# **PLANNERS NETWORK**

#51—April 17, 1985

1901 QUE STREET, NW

**WASHINGTON, DC 20009** 

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☐ FINANCIAL MINI-REPORT: Issue #50 was sent only to those who heeded The Warning. A very large number of you got a postcard instead. The postcard informed you that you had been tentatively purged; that we'd love to de-purge you; and that all you had to do was to let us know you wanted to remain in the Network. A predictable swarm of cards, letters, and (we're happy to add) checks ensued. One hundred seventy-one Networkers contributed an impressive \$3,370. We're grateful, impressed, and flush. Thank you all.

As part of the new order in U.S. financial institutions, they now levy outrageous charges for all kinds of "consumer services," one of them being for depositing checks written in foreign currency. As an example, a recent contribution we received from a Canadian member in a \$13 check in Canadian funds would have cost us a \$15 fee to cash. Our bank was good enough to tell us that before processing the check. So: For those of you living outside the United States, please try to send us either U.S. cash or a check/draft in U.S. funds, if at all possible.

# **Passing the Word**

☐ FAMILY LIFESTYLES: Families and Change: Social Needs and Public Policies covers the following issues: the interaction of work and family, needs of children and youth,

housing and community, economic security of families over the life cycle, and nontraditional households. Contributors assess the impact of Reagan administration policies, and discuss gaps in programs for today's changing families and lifestyles. Edited by Networker Rosalie G. Genovese with a foreword by Jessie Bernard, the book is available in paperback (\$14.95) or hardcover (\$27.95) from Bergin and Garvey Inc., 670 Amherst Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075.

□ URBAN POLICIES ABROAD: From PN Member Len Berkey (Dept. of Sociology, Albion College, Albion, MI 49224, 517/629-5511): I was recently chosen to direct one of the college's off-campus programs which examines European urban policy in Yugoslavia, Holland, and Great Britain. I am interested in corresponding with others in the Network who know something about urban policy in these countries, or are contemplating research in this area.

☐ HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: From Networker Katharine Coit (42 Rue du Moulin Vert, 75014 Paris, France): I'm working on a book on the politics of human settlements in a tiny LDC (the island of Dominica in the Caribbean). The book will be based on a series of interviews with the members of the government, political parties, local inhabitants and builders and international aid personnel. News from any Planners Network

#### The Planners Network

The Planners Network is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic system.

We believe that planning should be a tool for allocating resources and developing the environment to eliminate the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society, rather than to maintain and justify the status quo. We believe that planning should be used to assure adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, jobs, safe working conditions, and a healthful environment. We advocate public responsibility for meeting these needs, because the private market has proven incapable of doing so.

We oppose the economic structure of our society, which values profit and property rights over human rights and needs. This system perpetuates the inequalities of class, race, sex and age which distort human relationships and limit the potential for a decent quality of life. We advocate a shift in current national budgetary priorities to favor human services, social production and environmental protection over military and other nonproductive expenditures.

We seek to be an effective political and social force, working with other progressive organizations to inform public opinion and public policy and to provide assistance to those seeking to understand, control, and change the forces which affect their lives.

The Planners Network Newsletter is published six times a year as the principal means of communication among Network members. Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we do needs funds for operating expenses. The Steering Committee has recommended the following amounts as minimums for Network members: \$10 for students and temporarily unemployed; graduated payments for the

employed of \$20 plus an additional \$1 for each \$1,000 earned above \$10,000.

Members of the Steering Committee: Chester Hartman, DC, Chair; Emily Achtenberg, Boston; Eve Bach, Berkeley; Bob Beauregard, New Brunswick, NJ; Donna Dyer, Durham, NC; William Goldsmith, Ithaca; Charles Hoch, Chicago; Joochul Kim, Tempe; Judy Kossy, DC; Jacqueline Leavitt, LA; Peter Marcuse, NYC; Jackie Pope, NYC; Alan Rabinowitz, Seattle; Tony Schuman, NYC; Andree Tremoulet, Roanoke.

Newsletter Editor: Prentice Bowsher.

☐ Enclosed is my check payable t	o the Planners Network for
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New Internationalist, 113 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11201. ☐ IRANIAN RESEARCH: The Center for Iranian Research and Analysis is an outlet for scholarly research and analysis on Iranian Affairs, which publishes a newsletter and a journal, and sponsors conferences. The Center is a membership organization; individual memberships are \$30. Contact: CIRA, Dept. of Urban Planning and Policy Development, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ 08903. ☐ HUMAN SERVICES SOFTWARE: Computer Consulting and Programming Associates (7553 Canal Plaza, Portland, ME 04112, 207/774-8242) has prepared a 200-page Directory of Microcomputer Software in the Human Services. The directory includes user reviews, product information, and survey analyses. Copies are \$25. ☐ HOMELESSNESS COURSE: From PN Member Anne Wheelock (18 Cranston St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130): I am

☐ HOMELESSNESS COURSE: From PN Member Anne Wheelock (18 Cranston St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130): I am designing a course on the experience of displacement and homelessness. I am looking for sources that might enrich the course, including suggestions of novels, movies (commercial or noncommercial), oral histories, and articles. The course may include reference to the experience of refugees displaced by war or policy, poor people displaced by urban renewal, farmers displaced by the economy, and others homeless because of deinstitutionalization or other social policies. The course may cover legal issues, service issues, planning issues, and action/social change issues. I would welcome ideas, bibliographies, or outlines of similar courses.

