

Dear Network Member:

#9—June 28, 1977

Beware of the Red "X." The Network's Periodic Purge has rolled around once again. As you may remember the simple rule: we don't hear from you, you don't hear from us. Sooo—if your communication shows the tell-tale mark right up there at the top, it means that according to our (truly fallible) records, the Network hasn't heard from you in any form (letter, contribution, attendance at a local Network meeting) over the last year or so. If you want to continue as part of the Network, continue receiving these scintillating missives, etc., you must let us know. Otherwise it's curtains—this will be your last mailing. Apologies in advance for all those whom we have unjustly X'd—a simple, friendly note to set us straight is all that is required.

In our next mailing—sometime around mid to late August—we plan to send out a revised list of Network members. The last (Oct. 1976) is by now somewhat outdated, particularly with the gain of several hundred new persons since that time. The listing is our most valuable resource—particularly if it's more than just names and addresses. It should have some short description of each person's work, interests, etc. So, if you never sent one in, or if your previous listing needs updating, please send us something within the next two months. In the Oct. 1976 list, only about half the persons listed have some biographical material.

NO. CALIFORNIA: Things have been quite active in these here parts. Following the successful rent control forum in early March, the group met again in early June for a forum on district election of local legislators (a major issue in S.F.) and the general topics of how local government policies can be influenced through different systems of electing officials and how these different systems restrict or enhance effective community organizing and left policy alternatives. It was an excellent session, with lead-off presentations by Mike Davis from the S.F. District Elections group and Ying Lee Kelley, recently defeated Berkeley City Councillor. The group has planned its next session around Future Directions for Oakland (which has just elected a Black Democratic mayor—Lionel Wilson); another possible topic may be the state's new draft urbanization plan (which hopefully will be sent to all Network members in Calif. by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research).

The Bay Area component of the larger N. Cal. group has begun to organize as a technical assistance/advocacy group for low-income groups in the region. They sent a skills/interest/time questionnaire to their members and received 40 replies, as the basis for forming a skills bank. They've also prepared a flyer, which was distributed to nearly 100 community groups, and have already become involved in a number of projects:

- Preparing a housing guide for use by community groups (essential data in readable form, glossary of terms, names & addresses of agencies and resources, etc)
- Preparation (for a consortium of community groups and their Neighborhood Legal Assistance attorneys) of a position paper on a proposed area-wide code enforcement/rehabilitation program for a downtown area of S.F. known as the Tenderloin.
- Assisting a local tenants' group in preparing analysis of public documents and providing testimony around a controversial state development complex in Sacramento (see below for more information).

Several other possible projects are being considered, and it is clear that the Network there is filling a vacuum. More information on the Bay Area technical assistance operation is available from Jerry Horovitz, 1489 Sanchez St., S.F. 94131 (415) 285-4169; contact for the No. Calif. Network forums is Joel Rubenzahl, 2810 Fulton St., Berkeley 94705 (415) 849-3559.

A Note to Northern Californians: While the mailings on forums and area-wide meetings are going out to the entire No. Calif. list (about 200 people), for reasons of economy mailings re meetings on the technical assistance operation are going out only to people living in S.F. and those others in the Bay Area who returned the skills/interest/time questionnaire. At present, we're unsure

where and how to focus our work geographically. It seems there will be opportunity and need for our involvement outside S.F. and possibly outside the Bay Area. If others of you want to be kept informed of the S.F. technical assistance meetings and possibly make yourselves available for such work, contact Jerry Horovitz (1489 Sanchez, S.F. 94131) and you'll be placed on the smaller mailing list as well.

If anyone knows of (or better, can send a copy of) a housing guide of the type noted above (for use by community groups to provide basic data, information and resources)—the SF group would like to see such models and other efforts as an aid to its own work. Contact is Michael Harney, PO Box 4166, SF, Ca. 94101.

"CAPITOL PARK RENTERS' FUND is an organization of tenants of state-owned buildings around the California State Capitol. The tenants are mainly fixed low-income elderly and single people. The California legislature is currently trying to pass legislation to rehabilitate and build housing in the Capitol area. CPRF is challenging the Capitol Area Plan and demanding 1) one to one replacement of low income housing, 2) tenant management of buildings, 3) a process to deter unnecessary rent increases, and 4) maintain 50% of the neighborhood as low income. The Capitol Area Plan will go before the California State Senate in early August.

