

#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 whereby we can possibly move toward collective work. 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 the "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 can 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. That group felt strongly that an agenda ought to be developed for 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 toward a coherent critique, 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 ready to be reeducated. There are 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 right 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 Boston area networkists met for the first time on March 30. About 40 people attended. The first part of the evening was spent with people catching up with each other or simply getting to know new people. This socializing seemed to be an important reason 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 individuals to identify common 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 were either 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. Contact: Carl Sussman).

We also spent time sharing information. Carl Sussman talked about the on-going developments of the Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies and regional potential for the conference. Jay Ostrower talked about the meeting of networkistas at the AIP conference in Washington. And Urban Planning Aid staff talked about the potential defunding of that advocacy agency by the Community Services Administration. Finally, people from UPA, Tenants First Coalition and their lawyer talked about the issues surrounding the conspiracy case brought by landlord Max Kargman against their tenants' organizing activities. Kargman is charging UPA and TFC with conspiring to deprive him of his private property through their tenant organizing. Defense efforts are presently being develop-

ed. However, it did seem that members of the network would be interested in providing support to the yet-to-be-formed defense committee and to share with the committee their resources, connections and access to the media.

The May 4 meeting began with various reports. Jeff Tryens began with recent developments in the defunding of UPA and the formation of a defense committee for the Kargman Conspirators.

People were urged to contribute their design work for publicity, media contacts and money.

Mike Sherman submitted a written report on the Skill Bank Questionnaire response.

After a trip to the west coast where he acquired a copy of the Oakland Study Group report, Bob Goodman suggested that some of the local network people get together and produce a similar report on Boston's fiscal situation.

Mauricio Gastón renewed his plea for research assistance for the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. They are interested in developing information about the Puerto Rican community in Boston. Contact Mauricio if you are interested (552-5992).

Once again, Ken Geiser chaired the meeting but expressed the desire to have others assume the role (if there is one) presently played by himself and the others who organized the first two meetings. He suggested a number of different activities which the local network might become involved in:

—Program orientation. Perhaps a program committee could be organized to arrange discussions, speakers, films and the like.

—Issue orientation. The network could support existing groups like UPA or develop its own areas for involvement.

—Study and Action Groups. People in network organize into small groups to pursue specific interests. Someone called them small satellite groups.

—Specific ends. Our purpose might be to organize special conferences and workshops rather than operate on a regularized basis.

—Informal information sharing meetings. Like the opening parts of the past two meetings, we might get together periodically to share information.

The resulting discussion revealed an interest in some research projects, regular information sharing sessions and a more general interest in gatherings as a forum for sharing (testing new ideas, breaking the isolation many people seem to be experiencing and just for socializing).

A consensus seemed to develop as did a program for our next meeting—a possible model for future get-togethers. The next meeting will again be at the Joint Center Library, 53 Church Street 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 to hang around 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 to help people now looking, and expecting to be. As a very practical matter, using the personal contacts in the Network appears to be somewhat better than relying on the *Boston Globe*. This is, however, separate from the conception of a skill bank.

As the bank was conceived at the last meeting, it will exist as a resource for groups and individuals looking for help in specific areas and projects.

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 direct service programs, may address some of the kinds of things the Network is about. For a start, we might try to schedule a seminar within the next month. Topics are open.

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 formally 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 people requested are reacting, we may be able to form a more clear policy.

Another thing the questionnaire did not get into was means of contact. Replying to the questionnaire was assumed to indicate interest—some people don't have much time, and were clear. Will the skill bank coordinator/committee, whatever, make the decisions about who is contacted, bring it up at meetings for volunteers, or do something else? What are people's feelings about this?

Finally, if the skill bank is to get off the ground, we need more responses, so please get them in. I could also use some feedback

on what people think of the questionnaire, and how it can be improved. Also on a classification system for skills.

Minutes of May 24-

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, Jeff Tryens 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.

One of the lawyers who assisted UPA in the re-funding effort has joined the conspiracy case defense effort. Momentum is building as more people become aware of how outrageous the case really is. Jeff urged everyone to keep up their strong support.