□ CLEVELAND POLITICS: From Networker Todd Swanstrom (Dept. of Political Science, SUNY, Albany, NY 12222, 518/455-6186): I just published a book that Networkers should be interested in: The Crisis of Growth Politics: Cleveland, Kucinich, and the Challenge of Urban Populism. The book is based on my 2½ years as a planner in Cleveland under Kucinich and his successor. Generally, its theme is the effect of economic change (deindustrialization) on community power. Specifically, I focus on the administration of populist mayor Dennis Kucinich, including case studies of default and Muny Light, tax abatement, and community development. My view of Kucinich is mixed: to put it simply, I praise his economic stands while criticizing his political methods. The book is available from Temple University Press (Broad and Oxford Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19122) for \$24.95. A 50-percent discount is available for course use by calling or writing Temple University Press.

□ BETTER LIVES for a Better World is a participatory tabloid of ideas, knowledge, and publications for building a better self, family, community and world. A recent, 32-page issue included a feature on Green politics; articles on the Cerro Gordo community in Oregon, new education, and peacemaking; and book reviews on an array of topics. To order, send a volutnary contribution to: Better Lives, Box 569, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

□ CRA GUIDE: A Citizens Guide to the Community Reinvestment Act is helpful in understanding how the Act works, and how to participate in its policing of lenders' investments. For copies, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, 1776 G St. N.W. 7th Flr., Wash. DC 20006.

(continued on page 4)

□ WORLD DEVELOPMENT: The New Internationalist is a

British monthly on world poverty and the unjust relationship

between the rich and poor worlds, and on ideas and action in the

fight for world development. A recent issue explored the world

of artists around the planet. U.S. subscriptions are \$22, from:

another locality.

# **PN Special Feature**

# Displacement Abatements: A Pennsylvania Experiment

by Bob Beauregard

For inner-city homeowners, the threat of gentrification is rapidly rising property taxes. The sudden economic burden leaves long-time residents with few options. They can allow themselves to be displaced, drastically reduce spending for other goods and services, or protest and resist. Elderly homeowners and neighborhood groups in Philadelphia have been successful in placing this issue on the public agenda. As a result, a bill to protect them is currently being written in the Pennsylvania legislature.

The problem is simple. As newcomers and speculators purchase and renovate housing, tax assessments increase to reflect greater market value. When the city government reassesses gentrified properties, however, it also considers anew the market value of the block and the neighborhood. This leads to higher assessments for long-time residents regardless of whether they have undertaken renovation. Increased assessments, in turn, are translated into higher property taxes. In the case of a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood, taxes may jump suddenly and significantly. One long-time 84-year-old resident of Queen Village in Philadelphia was reported to have had a real estate tax bill in 1984 double what it had been in 1983, and 15 times greater than in 1976. Many of that city's tax appeals come from two gentrifying neighborhoods: Queen Village and Fairmount.

While the problem is easily described, its underlying causes are more complex. The explanation must begin with the financial dependency of the local government on the property taxes it can extract from real property within its boundaries. Housing, for example, is treated as a commodity whose worth is its value in exchange. In addition, the tax assessment process accepts the notion that the exchange value of real property is primarily a function of location. Thus an un-renovated house has a value more or less equivalent to the value of an adjacent renovated house since the redevelopment process has enhanced the value of the wider location. Add to this the fact that many gentrifying neighborhoods exist in older, declining or stagnating cities faced with fiscal dilemmas, and the response of

the local government is understandable: It is compelled to follow the dictates of the market, raise assessments and pursue increased property tax revenues.

Long-time residents have another perspective. This is their home, and has been throughout their lives. Many have raised children and seen them move in down the block. The neighborhood is also a community. Friends and neighbors intermingle. For the elderly on fixed incomes and for working-class homeowners unable to pay the larger tax bill, gentrification destroys their community and disrupts their lives. As long-time residents, they have contributed to the city in numerous ways. Only a heartless city government would ignore their plight.

Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Fumo (D-Phila.) responded to the protests of elderly constituents with a state constitutional amendment approved by the voters in November of 1984. It allows both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia to maintain at lower levels the property tax assessments of long-time homeowners in gentrifying neighborhoods. Hearings have been held in Philadelphia, and a bill is currently being written.

One of the more contentious issues, in a relatively non-controversial bill, is whether the resultant abatement of taxes should

#### **New PN Feature**

In response to criticism that there aren't enough "meaty" articles in the *Planners Network*, we have created a new newsletter section. Short essays, such as "Displacement Abatements: A Pennsylvania Experiment," are to be a regular feature.

We encourage Networkers with comments and criticisms and with ideas for separate essays to contact Bob Beauregard (Dept. of Urban Planning, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ 08903, 201/932-4053, 932-3822), who has agreed to coordinate the section.

It is Networkers' participation which will make this aspect of the newsletter a success.

be considered a deferral to be repaid later by the homeowner or to be forgiven outright. In the case of a deferral, one option is for the city government to place a lien on the property in the amount of the tax deferral. The lien would be due when the property is sold. (The City of Philadelphia has publicly supported the deferral option, arguing that it can ill-afford to give up tax revenues.) Ostensibly, tax deferral allows the homeowner to reap the increased market value of gentrification minus the yearly tax on that value.

Those who support a total or partial forgiveness point out that the city government has an obligation to maintain communities and, moreover, would only incur opportunity losses and not real costs. The city government will still collect taxes on the designated properties, it will just not reap the "growth bonus." Supporters further argue that long-time residents are likely to be relatively few in number, elderly, in financial need and not likely to remain much longer in their residences. Systematic, empirical data to more clearly assess the options are unavailable.

General agreement seems to have been reached on computing the deferral. The goal of the bill is to buttress the long-time homeowner against "tax shock." Dividing the potential assessment increment into two components—normal inflationary increases and boosts due to rising property values caused by gentrification—is seen as a possible solution. Those protected would only be responsible for taxes on the former.