"The State of California owns and manages much housing through the Department of General Services and Cal Trans. This is our first opportunity to raise the issue that housing owned by the state is public housing, and that tenants have a right to decent and affordable housing. We feel that the results of what happens with the Capitol Area Plan will have direct implications for the provision of housing for many low income people in California.

"We would like to hear from others involved in state-owned housing issues, and from persons experienced in challenging the housing components of Environmental Impact Reports.

"Please contact: Capitol Park Renters' Fund, P.O. Box 2917, Sacramento 95812, or phone Neil (916) 443-8760, Sheila and June (916) 444-8956, 446-0790, or Dennis, (916) 441-0615."

CPRF has asked members of the S.F. Network to help them analyze documents and testify at the State Senate committee hearings in early August (AB 1211 is the bill authorizing the project), to urge adoption of CPRF's recommended amendments. Network members in other parts of California who are in a position to help out, either with testimony or preparation of testimony (i.e., critique of documents) should also contact the CPRF people at once. California members are also asked to contact their state senators to urge these amendments to AB 1211.

THE LOS ANGELES AREA has come alive, Network-wise, as the following report from Ben Rosenbloom indicates:

"By the time you receive this note, we will have held three meetings within seven weeks. The people attending heard of the meeting either by word-of-mouth, or by our mailings to all Network members mentioned in the most recent list as living in Southern California. The representation has been primarily from the Los Angeles area. Approximately 25 people came to each of the first two meetings, representing architects and planners in private practice and public agencies, as well as academics and students from several local schools. Groups like the Los Angeles Community Design Center and Peoples' Housing have also been represented.

"My judgment is that it will take a while before we will know whether a regularly-convening Planners Network group will be established. Everyone attending the meetings so far has their own important priorities, and the Network group will have to be developed as a form of thought and action not otherwise available, in order to justify people putting their energies into it. Each meeting contributes to this development.

"So far, we have discussed the potential roles of the group, ranging (predictably) from the generation of a theoretical and

radical base for practice, to specific project-related action. Between these polarities, we will have to find our place. An emerging consensus seems to be that, while needing some definition and understanding of the radical analysis of society as well as architecture and planning as elements of same, it is essential to find modes of action as a group.

"More news will follow. If anyone is interested in the Southern California group, write or call me: Ben Rosenbloom, 3444 Larissa Drive, Los Angeles 90026, Phone—home (213) 660-0479, work 668-7520.

"Finally, we could use some help regarding the problems of initial group formation, as well as contacts by members of other Southern California organizations who we might work with."

THE MIDWEST: The Chicago area gang met on May 25—we'll have a report in the next mailing. The Midwest group as a whole, which first got together last February, is planning to reconvene in the fall. Barry Checkoway (Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana 61801 (217) 333-3890) is coordinating a steering committee consisting of Ann Waterhouse, Leslie Gary, Richard Gross, Jim Harris, Bill Peterman and Bob Cassidy. People in the midwest can contact any of them for further details, or to participate in the planning.

BOSTON AREA: Regular meetings of the Boston group have focused on housing rehab and a slide show/talk on Housing and Class in Cuba by Tony Schuman. The study group keeps tooling along. The group is also continuing its discussion of the potential of forming a planners' and architects' union. A series of three summer discussions will be held around: first, the problems that radical planners and architects face in their work settings, their tasks, responsibilities, support. Second, possible general solutions, including a look at the way other professions have organized themselves (e.g., Lawyers' Guild, Science for the People, Radical Librarians). Third, more mechanical plans for solving the problems we face in our work settings, including such questions as legal rights of white collar employees, affirmative action, and contract issues. As background, they are circulating among their members a questionnaire on working conditions (copies available from them). Contact for the Boston group is Barbara Beelar, CSPP, 123 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge 02138.

