

#8, April 21, 1977

Dear Network:

Let me, uncharacteristically, start off by mentioning *money*: Our solvency is merely fair (about \$1200 in the bank after this mailing, with each mailing costing in the neighborhood of \$4-500). The bank account keeps dropping steadily, and I'd like to avoid any kind of panic situation, whereby in a few months we have the say the operation is about to cease unless people cough up some bread. We're also about to allocate a small sum to pay one of our members to take over the task of keeping our mailing list straight (making address changes, adding and dropping names, etc.) and responding to requests. These are tasks I'm finding I don't have the time to do properly, and with a small expenditure (\$50 or so per month) we can make sure it's done well. So—can I urge each of you (especially those who either have never made a contribution or have not done so for quite some time) to send us a check (made out to "Planners' Network"), to build us a nest-egg the next year or so. Thanks. (Several people have suggested that those of you who are disaffected from AIP, ASPO, NAHRO and the various straight professional associations make a Network contribution in the amount of the dues you normally pay to those groups.)

NETWORK MEETINGS

The Midwest Network had its first meeting on Feb. 19 in Chicago. About 70 people attended. Among the projects they are discussing are: 1) A review/guide of planning education from a radical perspective. Coordinator is Barry Checkoway (Dept. of Urban & Regional Planning, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana 61801). 2) A Chicago-specific group to work on issues there (testifying before public bodies, doing local studies and advocacy work, etc.). Coordinator is Bob Cassidy, c/o ASPO, 1313 E. 60 St., Chi 3) Developing a guidebook for use of the EIR/EIS process by citizen groups. Coordinator is Erica Pascal, c/o ASPO, 1313 E. 60 St., Chicago 60637. The group plans to meet again but faces a geographical dispersion/travel problem (people came from Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota) that the other Network nodes don't have. For more information about the Midwest Network, contact Jim Harris, 219 Ronalds St., Iowa City, Ia. 52240 (319) 338-1459.

The Southern California region (Santa Barbara to San Diego) will be having its first meeting on Sunday, May 15, 3 p.m. at Sylvia White's house, 2338 Observatory Ave., LA (663-3806). Further information is available from Sylvia or from Judith Bernstein, 459 Landfair Ave. #7, LA 90024, 478-2492.

People in the San Jose area have also been meeting. We'll have a report in the next mailing, but in the meantime those interested should contact Carol Sanford, County Executive Office, 70 W. Hedding, E. Wing, San Jose, Cal. 95110, 299-2424.

The No. Calif. group met on March 5, some 75 strong. The morning was spent in a good roundtable discussion on rent control (Dennis Keating presenting on the current and past Berkeley campaigns, Eve Bach on rent control as a prelude to community control of housing, Steve Barton on the nascent SF efforts, and Chester Hartman on some of the limitations of this

reform strategy). A program committee (a la the Boston Network) was set up to plan future forums on a regular basis. A variety of topics were discussed in the afternoon small group sessions, chief among which was a proposal to create a radical version of the local "citizens" (in fact, "corporate" behind a "public interest" veil) housing and planning association. This proposal was then turned into reality at the

SF Network April 4 meeting: Some 30 people met to establish the radical counterpart to SPUR (the SF Planning & Urban Research Assn.—until recently the SF Planning & Urban Renewal Assn.). The group will initially have three thrusts: 1) to provide technical assistance to progressive community organizations (studies, help with testimony before public bodies, analyses of official plans, etc.); 2) to act as a "watchdog" on public agencies, in order to spot issues on which a radical planning voice and presence are needed; 3) to initiate studies and organizing efforts on issues around which no one now is in motion. To accomplish #1, the group is preparing a brochure to send to community groups, announcing their existence, purposes and availability, and is collecting information on the skills, interests and time commitments of members. To accomplish #2, individual members have volunteered to "monitor" the relevant public and private agencies (Housing, Planning, Redevelopment, Board of Supervisors, etc.), in order to spot upcoming issues. Ad hoc task forces will be put together to work with affected community groups to study these issues and put forth recommendations and action proposals. Network members also are being asked to suggest project ideas to be initiated by the Network itself. The next SF Network meeting will be Monday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. at the Mission Neighborhood Center, 362 Capp St.