Who would be eligible? The idea began with elderly, long-time homeowners. Subsequent debates introduced income as a possible third criteria for determining eligibility. Each criteria, although interrelated, raises a separate issue: tenure references notions of community and neighborhood image; age, the financial needs of people on fixed incomes and society's responsibility to senior citizens; and income, the ability to pay.

Lastly, how does one spatially define a gentrifying neighborhood and adjust those boundaries over time as gentrification spreads? Political pressures may ultimately remove this issue from the complex realm of empirical analysis. The city government has an interest in limiting the boundaries; long-time residents have an interest in expanding them. The solution may lie not in a spatial designation but in linking eligibility to the absolute or relative in-

crease in a homeowner's tax assessment.

Overall, this is a progressive bill. It confronts the problem of gentrification—displacement—for long-time homeowners by directly aiding its potential victims. But like all reforms it contains contrary tendencies. A tax deferral payable on sale may victimize long-time homeowners just when they might reap some rewards, even while allowing that such rewards may

contribute to profit-based housing. Eligibility based solely on income may simply sap the savings and hard work of innocent by-standers who wish to stay in the neighborhood. Moreover, as housing ceases to be a lucrative investment, the 'bonus' from gentrification may not be captured upon sale. While more mechanisms of this type are needed, two points must be kept in mind: first, it only works

against displacement in neighborhoods comprised of homeowners; and, second, the progressive tendency of the law can easily be eroded by the specifics of implementation.

Bob Beauregard of the Rutgers Urban Planning Department is a member of the PN Steering Committee.

#### Passing the Word, continued from page 2

☐ HOMELESSNESS WORKSHOP: From PN Member Jackie Leavitt (Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024, 213/825-4380): LA has the dubious distinction of being thought of as the capital of homelessness in the United States. Allan Heskin and I, with the assistance of Ben Refuerzo, are running a 10-week workshop in the spring quarter at UCLA on the homeless, examining issues of design, management, and finance of shelters. In conjunction with the class, we have a mini-lecture program open to a wider audience. Michael Mostoller, an architect at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, was to make a slide presentation on Single Room Occupancy Hotels on April 11; Kim Hopper, who with Jill Hamberg, has authored a major paper on the homeless, and with Ellen Baxter, published the first widely used report on the homeless, was to speak on April 16; Nancy Travers, currently with the New York State Department of Social Services, and responsible for the funding of many shelters, was to speak also on April 16; and Conrad Levinson, an architect who with students from The City University of New York Architecture School worked on a 1,000-bed facility for the Community for Creative Non-Violence in Washington, D.C. is scheduled to speak on April 29. Exact dates, time, and meeting place, can be checked with me.

□ RURAL DEVELOPMENT Perspectives is a highly readable, illustrated magazine from the Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service. A recent 44-page issue included special reports on rural farmwomen, economic development, and alternative mortgages, among other features. Subscriptions are \$10, from: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Wash. DC 20402, 202/783-3238.

□ LAND TRUSTS: Common Ground: An Introduction to Community Land Trusts is a 25-minute slide-tape documentary that examines the land trust model, and features the Community Land Cooperative, a land trust in Cincinnati's West End neighborhood. Available for sale or rent, and also in video, from: Institute for Community Economics, 151 Montague City Rd., Greenfield, MA 01301, 413/774-5933.

☐ ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES: Building Economic Alternatives is a new quarterly on practical strategies for integrating economic choices with politics, lifestyles, and values. A recent 16-page issue included reports on resource recovery, the National Cooperative Bank, and an Ohio worker-owners' network. Available as a membership service from Co-op America (2100 M St. N.W. #310, Wash. DC 20063, 202/872-5307); individual memberships begin at \$15.

□ HARTFORD HOUSING: From Networker Peter Medoff (Citizens' Research Education Network, 32 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106, 203/249-1416): The Hartford City Council recently passed an innovative ordinance to preserve the city's declining housing stock. The "Housing Preservation and Replacement Ordinance" requires a landowner who removes a unit of housing from the market through demolition or conversion to either a) replace each unit on a one-for-one basis with a new unit of low-income housing, or b) contribute a sizeable cash amount into a low income housing trust fund. Significant relocation payments would also have to be made to displaced tenants. The ordinance is modeled after one passed in Seattle. We believe the Hartford ordinance to be the most aggressive and far-reaching ordinance of its type in the country.

□ SUMMER AT TUFTS: Urban and Environmental Policy 1985 Summer School course offerings serve practicing professionals and graduate students. From May 22-June 28, courses include Environmental Policy; Urban Studies and Planning; Professional Writing Workshop; Critical Theories of Planning and Public Policy. From July 2-August 9, courses include Risk Assessment in Public Policy; Hazardous Waste Management. For information: Dept. of Urban and Environmental Policy, Tufts Univ., Medford, MA 02155, 617/381-3394.

☐ FISCAL MANAGEMENT: Accountants for the Public Interest-New Jersey (Rutgers Univ. Ackerson#300, Newark, NJ 07102) has a series of publications on fiscal management for nonprofits. They include tax guides, guides for computerized accounting, and handbooks on fiscal accountability for directors. Prices vary; a publications list is free.

□ NYC ALTERNATIVES: The Learning Alliance (c/o F.O.E., 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212/675-5911), a program of the Institute for Social Ecology, is offering a series of low-cost spring courses on alternative approaches to the pressing problems faced by New York. Among the topics: "Social Change for the '80s," "The Community Mural Movement," "Community Organizing with Computers," and "The Decline and Fall of the NYC Subway." PN members are teaching a number of the courses.

☐ TOXICS AT HOME: The Golden Empire Health Planning Center (2100 21st St., Sacramento, CA 95818, 916/731-5050) has completed a year-long project on the safe use and disposal of consumer products containing toxic chemicals. Among the results, some publications: a colorful, 18 x 24-inch poster (\$3.50); a four-part school curricula for kindergarten through high school, "Toxics in My Home? You Bet" (\$29.50); and a

community handbook, Household Hazardous Waste: Solving the Disposal Dilemma (\$10).