LOST SOULS: Recent mailings for the following Network members have been returned. If you know their present whereabouts, please snitch (people in charge of mailing lists for various local Network groupings should let me know if they know of recent changes of address for these folk): Ely Katan (W. Tisbury and Cambridge), Hans Blumenfeld (Toronto), Gary Bricker (NYC), Aman Khan (Hamilton, Ontario), Mike Goldrick (Toronto), Greg Sprowls (Tallahassee), Chip Holboch (Austin), Maureen Mustice (Baltimore), Calvin Johnson (NYC), Judith Transue (Lansing), Albert Mayer (NYC), Joyce Lapenn (NYC), Rhonda Bielen (Boston), Jane Rarita (Eugene), Teresa Shelley (NYC), Jeannie Russell (NYC), Evelyn Frankford (Bk lyn), Roger Mills (Eugene), Mark Kawasaki (Seattle), Erma Palsen (NYC), Judy Kossy (NYC), Paul Ong (Seattle), Jill Feblowitz (Cambridge), Phyllis McMillian (Newark), Adrien D'Esclaiibes (Cambridge), Willa Johnson (Piscarway), Leslie Levy (Lafayette, La.), Paul Smith (Boulder), Rod Whaley (San Diego), Mark Cross (Brisbane, Ca.), Jerry Seelig (Inst. on Pluralism & Gp. Identity, Chicago), Eric Kruger (NYC), Randy Vereen (Housing Trng. & Inf. Ctr., Chicago), Lorell Long (Sacramento), Rick Hyman (Berkeley).

SINGLES: As the local/regional groupings of Network people being to come together, to meet, study, do collective tasks, perhaps formalize their entity, the question gets raised of what function, beyond communication, the Network might serve for those who do not live in these geographical concentrations. It's something I haven't given all that much thought to to date, but I would like to see what kinds of thoughts others might have on this. Think. And write.

LOW INCOME HOUSING INFORMATION SERVICE is a new service Cushing Dolbear has just started (she and Louis have moved from Philadelphia to Washington). LIHS is straight information, with no advocacy, on what is going on legislatively in the Administration. So far we've gotten out a quick summary of the Carter legislative proposals, and a couple of summaries of

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the pending Housing and Community Development Act of 1977. . . We plan to do special memos from time to time, as legislative or administrative events warrant. Also a monthly "Round-Up" of legislative and executive actions relating to low income housing, both urban and rural. . . I am convinced that if people just get a straight story on what is happening in a timely way, they can put their own views before Congress and the Administration." There's a \$25 fee to get on the LIHS mailing list, but those of you who know Cushing's work doubtless know it will be a worthwhile investment. (215 8th St. N.E., Washington 20002 (202) 544-2544)

THE AD HOC LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION is another Dolbear venture. "This is a loose group (begun in 1974) which people participate in as they wish, but it's the only public interest lobby I know of that focusses just on low income housing issues. We had a lot to do, I think, with the revival of public housing last year. We do mailings, reports and action/advocacy memos (occasionally enclosing the LIHS stuff. . .) I would be interested in any reactions your readers may have to the need for and thrust of efforts to get good national legislation—and to get housing programs funded. There are some good people in the new administration, but nothing will be very different if HUD is held to current funding levels." Getting on the Coalition's mailing list also costs \$25—address the same. If you want more information, Cushing also can send a list of national organizations which have people participating in the Coalition and a copy of the Coalition's April, 1977 testimony before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Comm. on "Recommendations for Housing and Community Development Legislation."

BERKELEY RENT CONTROL: The Berkeley Tenant Organizing Committee is currently analyzing its experience in the April elections, where a strong rent control initiative lost by a 3-2 margin. The publication will be available soon; write BTOC, 2022 Blake St., Berkeley 94704 for further information, price, etc. Reports on the Berkeley experience and on nascent efforts in S.F. have also been published in recent editions of the National Housing Law Project *Bulletin*, which also reports on other housing developments, primarily from a lawyer's perspective. The bi-monthly publication is sent out to people outside the Legal Services world who have a special interest in housing, and is free. Their address is 2313 Warring St., Berkeley, Ca. 94704.

WHAT ARE PLANNERS REALLY LIKE? That's Howell Baum's quest:

"I am looking at ways in which the personality characteristics of planners may influence the content of their plans. To the degree that planners have influence over the structure or quality of social life, I believe that discovery of any modal personality characteristics among planners may provide an additional kind of explanation for policies in areas where planners work. (I do not intend to argue that this is the only or most powerful explanation.) Accordingly, I would appreciate receiving copies of, information about, or references to studies of the personality traits, personal styles, attitudes, or values of practicing planners, planning students, or planning academics."

Anyone with relevant info should contact Baum, who's an Asst. Prof. at the Univ. of Md. School of Social Work and Community Planning, 525 W. Redwood St., Baltimore 21201 (301) 528-7790.

LOCAL NEWSLETTERS—one up, one down. LOGOS (Local Government Sacramento) is a new thrice-monthly newsletter on the Sacramento area put out by John Goldberg, an ex-planner. Subs are at the rate of \$1 month (P.O. Box 381, Sacramento 95802). The loss is Al Wroblewski's *Minnesota Leader*, folding after three years. Even with all the problems that inevitably accompany such ventures, local "one-person" newsletters of this type are a great political and art form.