N.Y. Network: According to a report from Bruce Dale, "A steering committee, about 8-25 people, has been meeting somewhat regularly, and after a long discussion has decided to develop a more clear political organizational form and ask people if this is possible considering their own needs and desires." The group held a conference on April 16, to discuss the following draft organizational proposal they had circulated:

To the U.S. Network
From the Volunteer Steering Committee of the New York Area

Reading Mike Stone's letter to his Boston friends warmed the temperature in New York (this cold winter) at least for those of us who have been meeting regularly as the volunteer steering committee.

We have been thinking about similar things and struggling with ourselves over the word Socialism. Do we or don't we? What would it mean? Would it hurt us or strengthen our commitment?

We also felt that the fear of this word was a result of being subjected to the capitalist ideological structure in which we struggle, hoping to maintain our integrity.

After some lengthy and difficult discussions we decided on an alternative: a structure which would offer a political frame and provide the necessary opportunity to get to know and trust each other through on-going study and action committees, which would be interconnected to the other groups in a true network.

For the information and comment of the other network areas we offer for discussion our proposal for the New York Area Network of Radical Planners, Architects and Urbanists.

DRAFT ORGANIZATIONAL PROPOSAL FOR NEW YORK CITY AREA NETWORK

Introduction

Since our last conference in June 1976, the steering committee has been trying to answer the perennial question, "Where do we go from here?" We searched the statements you submitted at the end of the conference but could find no clear answer other than a nebulous mandate, "keep us in touch."

People were saying we want to keep in touch because we share a basic dissatisfaction with the way the planning professions are currently defined and practiced. We realize there are many different motives for why people want to come together. We believe that only by working collectively towards alternative solutions can we potentially affect any change in the mainstream political process.

Three New York branches of national "networks," the Lawyers Guild, Health-Pac and URPE, had been invited to the June conference so we could evaluate their experience: what kind of structure did they have, how were decisions made, what kept them together in common struggle? We learned that all three networks were political organizations more than professional networks.

So far, through the New York City Area Network, people have only been able to come together for a conference, and because of the looseness of its structure, ongoing effort has been difficult to sustain. In consequence, the sense of the steering committee is that we need a set of goals and a system of means—in short, an organization that provides some sort of continuity. Otherwise, it will not be possible to continue to bring people together and sustain our collective efforts. For this reason, the steering committee submits the following proposal.

A Radical Alternative to Mainstream Planning

The Network should respond to the social, political and economic context of the planning process, the decision-making procedures and the structure of our work situations which limit our abilities to support social and political change. Therefore, the purpose of the Network is to aid in the development of a critical understanding of planning policies and actions, formulate a radical perspective, and provide political support for progressive community and city-wide struggles.

A united network of people in the planning professions is needed to help individual "planners" who recognize the needs of the working class, the unemployed, the elderly, women and minorities in plans and policies because of job insecurity or subtle and overt political pressures.

Objectives

Organization Focus: Promote critical analysis of the process of planning, urban development and policy making at the local, state and national levels. Develop this perspective through concrete proposals, plans and research projects.

Group Support: Provide support for local and citywide groups struggling for housing, health care and other social services. Raise the level of political consciousness through educational programs on urban struggles and provide technical and organizational skills for professional and lay-people.

Individual Support: Facilitate the exchange of ideas, information and assistance among members by means of a regular newsletter, position papers, pamphlets and a professional journal. Promote and support individual efforts to eliminate racism and sexism within the planning professions.

Structure

Structure and organization will maintain continuity and communication, facilitate the development of activities and encourage new membership.

Membership

Membership is open to all individuals and organizations who share the above objectives.

Dues

Dues will be necessary to provide a minimal operating budget.

Steering Committee

The steering committee will be composed of nine members including the heads of subcommittees and members-at-large elected by the general membership. Members of the temporary steering committee will chair the first meeting and set a temporary agenda.

At the first subcommittee meetings, chairpersons will be elected who will become steering committee members.

The function of the steering committee will be to maintain the existence of the subcommittees, implement new subcommittees, coordinate activities, decide on resource allocation where appropriate, decide on group activities, implement group activities as mandated by the membership.

Outstanding issues which need resolution include, (1) autonomy of the steering committee and subcommittees; (2) need for by-laws; (3) meeting times.

Subcommittees

Education: to deepen the practical and theoretical understandings of issues selected by members for study, and to include the formation and operation of study groups, workshops and conferences.