2. Several suggestions were made regarding the mechanics of these meetings:

—Carla Okigwe and Carl Sussman, who have handled distribution of meeting minutes, etc. up to this time, 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, 123 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge.

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 Poster, 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 range of interests in the B.U. urban intern program.

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, April 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, 2248 Broadway, NYC 10024, 724-7200 for further details.

People were obviously wanting 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 doesn't mean a great deal, there were many more people than 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 and faculty, 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, social work), 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 all knew had to be confronted.

Organization: Do we need it or are we to remain, at least for 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.") This definition best describes our decision to accept a temporary volunteer steering committee for the tri-state region, and their mandate is to secure this knot by setting up a New York local 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 set 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 good to be together, about time we got to know 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 united potential.

But, our concerns were not all centered around that sticky word 'organization.' Some of us wanted to get on with business and begin debate around issues. To further this activity we are preparing a presentation for the get-together which should serve as a catalyst for more pointed discussion and work.

In short, we got started. There is little doubt that it will be difficult binding the ties between such a diverse group of people. 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

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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, finding out what others are doing, and working directly on local problems together, can work in the New York area. To get things moving, a volunteer steering committee was formed and a local newsletter proposed. This newsletter would 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 ask all of us 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. Please send a contribution of \$1.00 (or more 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 also from Sacramento, Fresno, Santa Cruz, Southern California, Oregon and Washington. The morning was spent in large part with short autobiographical statements. An extremely wide variety of backgrounds and current activities was evident. Following these introductions, 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 five sub-groups, formed out of a rough categorization of the morning's ideas: 1) Support functions for people working in public agencies; 2) Research, technical assistance and advocacy for community groups; 3) Communications and publications aimed toward the public; 4) Internal Network processes (e.g. study groups); 5) Developing, taking and supporting political positions vis a vis the public and decision-makers. Reports of the small group sessions were then presented to the entire gathering in the final hour, and several sub-groups decided to meet again to refine various ideas and proposals. A follow-up meeting will be held, but the date has not been set.

We'll continue to report on these gatherings to the Network as a whole. I was able to attend the NY meeting (in addition to the SF meeting), as I was east during that time, and I expect to be at the June 23 Boston meeting as well. My clear impression is that there's an enormous amount of enthusiasm for getting together and beginning work, although not as much clarity and unity on what ought to be done right away. Lots of good leadership energy seems to be there in the various regions, and that's absolutely necessary if decentralized activity is to spin off the communications function.

The various meetings have also attracted large numbers of people who had not previously been on the Network list. Roughly 75 new people who attended those meetings are receiving Network mailings for the first time. One problem that comes up with new additions is that people frequently want to look at past mailings. I've now run out of several of the issues and am hesitant to have them reprinted, in part because much of the material is outdated. What I plan to do is make up a condensed version of the first five mailings, and have that printed up for distribution to people just joining.

In the next mailing (mid-August, I would imagine) I'll also send out the revised list of Network members, with the various additions and deletions since the January list, and with whatever biographical information people have submitted. Those of you who have not sent in such information (work, interests, political philosophy, etc.) should do so soon—as stated previously, the list is infinitely more useful as a means of putting people in touch with one another if it has that kind of material, rather than just names and addresses.

Notices 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.I.S. COURT RULING was handed down recently in Minneapolis. Jack Cann, a community organizer for the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, has sent in the following summary (for further information, contact Jack at 1818A S. Fifth St., Minneapolis, 55454).

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 Environmental Defense Fund v. Carla Hills* case. The case involved 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 was to have involved about \$800,000,000 in public and private investment over 20 years.