Richard Colvin (#6012, Student Auto Service Technology, Indiana Vocational Technical College, P.O. Box 41, Michigan City, Ind. 46360) writes:

"Would like to correspond and or get into contact with network members who may be interested in assisting in forming a 'Crime Prevention Society, Inc.' Primarily by participating as

an outside executive committee, we can relate on a national level or even international. This is a very in-depth organization and we propose to involve thousands of people. Assistance with grants and purchase of a Greyhound bus will be helpful. Our entire platform and program will be submitted shortly."

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THE WOMEN'S SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE "announces a new direction for our third year. We have always envisioned ourselves as an experiment that could take many different forms: we want to avoid becoming an 'institution' that repeats itself each year. Since we started in 1974, we have been evolving both a work process and a framework for learning in which women who are studying, working or interested in the environmental design professions could explore theories, ideas, and actions that rethink and reshape these traditionally male-dominated professions. To date, we have had two intensive and very successful two-week summer school sessions (Maine—1975 and California—1976). During the year, WSPA functions on two levels: as a communications and support network of women who have participated in the two sessions and as a planning group that works on evolving the structure of our organization and the design and implementation of WSPA activities and programs.

"We are currently working on developing an expanded structure for WSPA with an emphasis on shorter projects and programs. These might include a four-day topical weekend workshop, a lecture series, a 'build-in,' carpentry classes, conferences, research projects, working with local women's organizations, etc. Our intention is to mobilize the interests, energies, and collaboration of as many women as possible.

"WSPA continues to see itself within the context of the broader Women's Movement which involves changing traditional sex roles and creating an alternative culture. Such efforts challenge the institutional forms and personal relationships that have traditionally channeled and stifled our creativity, work and personal growth. Through WSPA, women in the environmental design fields can redefine themselves and their work, and make important connections between the environments in which we live and the environments we plan and design.

"We want to elicit input from potential participants. If you send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope we will send you a questionnaire that will help us to know what you may want from WSPA so that we can develop WSPA together. Write to us at:

"WSPA, Box 311, Shaftsbury, Vermont 05262."

The (Philadelphia) "Tenants Advocate" Newsletter is no longer being published by the Phila. Tenants Information Service (as reported in the Oct. 76 mailing) but by the State Tenants Organization of Pennsylvania. Address: 6230 Ardleigh St., Philadelphia 19138.

Compendium on Neighborhood Revitalization Strategies is a new publication of the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs (\$4, from Resource Center, NCUEA, 1521 16th St., NW Washington 20036). It describes the range of reinvestment strategies now underway throughout the country (federal, state and local government, private, community, proposed alternatives), plus a list of relevant national organizations.

COLUMBIA U: Peter Marcuse writes that "Columbia, in addition to its ongoing Master's program in planning, has reactivated its PhD program in planning and welcomes applications. Address: Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, Avery Hall, NYC 10027."

SHANGHAI—There's a good article/interview in the Nov. 1976 issue of *Planning* (the ASPO journal) by Arnold Auerbach called "How the Chinese Reshaped the World's Largest City."

WORKING FOR WHAT? is a publication of the (British) New Architecture Movement, subtitled "The Case for Trade Union Organization in Architecture and the Allied Building Professions." Order through Bob Maltz, 14 Holmdale Rd., London NW6. \$1.50 surface mail, \$2 air, with 1/3 off for 10 or more copies to the same address. It looks good.

THE PIKE PLACE MARKET in Seattle is an institution many of you may be familiar with. It's a farmers' market, begun in 1907, now a total public market, with local farmers' stalls, plus other retailers (fish, meat, bakeries, arts and crafts, restaurants, ethnic food stores, etc). A grand institution and structure.

Frankie Whitman, a new Network member, is the "farmer liaison" at the Market, encouraging more farmers (who mainly are Filipino, Japanese, and Italian with an average age of 60) to sell there and working as a farmer advocate vis a vis the County Office of Agriculture's plans to preserve agricultural land. The COA plans to buy development rights. She is trying to locate some kind of radical analysis of land preservation and other people into rural organizing or who have been working with farmers. Anyone with relevant information and experience should contact her at the Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Auth., 1431 First Ave., Room 12, Seattle 98101 (206) 583-6064.