□ SHARED HOUSING: Networker John Pynoos (Andrus Gerontology Center, Univ. of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089) has completed a study of shared housing, and published the results, *House Matching: An Option for Frail Elderly*. The study recorded real benefits to the participants, but also found that a large proportion of the matches broke up earlier than sharers anticipated.

☐ ACADEMIC OUTREACH: From PN member Russ Fox (Center for Community Development, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA 98505, 206/866-6000, ext. 6048): The Evergreen State college has established a Center for Community Development to help faculty and students engage in participatory research projects with citizen groups needing research, problem-solving or advocacy. Evergreen's curriculum is organized by inter-disciplinary "specialty areas" such as Political Economy, Applied Social Theory and Environmental Studies. Faculty and students work in full-time, team-taught year long "programs" of study where intense small-group seminars and project teams engage students actively in their learning. Collaborative problem-solving, critical analysis, and the integration of theory and action are central to the learning environment. The Center for Community Development helps faculty and students take their interdisciplinary knowledge, critical analysis, research and problem-solving skills out into local communities in southwest Washington. We would love to hear of others who are trying to connect planning, community development and social change education to the problems and needs of community groups who don't have access to more expensive professional consulting.

GRASSROOTS ACTION: Citizen Action and Social Change: A Bibliography (1984, 103 pp.) provides a comprehensive sourcebook on political movements, economic democracy and community development, strategies and tactics, media strategies, legal strategies and community justice, community organizations in electoral politics, workplace democracy, women and racial minorities, neighborhood action, community ecology, community health and education, citizen action in human rights and foreign policy, and cross-national participation. It was compiled by Networker Robert Elias and Michael Woodbridge of Tufts University's Graduate Program in Public Policy & Citizen Participation, and may be ordered (postpaid) for \$6 from: The Lincoln Filene Center, Tufts Univ., Medford, MA 02155.

☐ BOOK LIST: From Networker Paul Niebanck (Kerr Hall #407, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064): I used a "great-books" reading list in a recent seminar that emphasized planning's historical roots and utopian thinkers. The three-page list also assigns a status to each selection: "Great Book," "Near-to-Great," and "Selectively Useful." I'll be glad to send the list to Networkers who ask for it.

□ PROPERTY TAX REFORM: A documentary on a unique property tax reform reveals a number of land use and planning impacts. A Tale of Five Cities—Tax Revolt Pennsylvania-Style shows how two-rate property tax (higher rates on land and lower rates on buildings) stimulated downtown renewal and housing construction, and also favored center-city growth over sprawl. Pittsburgh, Scranton, Harrisburg, McKeesport, and New Castle use the two-rate tax to generate more revenues while

providing tax relief to most homeowners. The documentary was produced by Walter Rybeck, director, Center for Public Dialogue. Available in film and video, it may be rented or purchased from the Center, 10615 Brunswick Ave., Kensington, MD 20895, 301/933-3535.

□ NETWORKER UPDATE: From PN member Ed Meek (7723 Abbott St., Pittsburgh, PA 15221): I am involved with efforts to bring a technical assistance center to Pittsburgh. It will probably be a Pittsburgh extension of the Philadelphia Association for Cooperative Enterprise. We're experiencing a lot of interest in this area for worker ownership.

☐ SUMMER COURSES: The Omega Institute (RD 2, Box 377, Lake Drive, Rhinebeck, NY 12572, 914/876-2058 (266-4301 after May 15)) offers a series of weekend and week-long courses from June to September in such areas as progressive politics, alternative medicine, and tools for living. A catalogue is free.

☐ HARLEM PROSPECTS: The Gentrification of Harlem by Richard Schaffer and Networker Neil Smith is a paper that reports on early signs of gentrification appearing in New York's Harlem neighborhood. It also points out some potential limitations, but warns that forced displacement could affect "perhaps the most trenchant symbol of black urban culture." Copies are available from Neil Smith, Department of Geography, Columbia Univ., New York, NY 10027.

OAKLAND WATERFRONT: PN member Anthony Bernheim (577 62nd St., Oakland, CA 94609, 415/655-3578) has completed a study on an area of the Oakland waterfront for the San Antonio Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit community group in East Oakland. Titled San Antonio Waterfront Study, the report examines the area's potential for low- and moderate-income housing and for neighborhood job creation and retention. Copies are \$14, for mailing and copying costs.

☐ ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING: The Department of Planning at Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ 85287) offers a two-year graduate degree program in Environmental Planning. The interdisciplinary program is preparation for professional practice in urban planning, with an emphasis on the needs of growing communities in metropolitan Phoenix and the Southwest.

☐ SHARED HOUSING: From PN member Ken Norwood (Innovative Community-Housing, 1642 Arch St., Berkeley, CA 94709, 415-548-6608): Actual examples of originally designed housing for shared housing groups, intentional communities, voluntary/extended families are needed for a book in progress: A New Architecture for New Lifestyles: Shared Living Community-Housing. I am interested in descriptions of the living group, floor plans and/or site plan, location, or reference to a source for me to contact.

☐ TRASH FOR CASH: From Networker John Wengler, 119 W. 92nd St. #4, New York, NY 10025, 212/865-4192): You've tried walk-a-thons; you've ridden bike-a-thons. Now try a trasha-thon: Seek pledges for every pound of garbage picked up in parks, along roads, in your own community. An organization in Madison, Wis., for example, collected 500 pounds of trash and picked up \$800! Write me, I'll tell you more.

