

#11 - Dec. 6, 1977

Dear Network People:

Item #1 for the Network is money. We're really down. Mailing #10 proved to be extremely costly, with all the typesetting and printing for the new membership list, and the decision to send it 1st class (35 cents), because of all the problems we've had in the past with bulk rate mailings. The whole thing cost about \$1400—about 4x the cost of a normal newsletter mailing—which included paying a small stipend to two local Network folk for carrying out the horrendous job of creating the new, updated list and putting together our new filing system. The "bottom line" is that we're down to less than \$550 in the bank account at the start of this mailing, barely enough to cover the cost of this and one more mailing. Carrying off the whole thing is quite inexpensive, particularly if everyone chips in. Remember: a whole bunch of folks here in SF-land give lots of free time to putting out the Newsletter, which is the only reason it is such a cheap operation—our only costs are typesetting, printing and postage. So if you've never sent in any bucks, or haven't done so in a while, \$5 or \$10 would cover "fair share" costs for a year or so of these newsletters. Many of you can easily send in \$50 or \$100 (as a few already have in the past)—the price of AIP membership. This is a really serious call for money; it would be a shame to have the whole thing go under for want of a little financial responsibility on the part of all you good folks who constantly tell us how important the Network is to you. Money talks!

LOCAL REPORTS:

MIDWEST (from Rich Gross, 746 W. Main St. #301, Madison, WI 53715):

"On Friday about 40 people heard Jim Rowan, administrative assistant to Mayor Paul Soglin, speak about the newly formed Madison Economic Development Corporation. It is a city-sponsored CDC which will have certain powers including borrowing, lending and issuing bonds.

On Sat. morning, we met for an hour to go around with introductions and announcements. There were about 50 people from 5 states working in agencies, universities and community organizations or students in planning or related programs. All in all, a good mix of people.

The rest of the day was spent in various workshops scheduled throughout the day. Workshops included: Community Economic Development, Neighborhood Planning, Citizen Participation, Alternative Energy, Landlord/Tenant Issues, and a workshop run by people working on issues in Northern Wisconsin such as mining and utility rates.

Sat. night we had a get-together at Design Coalition, a local community design center.

Sunday morning was our organizational session. It was decided that we would meet again in March in Milwaukee. Milwaukee was chosen instead of Chicago because women's organizations have requested a boycott of states that have not passed the ERA. A number of people volunteered to be the Conference committee to plan the next one. Anyone else interested should contact Rich Gross in Madison. Beth Hagens of ACORN has offered us a page in ACORN each issue so we will now have a regular forum. An attempt will be made to distribute copies to all MW people.

Finally, \$113 was collected in contributions at the conference. \$20 was paid back to people for money laid out already. \$20 was spent for mailing and reproducing names of participants and \$25 was sent to the National Network. [right on-CH] That leaves \$48 for planning the next conference and mailing out notices.

During the weekend, people got to share ideas, problems, feelings and random thoughts about planning and were able to give support to each other. All of us were glad the Network existed. Thanks to all those who ran workshops, housed people for the weekend, helped set up the conference and participated."

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (contacts: Ben Rosenbloom, 688-7520, 660-0479, and Dave Smith 699-7411 x 25; address 1727 Hill St., Santa Monica 90405): The group's 6th meeting was held in September, and the following is excerpted from their notes mailed to all people in the area:

DIRECTION

Participants in the Southern California Network represent a wide range of interests ranging from those desiring an internal, theoretic study group to those who practice advocacy planning. Creating a program to satisfy these various interests was the focus of the last meeting. Such a program has been developed! It has both theory and action oriented components.

The basic direction or philosophy of the group is to focus upon a specific issue with the purpose of developing a 'radical' analysis and approach. This is accomplished by first 'going backwards—to the roots—in analysis' with the result being the establishment of common principles which will be followed in further addressing the issue. Approaches are then formulated. Then, at the proper time, a determination of what political action, if any, is undertaken.

The first issue to be addressed in this manner is that of 'rent control'. Participants at the last meeting formed smaller groups to research the theoretical aspects of rent control and to assess the current political movements with a focus on the Santa Monica area.

SKILLS BANK

It was a consensus among the group that a 'skills bank' should be maintained by the NETWORK. It would provide community members/activists a way of making contact with planners who may have needed skills and an interest in a particular issue or problem area. [An information sheet was enclosed for members to fill out.]

NOTES FROM THE SEVENTH MEETING

A dozen network planners met on October 30 and November 6 to discuss the issue of rent control. Research undertaken by planners focused on: the background of rent control from a nationwide, historic perspective; the mechanics and politics of the current initiatives and movements; and a view of the issue from conservative, progressive, and radical perspectives.