ROOF is a bimonthly British housing magazine, published by Shelter, the National Campaign for the Homeless. It is the kind of thing totally missing from the U.S. housing scene, but very much needed here: a radical magazine devoted to housing policy issues, in a quite readable form. I'd like to recommend it highly to Network people, especially those with influence over library subscriptions. A year's subscription, air postage, is \$11, and the full set of back issues (from Oct. 1975) is \$14.35. Address: 157 Waterloo Rd., London SE1. Maybe it could provide some people with the inspiration to begin something similar in the U.S.

ANOTHER FIRST-RATE BRITISH MAGAZINE is *Community Action*, a bimonthly which covers housing and neighborhood organization issues and campaigns. Address is P.O. Box 665, London SW1X 8DZ. Subs are a very modest \$3. Network member Dexter Whitfield, who works on CA and on SCAT (The Shelter Community Action Team), an independent action/research project, is planning to come to the U.S. with a colleague from mid-September to mid-October. They'd like to do a few speaking gigs (for money, if possible) about community action and housing struggles/developments in Britain, and are planning to be in NYC, Washington, Chicago, Detroit, S.F., Seattle, and possibly other cities. From the materials they've sent and what I know of Shelter, I suspect they'd be very much worth hearing. Anyone with leads, invites, etc., should contact Whitfield at the above address.

And yet another British mag that some of you may be interested in (all from a two-week trip to England and Germany I just came back from—along with other Network people Peter Marcuse, Bob Kolodny, Gale Cincotta, Bob Schur—as part of a Ford Foundation delegation of U.S. "housers") is the bimonthly *Squatters Action Council Newsletter*. It reports on London's big squatting movement. Subs are \$3.50 for six months, available from SAC, 5 Huntley St., London WC1.

The Third Annual National Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies is being held July 7-10 at Colorado Women's College in Denver. Further information from 1901 Que St. N.W. Washington DC 20009 (202) 234-9382. The purpose is "to share political experiences and concrete programs with others committed to making state and local government an instrument for social change in America." Speakers/resource people include a wide variety of "maverick" government officials, organizers and others: Cong. Ron Dellums, Berkeley Councilor Loni Hancock, Barry Commoner, Madison mayor Paul Soglin, ACTION director Sam Brown, Mass. St. Rep. Barney Frank, D.C. City Councilor Marion Barry, etc. Workshops cover affirmative action strategies, taxation of natural resource development, feminist issues, state and local tax policy, running issue-oriented campaigns, democratic management of public agencies, history of municipal reform movements, future of public employee unions, farmland preservation and growth control, community control of economic development, and so on. They've also prepared a 400-page resource guide, *New Directions for State and Local Policies: A Resource Manual For Public Officials and Political Activists* (\$7.50). A set of documents (conference working papers, conference proceedings report, mailing list of the 800 participants) from the Second California Conference on Alternative Public Policy, held earlier this year, is available from Marc Beyeler, 35 Arlington Ave., Santa Barbara 93101; there seems to be a \$5 charge for each document (although it's unclear whether that applies to the mailing list). A Continuations Comm. has been established for the Calif. group, for which Beyeler is also the contact.

REGIONAL EQUITY is a new bimonthly newsletter of the Coalition for an Equitable Region, published by the Suburban Action Institute. It's free (but donations are requested) from the SAI, 257 Park Ave. S., NYC 10010.

SERGE (Socially and Ecologically Responsible Geographers): One of the things we've been trying to run down is comparable experience that other radical professional organizations have had. Bill Peterman of the Network (Environmental Studies Center, Bowling Green St. Univ., Bowling Green, Ohio 43403), who was involved in this group, has kindly put down some of his reflections and recollections. While geographers are a more academic cohort than planners (especially those in the Network), his report is useful:

"SERGE apparently was formed after several ad hoc sessions by 'concerned' geographers at the AAG meeting in Boston in the spring of 1971. The group decided to hold a separate meeting that summer and Wilbur Zelinsky who acted as kind of an organizer-conductor wrote a lengthy letter to interested individuals, stating some concerns and possible directions in which the group might move.

"Some 20-30 individuals met at Clarion College later that summer and reports were that it was an enthusiastic event. One positive outcome was to begin plans to address several controversial issues through planned sessions at the next AAG meeting. In addition, the group agreed to formalize into SERGE and to try to reach and attract as many geographers as possible.