☐ MILITARY ECONOMY: From Networker Michael Closson: The Center for Economic Conversion now has available for resale a number of books on the military economy and economic conversion. These include the Center's own publications and a number of hard-to-find titles from other publishers. A copy of the book list is available from: CEC, 222C View St., Mountain View, CA 94041, 415/968-8798.

☐ MEMBER UPDATE: From PN member Ann Markusen: I'm on leave from Berkeley and working for Mayor Washington's Economic Development effort in Chicago, specifically studying the steel industry and the southeast Chicago economy. I'm also half time at Northwestern, probably through December (Center for Urban Affairs and Policy

Research, 2040 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60201). I'm engaged in two major new projects. One is the question of state and local initiatives in the area of industrial policy; and I would really like to hear about or read about anything anyone is doing in the way of progressive deals with employers or community/worker-initiated development, particularly with quid-pro-quos built in. The other project is an effort to document the role of military spending in the postwar period and particularly at present in regional and urban restructuring—and more generally what are the adverse industrial, occupational, racial and sexual, union-busting and political implications of building defense-industrial complexes outside the manufacturing belt and outside major cities. I would like to know who is working on this issue and of any anecdotal evidence about why defense-related employers

#### Report on Latin America

(This report was prepared by PN Steering Committee member William W. Goldsmith (Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell Univ., West Sibley #106, Ithaca, NY 14853.)

Recent reports in the news and from U.S. and foreign travellers in Latin America depict a misery that rarely has been exceeded on our continent. As planners and activists, we face problems of poverty, homelessness, joblessness, among others. To our south, these problems are charged with compound interest. Grave difficulties afflict the working population of cities in nearly every country of Latin America. Prices of basic items, such as rice, bread, milk, and bus fares, have skyrocketed. Malnutrition is noticeable and on the rise in many places. Studies show it to be worrysome even in the richest cities. In much of the countryside, people are even worse off. In the poorest regions, children and old people starve. Almost everywhere, decent and dependable jobs are in very short supply. In the words of a Chilean visitor with whom I spoke last week, "Things for the middle class in Santiago are very tough, very depressed. For the workers, they are unspeakable.'

My acquaintances in Brazil, many of them planners and economists, have been squeezed so it hurts. Those less fortunate, including even government clerks and skilled workers, cannot make payments on small houses, cannot afford good food, certainly cannot save. And most people beneath them don't have enough food, clothing, shelter, or health care to get by.

Reports from Bolivia are depressing. Three-digit inflation means money for a lot of basic goods is just not available. In Peru there has been a shocking series of ugly killings, including mass executions, mostly attributed to the armed forces and their para-military allies, but also to revolutionaries. No one needs reminding of the civil wars and repression that wrack Central America.

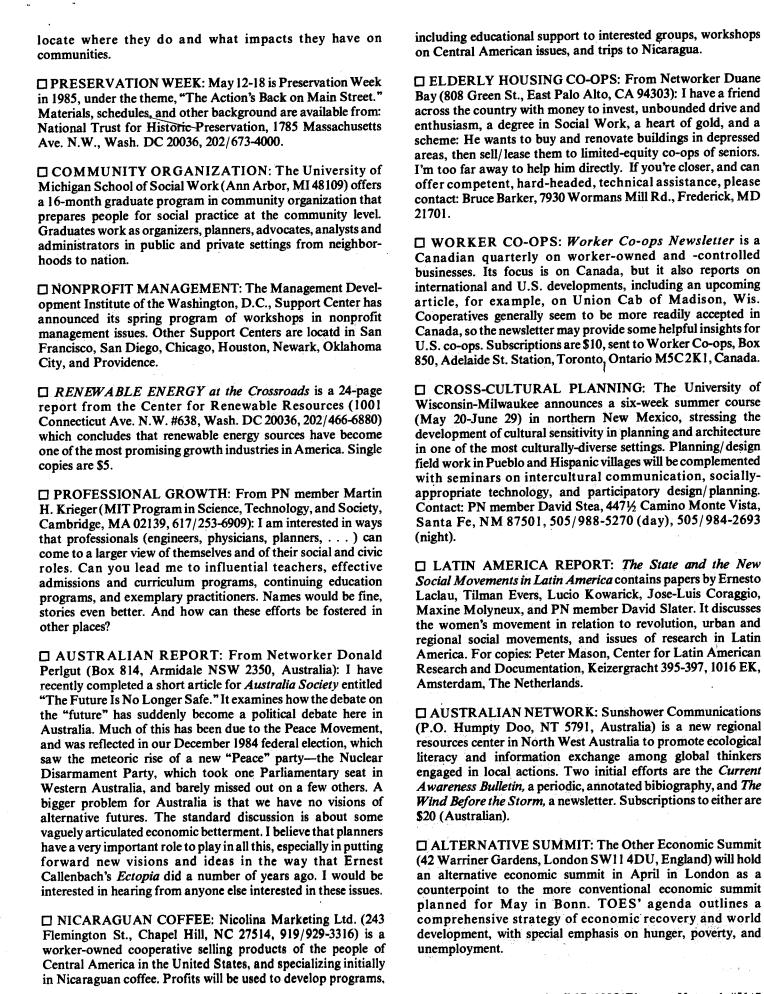
What role does the U.S. play? The complicity of the White House, the Treasury, the Pentagon, and the Congress in misdeeds that cause or compound these problems is manifold. Conduct of the U.S. economy, especially the maintenance of super-high interest rates and the accompanying austerity policies enforced by the IMF and the World Bank, is squeezing all poor countries. The United States (in an organized and formal way) has taught and financed torture in Latin America for more than 20 years. Our government resists moderate proposals for social

change, and it supports truly reactionary oligarchies and right-wing big business. At the head of the list, it gives clear support to vicious dictatorships in Chile and Guatemala, presses the continuation of repressive military rule in El Salvador, militarizes Honduras and maybe Costa Rica, and funds, supplies, and directs a war against the established government in Nicaragua. (Not that we should invade countries with unpopular regimes, but it is worth noting that outside observers judge the Nicaraguan government to be highly popular. So do insiders: it was elected in a highly democratic and resounding vote.)