Publication and Working Papers: to act as a means of communication, soliciting materials from membership and other individuals/organizations, producing and distributing a newsletter and other written materials.

Administration: to be responsible for day-to-day organizational maintenance, calling membership meetings, keeping books and minutes, coordinating subcommittees, calling steering committee meetings, answering correspondence.

The following report on the April 16 conference, from Bruce Dale, arrived in record time, so it could be included in this mailing:

"The following is the instant summary of today's conference that you requested. Please understand that the conference ended an hour ago and we have not had any time to reflect on the events. Excuses aside, here goes:

Despite the beautiful weather, 30 people attended and the majority (25) were willing to stay to the end and discuss the organizational issues we raised in our proposal for a New York Area Network.

During the early part of the program it became clear that the three speakers, representing different community struggles currently taking place in New York, [Brad Smith, Coalition for a People's Budget, Radical Assn. of Social Workers; Ron Shiffman, Pratt Inst. Ctr. for Comm. and Env. Development; Jane Benedict, Metropolitan Council on Housing] were anxious to bring us up to date about their struggles and document the city's and state's mishandling of the available funds during this, New York's worst fiscal crisis. It was also clear that they could identify numerous areas where professional training could be profitably put to use: in additional research, analysis, and distribution of information to other groups and struggles.

The focus shifted smoothly into a discussion of our proposal, with some significant suggestions on how we could define our role and contribution. A clear consensus developed that the document was acceptable with one or two minor changes. To our original objectives was added the use of the Network and the weight of its professional credentials as a resource for public testimony at city and state hearings on those issues which support community struggles and on which we have developed a political perspective.

To begin, we limited the committees to two. The first will focus on the Community Development Act and will work with the city-wide coalition currently preparing several legal strategies to expose and prevent the mishandling of federal funds allocated to New York. The second combines two issues (budget cuts and rent control) into one, under the heading of Planned Shrinkage, and will use the city and state budgets as part of an overall analysis to demonstrate that the New York political bureaucracy had indeed adopted planned shrinkage through selected service cutbacks as a strategy to reconstitute the city over the next 25 years.

Each of these committees has set dates for future meetings:

Planned Shrinkage: April 29 - 6 p.m. at
Urban Deadline - 2248 Broadway

Community Development: April 28 - 5 p.m. at
Pratt Center - 275 Washington Ave.
Brooklyn

All members of the Network are invited to attend and participate in either of the two committees, as there will indeed be work for all.

As for the structure, the proposal was accepted as presented and the newly constituted steering committee was given a clear mandate to work out the details.

If any Network members are interested in further information they may contact Bruce Dale at (212) 675-3937 or Jackie Leavitt at (212) 866-4441."

The Boston Network (whose March 24 meeting—their umpteenth—I was able to attend) continues going strong. The study group Michael Stone proposed in Newsletter #7 is a reality and has met several times.

The Boston Network has just begun a newsletter of its own (with fancy letterhead, no less), which moves beyond distribution of meeting minutes. Their first (April, 1977) edition announces their April 20 program: a slide show on and discussion of Cuba by Roberta Praeger, a construction worker on the Venceremos Brigade in the Spring of 1976. Their study group next meets April 27 (47 Halifax St., Jamaica Plain), to discuss "Hostage! Housing and the Massachusetts Fiscal Crisis" by Michael Stone and Emily Achtenberg.

The address for the group (whose official name is the Boston Area Network of Radical Architects, Planners and Urbanists) is c/o C.S.P.P., 123 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge 02138.

"State of the Neighborhoods" is the title of the 6th National Conference of National People's Action, June 12-13 at Howard Univ. in Washington. Further information from NPA, 121 W. Superior St., Chicago 60610 (312) 751-1617.

RECENT BOOKS by Network members:

Carl Sussman (ed.) *Planning the Fourth Migration: The Neglected Vision of the Regional Planning Association of America* (MIT Press, 1976)

Dolores Hayden *Seven American Utopias: The Architecture of Communitarian Socialism, 1790-1975* (MIT Press, 1976); includes a chapter of recommendations for planners and designers who wish to apply the insights from communitarian history to contemporary practice.

Advance, the newsletter of the West Side Tenants Union, no longer is edited by Nathan Weber; new address is 262 W. 81 St., NYC 10024.