"Wilbur Zelinsky mailed out a couple more letters but by late fall Jim Bohland at the Univ. of Oklahoma agreed to publish a newsletter for the group. Thus *Transition* came into existence, which at first was one or two pages mailed out about every other month.

At the AAG meeting next spring (1972) in Kansas City, there were several SERGE planned sessions. They were timely, somewhat controversial and very well attended. In many respects, they were the highlight of the meeting. There were also several SERGE 'business' meetings which were also well-attended but not nearly so successful. Very little was decided and the group could not come to any consensus as to what direction it should move. It is at this point that I think some of the more radical geographers decided to go their own way and to ignore SERGE. Anyway, the only concrete decision was to hold a second summer session like the one the previous year. It was decided to hold the meeting at Bowling Green and in addition I agreed to become the editor of the newsletter, *Transition*.

The Bowling Green meeting was a total flop. Several people could not attend because it came right on the tail of Hurricane Agnes, but it would have still flopped. Only 10-11 people showed up, we met for a day (we had planned for two) and accomplished nothing. This meeting clearly marked the end of SERGE as a viable organization.

"Throughout the fall and into the winter I tried through *Transition* to crystallize support around issues that people had raised. We managed to get a few special interest groups organized on paper but nothing ever came of any of them.

"The spring meetings (AAG) of 1973 were held in Atlanta and SERGE managed to sponsor two sessions, both of which were given poor time slots and were for the most part ignored. We held a business meeting for which about 10 people showed up and the only thing that was decided was for Larry Wolf of the University of Cincinnati to keep on as head and for me to keep putting out *Transition*.

"We did at that time, Larry and myself, try to organize SERGE along regional lines, but could only accomplish the designating of a few individuals as regional coordinators. In time they became regional editors of *Transition*, and as far as I know, never accomplished any regional coordination.

"I kept on for about 6-8 months longer as editor of *Transition* but eventually gave it up when Percy Dougherty at Trenton State offered to take it over. Percy improved the format of *Transition* and along with Larry began to turn it into more of a magazine

than a newsletter. Eventually it became *Transition, the Quarterly Journal of SERGE*. SERGE still holds business meetings at the AAG annual meeting, but for all intents and purposes there is no organization short of Larry and Percy.

"Why did SERGE never really get going and why did it fail? Here are some of my guesses.

"1. SERGE had real image problems. Nobody really ever knew what it stood for. There was confusion between the socially concerned and the ecologically concerned. The ecologically concerned saw pollution as the enemy, the socially concerned saw other enemies. Geographers, being a conservative lot, found a slightly liberal organization daring, but most were quite hesitant to push it very far to the left.

"2. SERGE had a critical mass problem. Since nearly all of its members were academics, they were stretched all over the U.S. Any individual department had at best 2 SERGE members and it was almost an impossible dream to hope that you could get people together often enough to do anything meaningful.

"3. SERGE was avoided by influential groups of geographers. Several prominent 'liberal' geographers were involved in SERGE at its founding. However, they did not stick, becoming disinterested or sometimes hostile. At the same time the prominent Marxist geographers at Clark and Johns Hopkins ignored SERGE, preferring to keep to themselves. SERGE was left with a number of well-meaning individuals lacking both ideologies and actions around which to catalyze.

"I am sure there are other reasons, changing times and the like, but the above three I think are, from my perspective, the key ones. Thus you can see my concern for the Planners Network. Build up the local groups first before worrying about any national organization. If we have strong local groups, then national action will follow."

MORE BOOKS BY NETWORKERS: *Jubilee for our Times: A Practical Program for Income Equality* by Alvin Schorr (Columbia Univ., 1977); *Urban Redevelopment: An Introductory Guide for Members of Citizens Groups and Redevelopment Agencies* by Steven Lafer (University Extension Publications, U.C. Berkeley, 1977)

Spring Friedlander has begun something called The Workplace, which "seeks to improve the individual's involvement in her/his work environment while maintaining productivity. Services offered by *The Workplace* are: work attitude restructuring (WAR), the Workplace Game, work-o-drama, consciousness raising, and organizational consulting. For further information, contact *The Workplace*, 434 66th Street, Oakland 94609 (415) 653-1017."

Rich Gross (746 W. Main St. #301, Madison, Wisc. 53715) writes: "This Fall I will be involved in a course in Neighborhood Planning. It will be a graduate workshop course and I'm real excited about it but I need help from any and all of the Network people. I would appreciate resource material, references, case studies, ideas, comments, etc. I can pay minimal costs of material that people send."