In addition to finding the EIS inadequate because of failure to discuss traditional negative environmental impacts like 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.
- A proposed development's physical design should be congruent with occupants' life-styles. In particular, the court found that high-rise housing was highly inappropriate for households with children, particularly when compared to low-rise alternatives.
- An EIS must weigh public costs of a project, as possibly significant negative environmental effects, over against added tax revenues.
- An EIS must contain 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 dictated only by profit-making and, probably, tax-shelter considerations."
- The thrust of the decision was that an EIS must be a decision-making tool, with alternatives seriously compared and considered.
- 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 developer 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 "East New York Revisited," 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 Rabinowitz sent in the following mini-report:

For a great many people, with some exceptions noted 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 a fairly low property tax (which does, however, 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 credit to private interests. While this makes it 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 rehabilitating housing almost impossible, and to foster the suspicion that there is something invidious 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 wound up in downtown commercial renewal of skid road. There is little concern 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. None of these are political issues, and most candidates run on personality rather than on issues or by parties. The most knowledgeable reporters around here describe the present State-local governmental scene as a nadir in recent history. Since a tax increase is about the last thing the people want, social and educational services are being seriously eroded. The Trident Base on the Olympic Peninsula, however, is going ahead, and proposals for nuclear reactors for electricity to send to California are all around us. Thus there are lots of issues, and small groups of people work to keep the flame of reason burning, but we are a long way from discernible progress.

THE WOMEN'S SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE is running its second session this summer. Here's what it's all about:

The Women's Movement has been involved in both changing traditional sex roles and creating an alternative culture. These efforts challenge the institutional forms and personal relationships that have channelled and stifled our creativity, work and

interests. The *Women's School of Planning and Architecture [WSPA]* is an attempt to redefine ourselves and our work and make the important connections between that process, the environments in which we live and work, and the environments we plan and design.

WSPA, the first such school to be completely founded, funded and run by women, is now accepting applications for its second session, to be held at Santa Cruz, California, in August, 1976.

The first session of the school, in August, 1975, drew 52 women from 21 states and Canada, ranging in age from 18-49. Admission to WSPA is open to women of any age, at any stage in their education or continuing education; the only requirement is that participants be working or studying or have a committed interest in the environmental design field.

As in the first session of the Women's School, this session will explore new ways of thinking about the built environment, new ways of working in the design professions, and new thoughts on the role of women in these professions. Among the subjects to be offered in courses or workshops are: Women and the Built Environment—A Feminist Analysis of Design Method and Content; the Politics and Ideology of the Planning Process and Profession; Energy Conscious Design—The Integration of the Natural and Built Environment; Writing for Designers—The Writing Process as a Communication Tool; Exploring Basic Woodworking Techniques; The Design and Construction of Architectural Tapestry; The Role of Women in Local Planning Issues.

According to the Coordinators of WSPA: "Our purpose continues to be two-fold—to create a personally supportive atmosphere for the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, and to encourage both professional and personal growth through a fuller integration of our values and identities as women with our values and identities as designers. The school is committed to discovering and defining the particular qualities, concerns, and abilities which we as women bring to our work in environmental design. We seek to provide a sharing, nonjudgmental and non-competitive atmosphere, and a learning experience where the participants' varied ages and experiences are a major educational resource."

Cost of the two-week session (August 8-21) will be \$415, including room, board, and tuition. For further information, a self-addressed stamped envelope (24¢) should be sent to WSPA at Spring Lane, Farmington, Connecticut 06032. Financial assistance is available.

Teaching Coordinators for the second session of WSPA include: Ellen Perry Berkeley, N. Phyllis Birkby, Harriet Cohen, Polly Cooper, Patti Glazer, Charlotte Hitchcock, Leslie Kanis Weisman and Cathy Simon.

PAMELA PROCUNIAR (Rutgers Law School, Fifth & Penn, Camden NJ 08102), who teaches property law and land-use regulation and has many students with no formal planning training who as lawyers ultimately will be responsible for planning decisions and policies on local, state and national levels, writes: "I would appreciate thoughtful, provocative suggestions from planners for books and articles on planning topics to be read as supplementary materials by would-be lawyers. What I'd like really is to find out what planners would recommend as the 'one book to read when there is time for only one'—what planners think would be most helpful to lawyers and why. I promise to compile a list (read it all myself) to be reproduced for law students and to work some of the most promising items into my courses. I'd also send a copy back into the Network if readers/members/networkers will send suggestions to me. Also I would appreciate xeroxes of newspaper clippings on ethnic communities for a study I am beginning. (I have almost no access to mid-west and western papers.)"