"Boston in Crisis" was the name of a conference held March 19 on that city's fiscal crisis and proposed responses. By all accounts it was an interesting and useful event and perhaps a good model for other local and state conferences. More information available from Michael Stone, 103 University Rd., Brookline, Mass. 02146.

The National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs (1521 16th St. NW, Washington 20036, 202-232-3600) would like Network people to be aware of their existence and work, in particular their Disclosure and Reinvestment Project headed by Karen Kollias, which provides technical and resource assistance to community groups wishing to develop strategies for disclosure utilization and neighborhood reinvestment. Among the publications they have available are: an 18 pp. annotated bibliography on neighborhood reinvestment (\$1; 75 cents in bulk orders over 25); "Disclosure and Neighborhood Reinvestment: A Citizen's Guide" (\$1.50; \$1 bulk).

"The Crisis of Rapid Urban Development—Manchester and Sao Paulo" is a conference being held at Stanford Univ. April 21-23 (free). Really interesting topic: two paradigm cities exemplifying explosive urban growth under industrial capitalism, discussed by a group of scholars from England, Brazil and the U.S. Sessions cover the intellectual climate, governance, the city and hinterland, rural-urban migration, opportunity and exploitation, kinship and voluntary organizations, religion, sports and popular culture, urban services and administration. Further and follow-up information from Fred Stout, Director, Urban Studies Program, Stanford, Palo Alto, Ca 94305.

"Social Building" is the title of a new UCLA program concerned with the human content of architecture. Among the goals are: "to make architecture and the management of urban facilities forms of social practice rather than narrowly conceived business transactions;" "to prepare and induce professionals to experience themselves as centers of moral action in the world, rather than as technicians only," "to articulate criteria for the design of settings for a good society." Among the core faculty are David Stea and Murray Silverstein of the Network. More information available from them at the UCLA School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

"Banking for Non-Bankers: The Public Interest and Development Banking" is the title of a workshop, to be held June 5-10 in Chicago. Sponsors include the Natl. Conf. on Alternative State and Local Public Policy and the Natl. Public Interest Research Group. The purpose: "to provide key persons who are attempting to move commercial banks to play an active role in the economic development of inner-city neighborhoods, older suburbs and rural areas with practical knowledge about banking." The workshop will treat "the larger issues of how banks operate as political institutions making decisions individually and collectively which affect the economic viability of various regions, and of the nation itself." Concrete skills, such as how to do risk analysis, how to research banks, how to organize around banking issues, leveraging public funds for development, etc. will be taught by what looks like an excellent set of resource people. Applications and further information from Lawrence Rossner of the Woodstock Institute, 400 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 60611, (312) 644-4469.

A PROFESSIONAL "GUILD" (UNION) FOR PLANNERS/ARCHITECTS who work on a consulting project basis is something that Carl Sussman, Bob Goodman and Barbara Beelar are thinking of forming within the Network. It would deal with issues such as continuing health benefits, sharing ideas on how to do "piece work" (consulting, formation of a credit coop, etc.) The Network might also help to provide job protection, negotiate with employers on behalf of members involved in disputes, etc. If you're interested in contributing to the discussion, contact them at the Center for the Study of Public Policy, 123 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge 02138 (617) 547-2593.

SLATE is the new bimonthly newsletter of the (British) New Architecture Movement, and it looks very good. Subs are \$4 (surface mail), \$6 airtost, single copies \$1.20 airtost. NAM is forging ahead with trade union organization among architectural and allied workers, the main subject of their first newsletter. They also are interested in letters, articles, etc. from people in the U.S. They have a conference coming up on union organization May 14. Their address is 9 Poland St., London W1.

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE URBAN POLITICAL ECONOMY LITERATURE is what Charles Hoch (a doctoral student at UCLA) is putting together, for the Council of Planning Librarians or some other medium "to save newcomers a lot of grief." Those interested in sharing/contributing should contact him at 2000 Alberta #19, Venice, Cal. 90291 (213) 822-7457.