Some provocative thoughts from Jane Armbruster (1508 S. 16th St., Kansas City, Ks. 66103, but about to relocate to the West Coast):

"The Network Newsletters are stimulating some thought processes, which express themselves as questions. Here are a few of them:

"On the topic of recruitment (much of which seems to be happening in the planning schools)—Is there a way of casting a recruiting 'net' more broadly than the schools permit? Does recruitment through planning schools encourage a kind of elitist bias in the Network?—assuming the people now attending planning schools are likely to represent middle or upper-middle class origins. Is there a way to recruit 'planners' in a functional sense—people who may have no connection to planning schools, but who *plan*? In my experience, it has occurred to me that people I've met in liberal-reformist institutions (like community mental health, liberal churches and religious groups, some

community action agencies) operate out of some radical assumptions about human beings, the nature of institutions, the nature of capitalist economics, etcetera. Might some of these people contribute a great deal to the Network? And are there not some ways of reaching them?

"On the subject of defining more clearly a role for the Network: Is it possible to develop a regular forum for dialogue on some topic—perhaps something that is a little like a journal? Could we perhaps agree on some topics for dialogue? (Some topics could be our own experiences of living/working as these illustrate the things that we probably need to do to promote fundamental, humane social change. Examples of topics relevant to my experience might be—'Rugged Individualism' as an Impediment to Socialist Development; The Politics of De-centralization—Neighborhood Actor Groups as Tools of A Power Structure; The Impact of Women on Planning and Other Professions. This is by no means a master list—but maybe enough of a suggestion to elicit comment from others.)

"My questions about a forum for dialogue are based on a notion that a coherent and comprehensible framework, or ideology, does not exist for the political left in the United States of America. Hence, a dialogue among ourselves about the experiences that have caused us to define ourselves as 'leftists' may be a mechanism for beginning to identify such an ideology.

"On a related topic—that of building a coherent, socialist-oriented left in the United States: What are the possibilities for the Network to work with other left-oriented groups—perhaps on a project-by-project basis? (I'm thinking now of groups like the United Farmworkers and the faction of the United Steelworkers' Union that supports Ed Sadlowski.)

"It's possible (maybe even likely) that a lot of these questions have occurred to many of us, many times. Is there a way that the Network could be used to focus the questions we ask ourselves, even as we do whatever it is we do from day to day?"

And more from Morris Zeitlin:

"Willy-nilly, we are moving toward organization—first San Francisco, then New York, then Boston, then San Jose, then Chicago, now Southern California. That's as it should be, I think. As regional organizational experiences accumulate, however, the need will arise for national cooperation. We are in, it seems, for a needlessly long development process. It could be speeded, I think, were *Planners' Network* to try and guide it with an editorial digest of what Network people around the country think about the Network . . .

"Specifically, what attitudes seem to divide us, and what ideas among us enjoy high unanimity? If we could know that, we could move ahead more quickly toward making a collective impact on behalf of the people."

And yet more ideas, these from Tom Angotti:

"I agree with most of Michael Stone's comments in the Feb. 12 newsletter, and I hope they will be widely discussed; however, I think they raise some serious questions. As one who argued from the beginning for a network with 'an explicit socialist perspective,' I do not think we have the proper base to come together as socialists. Stone says that it is not necessary 'to have a precise or fixed definition of socialism before we proceed.' I disagree.

Many of us who already consider ourselves socialists certainly have a pretty good idea of what it means. But the range of definitions is so wide that it is virtually meaningless to talk about socialism without defining it quite clearly. Consider that such sellouts to capitalism as Mario Soares, Willy Brandt, and the British Labor Party are 'socialists,' and even Mussolini and Hitler identified themselves as such.

"But aside from national socialism (fascism), there are two major kinds of socialism: reformist and revolutionary. There is a world of difference between the two, and of course many differences within the two categories. Reformist or 'bourgeois' socialism is based on peaceful transition, does not see the need for a revolutionary party, and downplays the role of class struggle; it focuses on gradual legal reforms.

"I do not believe that there can be a fundamental change in capitalism without revolution—a revolution that pits the people that produce the wealth of society against those that take it away from them. The class struggle is therefore the key to bringing about socialism, but in order to win, the working class needs to be organized and led by a party made up of the most advanced political activists, and guided by advanced political theory. At the risk of oversimplifying a very complex question, this is the basic difference dividing the two kinds of socialists. Let's discuss it.

