizations attempting to raise the consciousness of planning and the class nature of our society. We help organize, do workshops and produce how-to-do-it materials. Our latest venture was to force the city of East Orange to join the New Jersey Tenant Association with $30,000 of Community Development funds.

5. Statewide Coalition: Shelterforce Collective and NJTO are part of a statewide coalition of community organizations working to be presented at an issues forum of presidential candidates and dispersed as widely as possible to the media. This coalition includes liberals, left democrats, anti-war groups, radical labor unions, and others. I think it is of particular interest to you.

New Jersey Hard Times Coalition: A small coalition of radical groups. This is just beginning. We hope to build a coalition of groups that will support each other's struggles around issues of jobs and adequate social services.

7. N.J. Legal Services: A small group of us work in the Neighborhood Legal Services. We are trying to make sense of the role of the lawyer in a community, for a government agency and at the same time maintain our commitment to confront injustice and bring about radical change. Two of us work in a Housing Unit for the next year. I think this is of particular interest to you.

URBAN PLANNING AID: The enclosed funding appeal from the Tenants First Defense Committee is directly related to the de­

funding of Urban Planning Aid in Cambridge. The same landlord discussed in the previous letter is the lead defendant in a Federal suit on the city's new rent control ordinance. I believe this is valuable. We would hate to see it go under for reasons so mundane as a lack of funds. Right now, we would prefer dollars to suggestions on how to raise additional money. Things are really tight. Suggestions can be sent to UNSICKER (621 Fourth Ave., San Diego, Ca. 92101), a member of the Network Community: A Journal of Constructive Social Change.
During the 1960s the federal government subsidized developers to build privately owned housing. Through uncontrolled construction profits and lucrative tax incentives, huge profits were realized by those who built housing which Congress mandated for "low and moderate income people." By the early 1970s the program was a failure. The conditions at many of the projects were rapidly deteriorating due to faulty construction and rents were being raised beyond the means of low income tenants.

Kargman's projects were undoubtedly the most trouble-ridden in Massachusetts. Tenants in his projects soon organized unions and by 1972 had combined to form the Tenants First Coalition (TFC). The coalition fought unjustified rent increases and deteriorating conditions. TFC, which includes FHA developments owned by other landlords, is the largest dues paying tenant organization in Massachusetts with over 1400 members.

In June 1975, with tenants organizing in more than half of his seventeen projects, Kargman filed a suit in Massachusetts Superior Court charging TFC, its tenant leaders, and UPA with "conspiracy to redistribute the wealth." Kargman is seeking an order enjoining the First Amendment activities of the tenant unions—writing newsletters, advising tenants of their rights, bringing lawsuits in court, filing complaints with government agencies and publishing a handbook on FHA housing (Tenants First!)

TFC now finds itself spending enormous amounts of time, money and energy defending itself against this legal attack. We believe that the issues presented to the court in the conspiracy suit affect all poor and working people's right to organize. Any decision in the landlords' favor could stifle organizing on a national level.

(over)
Dear friend:

The right of working people to organize unions to fight for decent living conditions is critically important to the struggle for social justice. This right is being attacked in a conspiracy suit filed by a landlord attempting to halt a tenant union drive in his projects in Massachusetts. Max Kargman, the largest federally subsidized (FHA) landlord in New England, has brought this case against Tenants First Coalition and Urban Planning Aid. In it, he seeks a blanket injunction against the activities of the tenants unions and a half million dollars from each of the forty named defendants.

The Tenants First Defense Committee was recently formed to provide political and financial support for the tenants. You can help us repel this attack on our First Amendment rights by making a contribution to the defense committee and by letting other people know about the conspiracy case.

Make checks payable to the Tenants First Defense Committee for non-tax-deductible contributions and to Haymarket Peoples Fund if you would like your contribution to be tax-deductible. Send contributions to Jeff Tryens c/o Urban Planning Aid, 639 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.