What can American planners do? Not much in Latin America. A good deal at home. Here are some ideas on U.S. policy on Central America, none original:

- (1) Join others in sponsoring and supporting city or county resolutions protesting the role of the United States in Central America.
- (2) Hassle your congressperson and senators to resist the U.S.-sponsored wars more firmly. The Congress seems afraid to do anything that might commit U.S. troops, afraid to endorse other dramatic escalations, but entirely willing to fund (at "restricted" levels) the disgusting "covert" war. Write these people; get others to write.
- (3) Write letters to local newspapers; write op. ed. or other brief articles. Protest the complicity of the press in reporting the news straight from the mouths of U.S. spokesmen, even when it doesn't have the most elementary connection to the truth. You need to know very little of Central America to do this: just read a set of articles and note the obviously contradictory statements, the apparent lies.
- (4) Support sanctuary operations in your area, as a way of helping people to escape the war and repression, as a symbol of protest.
- (5) Ask your public schools to hold discussions of Central America in social studies classes, to send teachers to summer training programs about the area.
- (6) Don't pay the one war tax you can avoid, the federal excise tax on your phone bills.

This is a frustratingly paltry list. Much more is needed, but this is a start. If you want more information, NARMIC (1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102) has a good 4-pager on Central American militarization. The IPS Truth Squad (1901 Q St. N.W., Wash. DC 20009) has a useful 30-page briefing book.



☐ NYC LAND USE: From Jerry Joffe (15 Cranberry St., Brooklyn, NY 11201): I have tape cassettes of a Pacifica radio documentary program of slightly over one hour duration which I produced last year on the communities of Williamsburg and Greenpoint in Brooklyn. A focus of the documentary is on conflict over land use in the context of structural changes occurring throughout the metropolitan region. The cost is \$5.

3. In the paragraph headed "Domestic Policies," line 14, insert the following after "... minorities and women,": "development of programs for independent living and construction of accessible housing,".

The changes will be made in future printings of the "Call," unless there are objections.

# **Social Responsibility**

☐ ADPSR UPDATE: As noted in previous Newsletters, Planners Network is now an affiliate of the newly formed Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility. Network member Kathryn Kasch of Boston and Chair Chester Hartman sit on the ADPSR Executive Committee, and Network member Frank Ehrenthal of Reston is a member of the Board of Directors. There have been two meetings of the Executive Committee in New York since formation of ADPSR last October. The principal ativities at the meetings have been: refining by-laws; developing a manual for organizing ADPSR chapters; forming a Board of Advisors (well known names from the various relevant disciplines); writing a letter to the Prime Minister of New Zealand complimenting him on his country's actions in barring U.S. ships with nuclear weapons; trying to figure out how to raise operating funds; getting some projects off the ground. The full Board of Directors meets in San Francisco June 9, in conjunction with the American Institute of Architects' convention; and we'll have a fuller report on ADPSR after that.

☐ BISHOPS' LETTER: From Networker Dennis Keating (Urban Studies Dept., Cleveland St. Univ., Cleveland, OH 44115); As one who teaches undergrad and graduate courses on Urban Studies and Urban Planning, I have used the November 1984 U.S. Catholic Bishops' Draft Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy to spark student discussion of issues like de-industrialization, poverty, and racism. If other PN academics have done likewise, I would be interested to know about it. The letter can be effectively tied to films like The Business of America and Poletown Lives, which effectively portray these issues in cities like Pittsburgh and Detroit, I am helping to organize a campus debate on the letter. And the Ecumenical Great Lakes/Appalachian Project (2250) Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115) organized a series of lectures dealing with themes and issues raised in the letter, featuring PN members Norm Krumholz, Ann Markusen, and Bill Tabb. Our organizing and participating in the debate over the Bishops' letter is one way of carrying out the PN Call for Social Responsibility in the Planning, Building Professions.

☐ 'CALL' MODIFICATIONS: Here are the changes in the "Call for Social Responsibility" proposed in PN #50 by Networker Alan Gartner (CUNY Graduate School and University Center, 33 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10036, 212/790-4234):

1. In the preamble, paragraph 4, insert the following after the second sentence: "We plan and build housing and whole communities which exclude those with physical disabilities."

2. In the paragraph headed "Domestic Policies," line 3, insert the following after "... disadvantaged and minorities,": "and the disabled,".

# **Regional Roundup**

□ BAY AREA: From Networker Irwin Mussen (2237 Derby St., Berkeley, CA 94705): What has not been done well, at least in the Bay Area, is the use of the Network in actually assisting progressive forces in sensitive improvement of communities. When there are very progressive city councils in Berkeley and in Santa Cruz, it seems a waste that the skills of Network members are not systematically applied in support. Perhaps individual members are somehow involved. But, if the organization is to have some action meaning, it too should get involved. I have voiced this sentiment at meetings of the Network here. But, as of now, there has been only discussion of issues. That course is informative, but not adequate for those who would rather spend time in creative action.

□ NEW YORK: A number of Planners Network members helped organize with others a March 29 demonstration at the South African Consulate in New York in protest against apartheid and the destruction of black communities in South Africa. The protest was sponsored by Architects and Planners against Apartheid. Details: Networker C. Richard Hatch, 40 W. 27th St., New York, NY 10001, 212/889-4976.