A certain Marx once said that it was the role of the philosophers to describe the world, but the trick is to change it (roughly paraphrased). If there is to be a discussion in the Network about socialism, I would hope it is focused on this question: Michael Stone's suggestion of looking at the international aspects would appear to be a fitting backdrop.

"I am also concerned, however, about the role that an organization of planners and urbanists with 'an explicit socialist perspective' has to play within the U.S. left. Would it isolate those of us who are socialists from other progressive groups and individuals, especially activists, who are not socialists? What could it contribute that the many purposely political formations and parties that already exist cannot contribute? And finally, if we cannot go beyond agreeing that capitalism doesn't work and some vaguely defined thing called socialism is needed, have we in fact agreed on anything fundamental?

"Enclosed are a couple of articles I recently wrote for *The Guardian*. I would like to call to the attention of Network members the largest circulating newsweekly of the American left. *The Guardian* is an independent Marxist publication covering national and international news. Ask for a trial sub (6 weeks for \$1) by writing *The Guardian*, 33 W. 17th St., N.Y. 10011.

"I would also like to mention that my book 'Housing in Italy: Urban Development and Political Change' will be published in August in Praeger. It deals with the tenant and housing movements in Italy, structure of the housing system, city planning and urban reforms, and implications of the housing movement for the Italian left. An article based on the book is available on request (write to me at Hunter College Urban Affairs, 790 Madison Ave., NYC 10021)."

Our sole Australian member, Les Kilmartin, has the following to report:

"I was interested to read in issue no. 8 that one of the members was struggling with the world 'socialism.' In Australia too, 'socialism' is a dirty word the mere mention of which can send shivers down the spine of Mr. and Mrs. Australia. Between 1972 and 75 we had a federal Labor Party government in power here, but they had a rough time trying to introduce reform (including urban programmes and policies) and were forced to the electorate twice during their term of office. The Senate usually can act to impede reform emanating from the House of Representatives and did so in late 1975 by refusing to pass the supply bill. Acting in the interests of the conservative parties, the Governor-General (the Queen of England's representative and plenipotentiary in Australia, would you believe!) dismissed the prime minister and called a general election. The Labor Party had formulated the only federal urban policies in our history and now they are out of office—and unlikely to get back in for quite a while—all hope of reform is lost. Our cities are genuinely capitalist cities where the capitalist class owns the land, where there are property booms favoring capitalists, and where in recent months there has emerged a trend for home ownership rates to be falling dramatically.

"At the metropolitan level, there are all sorts of interesting things hapening, but the most dominant feature of our cities is absence of planning and intervention, land speculation, and physical reconstruction designed to serve the interests of capital and the already privileged. It's a scene that American urbanists would feel very much at home in!"

The Center for National Housing Law Reform is finishing the

editing of their film (video-tape) on the housing crisis in Ann Arbor. "It looks really fine and will be available to others for only the cost of the video-tape and postage (somewhere between \$25 and \$30). It's specific to Ann Arbor, but given that the crisis is nationwide, others might find it useful." (Write Ricky Dutke at the Center, 1622 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor 48105.)

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\$\$\$—Well, we did pretty well as a result of the funding appeal—about \$400 from some four dozen of you. But it's hardly enough to keep our head above water, i.e. pay for just one mailing. Our next mailing—wherein we redo the mailing list—will be particularly expensive, for typesetting, reproduction and postage. Therefore, I'd like to re-encourage contributions from those who have not moved to support the Network financially. And I'd like people who can afford \$50 or \$100 to seriously think of getting off a check for that amount. We've had a number of such contributions, and they're a real upper.

Speaking of contributions, you'll probably notice that this newsletter is a bit skimpier than past communications. For some reason, less material got sent in over the past months than

normally. Think Network. If you have or come across anything that might be of interest to this small community of ours, send it in.

Thanks to those who helped out in getting out Mailing #8: Maria Vermiglio, Margy Ortiz, Mike Harney, Cathy Siegel, Jerry Horovitz, Kathy Schwerin, and Steve Barton.

People living in the Bay Area who can spare a few hours to stamp, paste labels, and carry out the other rewarding and physically salubrious activities associated with this enterprise are encouraged to phone (282-1249) to offer their services. Beyond the terrific sense of accomplishment and stimulating social interaction with your fellow Networkers, you'll also be memorialized in the following issue of the Newsletter.

Thus endeth #9. For those of you with with Big Red X who fail to heed it, it's been nice knowing you.

Sincerely,



Chester Hartman