SANTA CLARA (CAL.) COUNTY PEOPLE: Carol Sanford (County Executive's Office, 70 W. Hedding, E. Wing, San Jose 95110, (408) 299-2424) is trying to pull together a meeting of people in her area. Anyone near there should get in contact with her.

SEX DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING: Tee Taggart recommends, as good reading, for reference and redress, 1) *Women and Housing: A Report on Sex Discrimination in Five American Cities* (HUD, June, 1975, 196 pp.); 2) *Women in the Mortgage Market: Statistical Tables for Use in Appraising the Stability of Women's Income* (prepared by Ketrion, Inc., for HUD, March, 1976).

MICHAEL RANCER (1001 Walker Ave., #5, Oakland, Ca. 94610) would like to find out if anyone in the Network can furnish him with information on two topics:

"I understand that the British have recently begun implementation of a new 'Land Act,' the purpose of which is to increase local government control over development by gradually transferring ownership of all developable land to public agencies. I'd like to know if anyone in the Network has details on the process behind the Act, as well as on expectations the British government might have regarding eventual results. Any observations people have on the matter would also be welcome.

The other subject is closer to home. I've read recently that part of the West Side Highway in New York collapsed last winter, and 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,

and what the future prospects are for reconstruction. If any of your Eastern correspondents could fill me in, I'd be appreciative."

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 tool:

"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 national Counterbudget; we did it for East Lansing and managed to rechannel a lot (\$50,000-100,000) away from 'downtown beautification' toward human services. Also managed to embarrass the local administration on its obscure and antique methods of budgeting. Most residents cannot get a copy of the city budget, much less understand it 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 embarrass the city into turning over funds to people-oriented efforts 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, etc., 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 meeting and ask embarrassing after embarrassing question, demonstrating to council members that they don't know the half of what is going on.

I have doubts about where the drawing 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 workers in Boulder this year and had mixed feelings about that. Some city workers exhibited typical trade unionist attitudes toward their jobs while others were really interested in community/worker coalitions and excited about the prospect of pushing for worker control 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* certainly provide a forum for this kind of discussion, their articles tend to report on research and organizing efforts already in progress for an extensive time period. The Network could provide an excellent opportunity for a more active and exploratory exchange concerning ideas for work that is either being contemplated or has already been initiated. Often such ideas are shared in mimeographed working papers whose circulation is limited to departmental faculty and close associates. Even more frequently, these ideas simply develop from personal/small groups discussions that someone might find worthwhile to write a short statement on but could not find the time or have the inclination to develop 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 individuals with the same concerns."

MURRAY SILVERSTEIN would like to call people's attention to the recently published book *The Oregon Experiment* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1976) by Alexander, Silverstein, Angel, Ishikawa and Abrams, a case study of a planning project for the Univ. of Oregon and a model for a participatory process for any community.

ARCHITECTS' AND PLANNERS' FUND FOR VIETNAM: Unfortunately, I screwed up in the last mailing and put down the wrong street address. If any of you want to contribute materials, books or money, send them c/o Francois Confino, 400 Avery Hall, Columbia University, NYC 10027. I sent off a \$100 contribution from Network funds, as mentioned in the last newsletter, as no one wrote to object.

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

HABITAT: Not that many of you expressed plans to go there and interest in getting together, so a special mailing didn't seem warranted. I hope those of you who were there managed to make some kind of contact with one another at the Kings Castle Hotel. Any observations or reports on the conference would be very welcome for the next mailing.

JEFF BALOUTINE writes: "I will be on the road this summer looking for interesting work in (or related to) land use planning/public policy. I want to work in the Pacific Northwest or the Northeast. Background: masters in planning from U. of Texas, plus two years experience working with local governments in Texas and Pennsylvania." He's reachable at 911 W. 26 St., Austin, Texas 78705. It would be good if people in the Network could begin to turn each other on to job openings we hear about.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION PROJECT, P.O. 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 St., Philadelphia 19108 (215) WA2-8960.