THE GREEN GUERRILLAS is a NYC group (PO Box 673, Canal St. Sta., NYC 10013) that produces such things as blueprints for making "seed grenades" from small balloons and old Christmas ball ornaments, to "bomb" vacant lots. A "Greenpaper" they sent in goes as follows:

Plant a windowbox full of seeds, flowers and vegetables
Give seeds as birthday, Christmas cards, plants as presents
Weed a garden, water a tree, hug a tree, protect a tree, share shade
Try shelves in your windows (Plexiglass or safety glass, at least 1/4" thick)
Grow vines, ivy on ugly walls and fences, plant grass everywhere
Save your tomato, orange, grape, lime, zucchini, green pepper, lemon seeds
Put them in earth, water and cover with plastic wrap until they sprout
Visit the Botanical Gardens: Bronx, the Museum and Historic Landmark Conservatory;
Also Brooklyn and Queens; visit the Cloisters' terrace herb garden
Picnic in Central Park, see the Shakespeare Garden, smell an herb
Embarrass LITTERBUGS, consider a Citizen's arrest, recycle paper, glass, aluminum
Carry Zinnia, Marigold, Sunflower seeds, have a secret park grow for you
Make new friends, swap plants, cuttings, seedlings, share knowledge
Grow catnip for a cat, make a birdhouse or a birdbath for a park
Scattering and planting seeds is more fun than graffiti, grass grows and spreads
Run your fingers through cool, soft, clean grass, smell it, whistle on it
Start your own herb garden, basil, sage, chives, and parsley easily grows and spreads

easily grown from seed
Teach/learn what Poison Ivy looks like, wash with Brown soap if you touch it
Vote \$\$\$ for green growing spaces, write your representatives, be aware
Camp out overnight under trees, stars, listen to growing sounds, crickets
Make your own dyes: red sumac leaves for black; berries for red; spinach for green; carrots for yellow
Color new cement GREEN Have a "Potting Party" Read Walt Whitman
Save your hard-boiled egg water, let it cool and give it to your plants
Steam/humidify your plants with vapors of leftover tea/coffee water
Keep a bowl of dirt or sand for visiting children, nervous friends or yourself to play with
Visit a greenhouse Photograph, draw, memorize a plant or flower

The London Centre for Alternatives in Urban Development is planning a Second Summer School on Alternatives in Housing and Local Development in the London Docklands. This is still in the early stage of preparation but further details will be sent to anyone asking for them from CAUD c/o DPU 12 Percy Street, London W1P 9FB. "The substance and purpose of the 1977 Summer School will be similar to the first, held in Swindon in early September 1975: to present local activists and governments with precedents for effective alternatives to current housing practises. Leaders of groups and enterprises that have actually and successfully shown how user-controlled methods can do far more for less and with great social benefits will be invited to make public presentations and to participate in follow-up seminars and discussions with the (limited) number of summer school participants. We anticipate an emphasis, this time, on tenant management and cooperatives as these are the most commonly relevant to the inner-city situation in which the school will be held. Last time, the emphasis was on new construction and self-help and the 1975 Summer School has led to the start of several projects in Swindon and elsewhere, as well as contributing to the growing British interest in locally controlled alternatives."

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NEW BRUNSWICK (NJ): In a previous Newsletter we mentioned the big downtown renewal project planned there, with its "company town" aura. Andrew Scherer (306 E. 6th St. #16 NYC 10003), who's been involved in the struggle to stop the project, updates as follows:

"The corporate scheme to alter the downtown area to meet Johnson and Johnson's need for a new international headquarters and the consequent displacement of the low-income third world people who live in the area is moving right along as scheduled. The redevelopment is being done by two private corporations, one profit-making and the other non-profit, at least in part designed to insulate the project from mandatory relocation payments under state or federal law which would be required if there was any governmental involvement in the redeveloping. The same people are represented on the boards of directors of J. & J. and the development corporations (New Brunswick Tomorrow and Devco) and some are on the city council and the planning board as well.

I would really appreciate it if a request could be made to other Network people to share with me any experience they have had or know of in blocking private redevelopment schemes or at least holding them accountable for relocating people to be displaced, whether through law suits and/or by political action, organizing, etc. Of course, I am also interested in attempts which have failed and why people think they failed.

I will be using the material I gather for an article on holding private redevelopers accountable for relocation costs for the *Review of Law and Social Change*, and for the benefit of the community people in New Brunswick who are in the midst of the struggle against J. & J.'s scheme.

I would welcome personal accounts, community and local press reports, articles and any other pertinent material."

"Housing in the Public Domain," the Met Council study mentioned in the last Newsletter has been reprinted, but now bears a \$2.50 cost (+ 35¢ postage). It's one of several strands in what appears to be a developing interest in taking housing out of the private profit sector. Since that's a subject I'm doing some writing on at the moment, I'd like to hear from anyone else interested in the subject, with references to any studies or publications; maybe we can put together some kind of meeting or collection of articles in the near future.