### **Upcoming Conferences**

- □ NEIGHBORHOODS: Neighborhoods USA will hold its 10th annual conference on neighborhood concerns May 21-25 in Newark, NJ. The conference theme will be "Neighborhoods: Where People Make the Difference." The format includes a keynoter, an issues forum, workshops, and special events. Registration is \$130. Contact: Glen M. Brickus, Conference Coordinator, 201/733-8421.
- □ VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: "Planning to End Violence Against Women," will be held May 4, at the UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Speakers, workshops, and panels will address: the connections between daily violence against women and international issues of violence such as militarism and nuclear warfare; planning issues connected with rape, sexual harassment, child abuse, and multi-racial violence; social policy and service provision; housing and community design; controlling the marketing of violence against women; and examples of successful individual, community, and institutional strategies to end violence against women. Registration is free. Details: Feminist Planners and Designers Group, Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, U.C.L.A., Los Angeles, CA 90024, 213/825-3791.
- ☐ EMPLOYMENT LAW: The Wake Forest University School of Law (Box 7206, Winston-Salem, NC 27109) has scheduled a series of two-day programs on current employment law issues. Upcoming sessions are May 9-10 in Atlanta, and May 24-25 at Kiawah Island, S.C. Registration is \$325.
- □ NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT: The second annual Management and Community Development Institute will be held June 3-7 at Tufts University. The Institute's 15 classes include democratic management, organizational development, finance, marketing, computers, fundraising, housing development, law, cooperative enterprises, and community economic development. The Institute is designed for individuals working in (or preparing to work in) community development corporations, non-profit organizations, cooperatives, government development agencies, and funding organizations. Contact: Richard Schramm, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy, Tufts Univ., Medford, MA 02155, 617/381-3549.
- □ HOUSING CO-OPS: The National Association of Housing Cooperatives (2501 M St. N.W. #451, Wash. DC 20037, 202/887-0706) is sponsoring a series of two-day workshops on "How To Succeed in Business the Cooperative Way." One is June 8-9 in Kansas City; the other is June 22-23 in San Francisco. Registration begins at \$130 for NAHC members, \$150 for others.

## **Calls for Papers**

☐ HEALTH PROGRESSIVES: The Socialist Caucus of the American Public Health Association invites papers and participants at the annual A.P.H.A. meeting in Washington, D.C., November 17-21. A proposed list of topics includes: The Politics of Cancer; Community Health Centers; Race & Public Health; Corporatization of Health System; Health Care in El Salvador; Biomedical Research; Health Effects of Prison Overcrowding. Other topics are possible also. Contact: PN member Gordon Schift, 1032 Altgeld, Chicago, IL 60614.

#### **Jobs**

- □ PN REMINDER: Some of the jobs we list may have application deadlines earlier than when you receive the Newsletter. But deadlines can be adjusted sometimes. So we urge you to phone first, if a number if listed, and check on the deadline schedule.
- ☐ COMMUNITY RESEARCHER: The Citizens' Research Education Network (32 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106, 203/249-1416) has an opening for a researcher familiar with local government and committed to neighborhood concerns. Minority candidates are encouraged. Salary \$13,000-\$14,000 plus benefits. Contact: CREN Executive Director.
- ☐ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: The Youth Project (1555 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20036, 202/483-0030), one of the major financial intermediaries for social change, is seeking an experienced chief operating officer as Executive Director. Women and minorities are encouraged: salary is negotiable. Contact: Search Committee.
- ☐ EXPERIENCED NY-AREA: From Networker Martin Pressman (110 Cherry St. #7, Lafayette, LA 70506): I am seeking a position in the New York City area. As a planner with the City of Lafayette, I have been involved in all aspects of long-range planning. My skills include conducting research; evaluating and interpreting data; and preparing issue papers and reports. I have participated in the developmental process and the operations of an NHS, and currently serve on the Community Relations Committee. I have also designated NSAs, prepared a HAP, assisted in writing a master plan for the restoration of a river, authored land use policies and participated in the adoption of a new zoning ordinance. If anyone can be of assistance in providing job information please write. It does not have to be directly related to city planning.
- □ ICE STAFF: The Institute for Community Economics (151 Montague City Rd., Greenfield, MA 01301, 413/774-5933), which provides support for community land trusts and operates a revolving loan fund, has openings for three staff positions: financial administrator, management administrator, and loan fund assistant. Contact: Lisa Berger (management administrator), or Louise Foisy (financial administrator and loan fund assistant).

□ BUSINESS DEVELOPER: The National Economic Development and Law Center (1950 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94704, 415/548-2600) has an opening for an experienced business developer to work with community organizations in low-income communities. Salary begins at \$30,000, with benefits. Contact: Marsha Brown.

□ WRITERS/EDITORS: New Times (Box 2510, Phoenix, AZ 85002, 602/271-0040), an alternative news and arts weekly has openings for newswriters, feature writers, and editors. Salaries are in the \$25,000-\$30,000 range.

#### **Ex Conferences**

☐ RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Rural Virginia Inc. (Box 105, Richmond, VA 23201) sponsored a three-day conference April 10-12 in Richmond on changing development trends in rural Virginia. The conference title: "Paradise Lost: Life in Rural Virginia."

☐ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: The Trust for Public Land (254 W. 31st St., New York, NY 10001, 212/563-5959) sponsored a March 25-April 4 conference in New York among West German and American community development leaders on innovative neighborhood improvement and community development techniques in urban areas.

☐ COMPUTERS IN AGING: The Western Gerontological Society (833 Market St. #516, San Francisco, CA 94103) sponsored a March 16 conference in Denver on the theme, "Computers in Aging: The New Frontier." Topics included organizational support, fiscal management support, and client management support.

□ SOCIAL INVESTING: A national conference on socially sensitive investing and economic growth was held April 11-13 at the University of Michigan-Flint campus. Details: Jemadari Kamara, 364 CROB, Univ. of Michigan, Flint, MI 48503, 313/762-3353.