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

SEVERAL PEOPLE have asked me to bring to Networkers' attention a good radical British quarterly, *Race and Class*, available from the Institute of Race Relations, 247 Pentonville Rd., London N1 (subs are \$15 a year).

THE FEDERATION OF ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, CHEMISTS AND TECHNICIANS was a union of professionals in the design and planning (as well as other) fields. I asked Morris Zeitlin, who was active in the NY chapter between 1934 and 1940, to describe the organization; based on an interview with Lew Berne, the union's ex-president, and his own experiences, Morris has sent in the following:

A Union for Planners?

In our continuing debate on whether to form a national organization of radical planners and, if so, what form and content it might take, we might consider the possibility of a Union of Planners.

Why a union? Because most of us are wage earners. Like other workers, we need to defend and promote our common economic, and also professional, interests.

We might begin by considering the grievances we have regarding our working conditions: pay, classification, promotion, discrimination, vacation and sick leave, long hours, and other.

Many of us are government employees. Do existing government employees' unions adequately represent us? Many of us are teachers. Do present teachers unions represent us satisfactorily? Some of us work in private consulting offices. Those of us who do, do we have a proper union to turn to? If yes, good! But if not, the experience of one union, now defunct, might give food for thought.

The Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians (CIO) existed between 1933 and 1952. It was unique in that it was a radical-led union of employee professionals. It was unique because its professional membership and radical leadership evolved it into a sort of cross between a labor union, a professional society and a radical activist organization. "Planning" and "union" were dirty words among professional and intellectual workers in those days. They were "Bolshevik," "communist," "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 FAECT and related activist groups.

The FAECT promoted consciousness-raising forums and radio programs at which some of the progressive professional leaders of the time lectured—Clarence Stein, Lewis Mumford, Talbot Hamlin, Frank Lloyd Wright, to mention a few. It published a journal, *Technical America*, to educate rank-and-file professionals in unionism and progressive thought. And it ran schools in which volunteer seasoned professionals helped younger members to advance in their professions, learn organizational skills, and generally mature as progressive activists.

The FAECT conducted active legislative work. It lobbied in Washington and in state capitals, in close cooperation with other unions, on behalf of housing, social security, employment insurance, fair labor, health and safety, and civil rights legislation. It prepared major drafts for legislative aids of senators who were proposing the bills to Congress.

In its hey day, the union had a national membership of 60,000 professionals in the auto, steel, rubber, chemical, construction and electronics industries. It had union contracts with some of the country's major corporations as well as with engineering and architectural firms. It developed many able organizers and even lent some to other growing unions.

A large section of the FAECT consisted of employees of federal, state and local governments. Though it could not gain de jure recognition in government offices, it did gain de facto recognition and succeeded in setting up procedures for airing and settling grievances on salaries, promotions and severance pay.

The union was organized on national, regional and local levels. Its full-time and non-paid leaders had to stand periodic election and account to the membership at frequent open meetings. Though there was much internal ferment regarding activities that touched on political issues, the militancy, dedication and statesmanship of its radical leaders commanded the respect and confidence of the membership and held the organization united and strong until the onset of McCarthyism. McCarthy's committee destroyed the union by repressing and hounding its activists and leaders.

But here we are, and this is another day.

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 articles from a radical perspective.

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 alternative energy, plus articles on local housing and labor struggles and local cultural history. Their address is 2314 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. 93776).