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES OWNERSHIP: Leland Neuberg (2520 Warring St., Berkeley, Cal 94704) is currently doing some statistically-oriented research on issues raised in struggles for municipal ownership of electric utilities around the country. "Correspondence from Networkers interested in such questions is welcome."

"Shelterforce", that really good national housing newspaper, needs help from Network people: 1) to write and/or edit articles; 2) do graphics; 3) raise money; 4) do advertising and circulation. "We are also recruiting an editorial advisory board and seeking new members for the collective," writes John Atlas. Anyone interested in helping/joining should write Pat Morrissy at 31 Chestnut St. E. Orange, NJ, 07018 (201) 676-2411, 673-2405, 672-3838.

JOB: As usual, the timing of receiving job announcements and the timing of getting out newsletters have led to a mismatch. This time it's three faculty positions and the directorship of the School of Urban Sciences at the Univ. Illinois Circle Campus (Chicago). Deadline was March 1, according to the announcement, but it's conceivable there's been an extension. Contact Robert Mier of the Network (College of Urban Sciences, Univ. Ill. Box 4348, Chicago 60680; 312-996-8722) if you're interested. I would urge anyone interested in job seeking to make that known to us, with some description of type of work sought; then, when we get announcements of this type (academic and non-academic), we can make more immediate, direct contact with you. A "job bank" was one of the original proposals for Network activity, and while establishment of something that formal may take some time, we can at least do it informally.

Another academic position that still is open is the Directorship for the Urban Affairs and Planning Dept. at Boston Univ. (two graduate and two undergraduate programs.) Preferred qualifications include a PhD (3-5 years old at least) in planning or a related field; professional planning experience; eligibility for full AIP membership (arghh); and academic standing commensurate with tenure. Salary is in the mid-20s. Resumes etc. should be sent to Edward Berger, Acting Director, Metropolitan College, 755 Commonwealth Ave. Boston 02215. Brandon Wilson (7 Wright St., Cambridge 02138, 617-492-0774, who sent this in), is the student representative on the search comm., and people might want to contact her for some filling in. Brandon is also looking for a summer job, especially in the NYC or Boston areas, if anyone has something to suggest to her. And she also wants to bring to Networkers' attention four publications that have come out of an HEW-sponsored environmental education project she's been working on:

1) a *Community Guidebook on the EIS Process for Citizens and Local Officials*, an extensive, activist-oriented manual that should provide most people with all the information and skills necessary to effectively critique and challenge any environmental impact document; 2) a 64-page annotated *Bibliography* of all kinds of publications and resources available to the general public regarding the EIS process, its strengths and weaknesses, and its value in developing environmental education courses; 3) a *High School Curriculum Package* including audio-slide tapes and lesson plans, which teaches secondary students about the concept and significance of environmental impacts; 4) a *Training Manual* useful for leading lively workshops on the EIS Process for the general public and others wanting to know more about how to be effective participants in such a governmental decision making process. Although the focus is on the Federal legislation, it can be easily adapted to most state and local environmental requirements and decision making processes. All of these publications and other supporting materials (e.g. case studies, charts, skills materials, etc.) are available at a nominal cost from: Dr. Barry R. Lawson, E.I.S. Project, Boston University, Metropolitan College, room 205, 755 Commonwealth Ave. Boston, Mass. 02215.

COASTAL PLANNING: Moe Stavenzer, who has served on citizens planning groups in Venice and Marina del Rey and was active in California's Prop. 20 campaign (establishing the Coastal Commission) writes:

"As to a response for future potential activities I'd like to suggest your involvement in planning work which must be done pursuant to the Coastal Act of 1976. Local coastal planning, in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Act, must take place in more than 70 jurisdictions along the coast of California. The issues involved encompass a great many of the interest areas in your newsletter. It seems especially important that local citizens have some pool of professional expertise in order to deal with both local governments and the coastal commission. It seems possible that your group could help provide such expertise. Venice, for example, could provide a unique opportunity for people in many of your interest areas. Among other things we have the largest black population of any area within the coastal zone and it might be very helpful if a black member of your network could be available to offer assistance to that community. In any case, I think that coastal planning, including active citizen participation, will be precendential for many other coastal states and that your involvement could be most helpful. I hope that you'll give it some consideration."