□ SRO HOTELS: The Single Room Occupancy Housing Corp. (311 S. Spring St. #1110, Los Angeles, CA 90013, 213/488-9695) held an April 12-14 conference in Los Angeles on SRO hotels as an affordable housing alternative. It examined government support and SRO hotel management and maintenance.

#### **Etcetera**

□ JUNE PN DEADLINE: The arrival deadline for copy for the June *Planners Network* is Monday, June 3. It was wonderful to hear from so many Networkers for this issue—even if the notes accompanied pleas for reinstatement after the purge. Wouldn't it be great if the level of Networker writing could be sustained. Our thanks to all who took the time to type their notes. It's a great help in production, and it reduces our chances to misread what you write.

Arrival deadline for #52 copy: Monday, June 3, 1985.

□ LOST SOULS: We seem to have more than our share of peripatetic members and some of them forget to keep us posted on address changes. We're always optimistic that they really meant to stay in touch, so we list them here for your help in re-establishing contact. Please let us know if you have an address for any of our wandering Networkers.

Dan Rossi, San Francisco

□ TALK UP PN: Please don't be shy about sharing news of the Planners Network with others. Let them know about us. Probably the best outreach we have is when you educate and recruit your friends, co-workers, acquaintances, and others. We have a good, one-page introductory sheet, "The Planners Network—What It Is," which we can send you in any quantity you wish. "What It Is" includes a statement of our principles, a brief organizational history, a list of Steering Committee members (who also double as regional contacts), and the method for calculating contributions. If you wish, you can also send us a list of prospective Networkers, and we will contact them for you.

☐ PERSONAL UPDATES: There are a number of short communications in this issue from Network members, letting us know about new jobs, projects, what's happening in their lives, etc. We encourage this. Sharing this kind of "where-I'm-at" information helps create a sense of community, provide contacts, generate support, and generally act like the network we strive to be.

□ ADDRESS CHANGES: Many Networkers seem to move around a lot. When you do, please let us have your old address and zip code as well as your new ones. Names (like luggage) sometimes are identical, and we want to be sure we change the right address card. Moreover, our cards are maintained in zip code order (because that's the way the Post Office wants the mail); so if we don't have your old zip code, we can't find your old card; and we wind up paying postage for phantom recipients. So please help out and send both old and new addresses.

#### New from Duke

# Housing Needs and Policy Approaches

Trends in Thirteen Countries

Edited by

Willem van Vliet — (College of Human Development, Pennsylvania State University), Elizabeth Huttman (Department of Sociology and Social Services, California State University, Hayward), Sylvia F. Fava (Sociology Department, Brooklyn College of the Graduate Center, CUNY)

**Contents** Housing Needs and Policy Approaches: An Overview / Part I: Housing Needs: Implications of Household Composition / The Effects of Household Formation on Housing Needs in Britain / United States Rental Housing Practices Affecting Families with Children: Hard Times for Youth / Housing the Extended Family in Sweden / Residential Fit and Mobility among Low-Income, Female-Headed Family Households in the United States/Part II: The Provision of Housing: The Role of the State / Restructuring the Welfare State: Privatization of Public Housing in Britain / State Intervention in Urban Housing Markets: Melbourne, 1945-80 / State Intervention and Alternative Tenure Patterns in Montreal / Housing Young People in Israel: Public Policy and Private Preferences / The Users' Perspective on Government: United States, Sweden, Australia / Policy Approaches to Social Housing Problems in Northern and Western Europe / Part III: The Provision of Housing: Self-Help Arrangements in Less-Industrialized Countries / The Rise of Squatter Settlements: Roots, Responses, and Current Solutions / Popular Housing in Brazil: A Review / Integrated Kampung Improvement Programs and Mutual Aid in Indonesia / Housing the Poor in a Planned City: The Chandigarh Experience / The Squatters' Perspective of Housing: An Egyptian View / Part IV: The Housing Environment: Societal Organization and Spatial Structure / Segregation Trends in the Netherlands / Societal Factors Shaping the Internal Structure of Finnish Cities / Dutch Inner-City Housing in the Context of Revitalized Policies / Egalitarian Possibilities in Housing: Norwegian Housing Policy / Notes / References / Index of Terms / Index of Places / Index of Names / Contributors

360 pages, bibliography, index, notes ISBN 0-8223-0587-9 \$39.50

Drawing upon research from six continents, *Housing Needs and Policy Approaches* analyzes the social problems involved in providing housing in the industrialized nations and in the Third World. The book focuses on four areas of concern: current trends in housing in specific western countries, the role of western governments in creating this housing, housing provision in less developed nations, and the relationship between societal structure and housing, particularly with respect to the decentralization of population occurring in many regions.

Housing Needs and Policy Approaches consists of studies presented at the Tenth World Congress of the International Sociological Association, Mexico City, 1982 as well as others written expressly for this volume.

Urban housing needs continue to dominate the agenda in most Third World countries. The chapters on self-help arrangements in less industrialized countries are insightful and highly instructive for those who are committed to, and involved in seeking solutions to these pressing shelter problems world wide.

-Fred Fisher, Urban Management Consultant, Agency for International Development

Worldwide, changes in family, urbanization, and housing patterns demand attention. This book, international in scope, addresses essential theoretical and policy issues from a multidisciplinary perspective. It makes for sobering—and fascinating—reading.

-Suzanne Keller, Professor of Sociology, Princeton University

This collection of papers from the 1982 World Congress of Sociology housing sessions is a useful addition to the slowly growing body of literature examining national housing policies from an international perspective. A number of many and varied articles show clearly how much light can be shed on the analysis of housing policies through examination of the contrast and similarities among different countries.

-Peter Marcuse, Professor of Urban Planning, Columbia University

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