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. 90045) has two ideas to put forth for the Network:

"First of all, I am most willing and eager to organize a compendium of alternative occupations for planners (and planning students). This would involve Network member input regarding alternative planning positions (e.g. consultants to tenants' organizations, planners for community development corporations, consultants to neighborhood organizations, planners for 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) that included Mr. Irv Thomas from the Black Bart Brigade and a woman from NACLA. The purpose of the Symposium was to educate sociology students and other interested students as to what alternative occupations existed and the work involved. It was a very satisfying project with around 50 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, application 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, and organizing planning students to take 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 urban crisis. Urban activists are encouraged to attend. Anyone 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 everyone on the Network list also receives the national housing 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. *Lawyers Guild Summer Housing Project*: This project, in its second year, recruits 10 law students, and legal workers, from different parts of the county to work with community groups organizing at the grass roots level, engaged in challenging 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 Middlesex Hospital's proposed parking deck which would have dislocated city residents; and extensive research was done into the 'revitalization' of Hartford, Connecticut, which was engineered by American City Corporation, the same firm hired by Johnson and Johnson, Inc. to similarly 'revitalize' New Brunswick, which is where J & J's domestic international headquarters are located. In Essex County, the project wrote a property maintenance enforcement handbook, contributed to the compilation of the landlord-tenant manual for the new Peoples Law School—Newark, and assisted in the writing of several articles for *Shelterforce* newspaper. In both sites, the project was active in organizing buildings and meeting with tenant leaders to develop new strategies for concerted attacks against slumlordism.

2. *Peoples 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

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first course focuses on housing and includes seminars and lectures on the politics and economics of housing, tenants rights and how to organize a tenant union.

3. *New Jersey Tenant Organization [NJTO]*: NJTO is a mass-based membership organization made up of all economic, racial and ethnic groups. Most of its membership is middle and lower middle class working families, with significant numbers of upper middle class (which accounts for most of its political clout), and some lower income families. It is probably the largest tenant organization in the country.

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 probably has the most progressive landlord-tenant laws in the country, including a prohibition on evictions unless the landlord has a good reason.

NJTO has made little attempt to deal with the deeper inequities of the welfare state that are a natural consequence of a society divided into unequal social classes. It has made little attempt to deal with the housing shortage, the poor environment in which most people live, and the underlying economic causes that perpetuate the housing problem especially for minorities, and the poor who live in the most urbanized areas of the state.

Shelterforce provides technical assistance and consultation services for NJTO.

4. *Citywide Tenant Organizations*: We are also working with various local citywide tenant organizations attempting to raise the questions of the economics of housing 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 fund the East Orange Tenants Association with \$30,000 of Community Development funds.

5. *Statewide Coalition*: Shelterforce Collective and NJTO are part of a statewide issues coalition developing a platform to be presented at an issues forum of presidential candidates and disseminated as widely as possible to the media. This coalition includes liberals, left democrats, anti-war groups, radical labor unions and other progressive organizations in N.J.

6. *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 program. We are trying to make sense out of being lawyers working 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 spending most of our time helping to build and strengthen tenant organizations.

The newspaper seems to me a really important force in building a much needed national housing movement, and it needs help—mainly bucks. MARTY BIERBAUM, one of the Shelterforce attorneys, addresses the following to us:

"I would like to urge the people in the network to support *Shelterforce*—and support it more enthusiastically. The feedback that we have gotten about *Shelterforce* has really 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 *Shelterforce* 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 come later. If anyone would like to see *Shelterforce* and somehow was missed by us, they should write directly to 31 Chestnut Street, East Orange, New Jersey 07018."

URBAN PLANNING AID: The enclosed funding appeal from the Tenants First Defense Committee is directly related to the defunding of Urban Planning Aid in Cambridge. The same landlord discussed in the Tenants First flyer—Max Kargman—was instrumental in convincing the Community Services Administration to tentatively withdraw all federal support from UPA. That decision is presently 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 step on tenant organizing in his projects by claiming conspiracy, other powerful real estate and industrial interests will certainly follow suit. Please do what you can to help these people stop this attack now before it's able to spread.

Well, that about wraps it up for this quasi-bimonthly period. One last note regarding your communications to me: In the last newsletter I included as part of some material sent in a few accompanying off-the-cuff comments by the correspondent which he hadn't intended for dissemination. This is a problem that may crop up periodically, particularly 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 only that which seems clearly intended for everyone in the Network, but obviously I also can screw up. It would be helpful if you could indicate clearly when certain parts of letters are not intended for dissemination or quotation.

Have a good summer,

CHESTER HARTMAN



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)



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.