Anyone interested in this should write Stavenzer at 824 Amoroso Place, Venice, Cal. 90291 (213) 822-4725. Or it might be an issue to be taken up at the May 15 LA Network meeting mentioned above.

CHERIE GOSSET (346 S. Cochran #5, LA 90036) writes:

"I would like to see more alternatives open up as to viable work opportunities, as for instance, in collective planning consultancies, extension or network learning/teaching programs (help yourself, politicization orientation), and planning-in-the-public-interest groups (i.e., in the interest of those without effective economic or political demand). Some of us here at UCLA are contemplating some sort of workshop on this come

spring. Suggestions as to how to make a modest living and still live what you believe would be appreciated."

DISTRIBUTION AND CONCENTRATION OF LAND OWNERSHIP: Frank Popper (1719 E. 54 St., Chicago 60615) is interested in learning of any studies of same.

The Center for National Housing Law Reform (1622 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105) has an opening for a radical economist, to focus on an overall analysis of the Ann Arbor housing crisis. They've also published a 55-page primer "How to Evict Your Landlord" (\$1.20). And they have developed a summons form for tenants being evicted that is in "street talk" rather than legalese; it has already been adopted in Detroit and reportedly has had great success in reducing default rates by tenants in eviction actions. They're working to have it adopted state-wide. More about the Center from Ricky Dutka:

"The Center was officially founded in April '76, although we had been a Housing Project of Washtenaw County Legal Aid six months prior to that time. . . . We are presently funded by a combination of VISTA (my position), Legal Aid, and the Michigan Student Assembly (Housing Law Reform Project—the student gov't of U-M) and the balancing of these and other bureaucracies gets pretty hectic and time-consuming. . . .

We've been able to develop excellent relations with the media and housing is rapidly becoming a major issue in this year's mayoral campaign. We have a weekly column in the Michigan Daily and we release many articles, press releases and feature stories based on our findings. We've also done many radio interviews.

Rent control referendums have failed twice in Ann Arbor due to landlord opposition which had a great deal of PR and money to back it up. We're undertaking a study of rent control and were very interested to see that Berkeley has both a rent control and a collective bargaining initiative. We also work closely with the AA Tenants Union.

The other day, we received a small amount of money from a local church group to undertake a video-tape of the local housing crisis, so that's our newest project."

NICO CALAVITA sends in the following:

"Just one thing: We need a larger, more structured forum. The newsletter is great but is also frustrating because it is an inadequate form for our group, especially for those of us who don't live in a large metropolitan area where lots of interaction can take place with other Network members.

I agree with Michael Stone's letter, especially about the Network emerging with 'an explicit socialist identity' and about the necessity for the development of an adequate leftist theoretical understanding, but his letter was addressed to members of the Boston Network and his study proposal makes sense for a group of people who can get together and interact on a regular basis.

What about a magazine? It is ridiculous that a country as large as this one does not have a leftist planning magazine.

I believe that the time is coming for a wider acceptance of a socialist alternative to the status quo. Foundations and individuals are financing the 'Exploratory Project for Economic Alternatives,' whose directors openly advocate the move to socialism.

Let's get out of the closet!"

TOM WOOLEY of the Architectural Assn. in London has sent in the following material: 1) an outline for a conference "Industry, the Community and Appropriate Technology", held April 15-19 in Leeds (follow-up to the Nov. 1975 ICAT conference in Bradford); 2) The first newsletter of "Support" an organization (somewhat similar to the Network although somewhat more informal) of people with background in architecture, building, housing and planning; 3) *Alternatives in Housing—A Report on Self-Build in Britain* (\$2 surface mail, \$3 airmail). All available from Woolley at 46, Church Rd., London NW10 9PX. "Support" looks very interesting, and I hope to be able to meet with some of them in early May when I'm in London.

NANCY DiTOMASO (Dept. of Sociology, Northwestern Univ.) has the following thoughts about the Network (communicated in letter form for the Feb. 19 Midwest Network meeting, which she wasn't able to attend):

"I would like to see the Planners Network be an exchange for other planners of like mind to keep in contact, especially regarding any planning proposals that appear undemocratic or have negative consequences for people who otherwise would not know how to stop their incorporation into someone else's plan. This is different, I would assume, from advocate planning which assumes that planners would make themselves available to help get things done. Rather, I assume planners should be available to help stop things.

I would like to see the Planners Network present an alternative socialization both for planners and for the planned. I would like to stress as much as possible that planning is a political function, not a technical one. The more this idea is communicated to planners and to the public, the safer we will be. I am not a reactionary, but a realist, and a radical. Planning can be a tool for liberation or it can be an instrument of control or even perhaps repression.

I would hope that the Planners Network would be interdisciplinary so that planning as an occupation will have a broader focus than it might otherwise have, and so that the planning process is not left to technicians.

A specific concern on which the Planners Network could work is the recent attention to evaluation research which is the other side of at least some planning, and it points up the social control function. If this were incorporated into a theory of the state, I think it would be enlightening for all those involved. I have one paper on the Ideology of Economic Planning and would like at some time in the future to work on a paper on the measurement of efficiency and outcomes within the public sector."

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Alan Richman has co-authored (with F. Stuart Chapin, Jr.) a monograph entitled "A Review of the Social and Physical Concepts of the Neighborhood as a Basis for Planning Residential Environments." \$5, from Dept. of City & Regional Planning, Univ. of No. Carolina, Chapel Hill 27514. Alan also wants people to know about *Carolina Planning*, a journal they publish, available from the same address (\$5 for 2 issues/year.)

"Controlling Medical Expansion" (*Society*, Jan-Feb. '77), by Howard Waitzkin and John Sharratt, describes the community struggle around hospital expansion in Boston. They will have another article in an upcoming issue of *Science for the People*, and have a draft of a third article presenting the results of a nationwide survey of hospital expansion in urban residential areas. Howard's reachable at the Dept. of Epidemiology and Environmental Health at the Univ. of Vermont, Burlington 05401.

Antioch (Seattle branch) Free Forums on Public Policy Issues are being run bi-weekly by Dan Carlson, who coordinates their Urban Studies Program. He extends an invitation to any Network people planning to be in the Seattle area to contact him if they'd like to present something at a Forum session (3826 Woodland Park N., Seattle 98103 (206) 632-9660).

LAY PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND DESIGN: Michael Pyatok and Hanno Weber of The Community Design Workshop at Washington Univ. School of Architecture (St. Louis 63130) are putting together a book on the subject, international in scope, covering both practice and education, plus some clarification of the theoretical foundations for the praxis of professionals attempting to work in this manner. They're looking for case studies. Anyone interested in contributing a chapter should contact them right away.

They've also produced two papers that may be of interest to Network members: "Re-Learning Design in Architecture: An Alternative Education Confronting Change" and "Participation in Residential Design: A Method for Generating Choice and its Ideological Implications."

LEW LUBKA (Grad. Program in Community & Regional Planning, N. Dakota St. Univ., Fargo 58102) is putting together a workshop on housing for the poor and minorities at the annual meeting of the N. Dakota Planning Assn., May 26-27. He's also doing some work with the Standing Rock Sioux at the Ft. Yates reservation, helping them develop a resource management program. Other Network people doing work with and about Native American groups perhaps could contact him. Lew also wants to bring to Networkers' attention HEART (Housing Education Action Research Training), a poor folk's self-help housing program in India run by Prof. Madhav Achwal. Lew has a short case-study available, and says Achwal would like to correspond with others about similar programs. (Address: Harihar Bhavan, Shiya Baug, Baroda 390 001, India.)

SHELTER, THE BRITISH CAMPAIGN FOR THE HOMELESS, is interested to learn whether disclosure laws have made any difference to mortgage red-lining in the USA. They also have a lot of material on red-lining in the UK they'd be glad to share, either as evidence or as an article. Contact Jim Wintour, Shelter, 157 Waterloo Rd., London SE1 8UU.

JOB WANTED:

Michael Harney (P.O. Box 4166 San Francisco, CA. 94101, (415) 588-3745) is seeking full or part time work in the Bay Area. He has over 10 years experience in City and State Planning with emphasis in low and moderate income Housing and Community Development. He hopes that those interested or knowing of those who might be interested will not hesitate to contact him.

Well, that about wraps it up for #8. Thanks to Don Neuwirth and Josh Lichterman for helping out with the mailing #7. Out of considerations of symmetry, I also close with a reminder to send money.

Best,


Chester Hartman

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