(Notes outlining these presentations are available—just drop us a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we'll do the rest)

It was noted that rent controls have a long history and have frequently been used to regulate excesses in the system. Over time the strategies and tools have been honed to fit more closely with dominant political perspectives, to the point that . . . there have been so many mechanical and political compromises in rent control ordinances/initiatives that they cannot be considered as progressive documents, in themselves.

This is not to say that "rent control" does not have its radical side. There are definite ways in which the movement assists in moving toward a socialistic society. Primarily it affects the definition of private property; it is a sign of consideration of housing as a public utility; and, it challenges the existing financial-housing-marketing-investment structure. It has an impact on speculation but only at a low (local) level and not to the point where it affects housing market/availability; thus it does not provide for radical structural change. A very real aspect of the movement is that it attempts to provide relief for an oppressed minority—the elderly on fixed or no income who have resided in a rental unit for several years and are now being forced into a hostile environment they can't afford or assimilate into.

The Network planners have agreed that we should not seek alternatives to rent control or counter the movement but that we should support it and also develop alternatives (to private ownership) regarding the housing situation. Our activities over the next six months will be aligned in the following manner:

—we will provide our planning perspectives and expertise to the community organizers who are involved in rent control movements. This will primarily be in the form of research and testimony as to the impacts of rent control implementation.

—we will develop our own alternative methods of providing housing (co-ops, communes, new concepts) and workable programs for their implementation over time.

We have broken into smaller research groups to identify specific activities which we may pursue in accomplishing the above.

Response to the request for information was heartwarming. Thirty-one information sheets are on file. There were many comments of encouragement. Money and time permitting we will publish the list of hangers-on along with an indication of interests, addresses, etc.

NYC (contact: Bruce Dale, Urban Deadline Architects, 2248 Broadway, NYC 10024, 724-7200): Held a forum on Dec. 2 on "Housing Abandonment in NYC", prepared by Homefront, a city-wide action group. At our presstime, we hadn't yet received a report on the meeting. Bruce Dale has asked for information on films they could show at future meetings. Anyone with ideas should send them to us as well (with a description and where they're available—if you know), so we can publicize these ideas in future newsletters.

BOSTON AREA (contact: Barbara Beelar, Ctr. for the Study of Public Policy, 123 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge 02138): Met Oct. 6, primarily to discuss a reorganization proposal.

Under this proposal the Network would become a collection of activity groups and there would be no regularly scheduled full Network meetings. Full Network meetings would occur only when one of the activity groups took upon itself to convene a full meeting. The current program committee would be disbanded and the Newsletter would be maintained by a special Newsletter activity group. The Newsletter would still be sent to the entire mailing list. The current ambiguity between active and inactive members would remain allowing people to choose to participate actively in activity groups or to abstain. Active participation would simply become more "active."

There appeared an uneasiness with disbanding the full Network meetings, but a lack of consensus on how the full meetings could be useful to Networkistas actively involved in political work.

A decision was made to forestall a final decision on reorganization until people had more time to think through the proposal and consider other alternatives. An interim program committee was established to plan the next meeting for a continuation of these discussions. The meeting closed by noting some five potential activity groups. While these five were not all considered to be of the same level of development they are listed as follows: 1) Newsletter, 2) the Nature of Professional Work, 3) Housing and Rent Control, 4) the Dilemmas of Sexual Prostitution and 5) the Nature of the Regional Economy.

The continuation meeting was held Nov. 8.

The re-organization proposal made at the last meeting—that of a collection of activity groups—was summarized and questions were again raised as to what issues the groups should work on, how much ideological agreement there should be among members, and what should be the connection between a member's work—which is potentially a project for an activity group—and the Network.

An alternative proposal for Network activities was made. This was to continue open meetings which would become forums for members to present and discuss their work with the group. Members would have a chance to learn about issues other members are involved with, and those making presentations could get ideas and criticisms which would be helpful to them. An activity such as this would require a program committee to arrange the meetings. It was suggested that the Learning Center could absorb the strictly educational activity of the Network, and there was still a strong feeling that the group ought to become politically active.

Issues that might be suitable projects for Network activity groups were proposed, including studying the implications for tenants of co-opping HUD foreclosed apartment buildings; arson in the Symphony Road area of Boston; and state economic development legislation. These suggestions raised the question of whether the Network should be an independent political group, and build coalitions with other groups, or a source of technical assistance for other groups. At some point, it was suggested, the Network must touch base with a constituency.

The Union of Concerned Scientists was mentioned as a possible model for the Network. As a professional group, we should define what we have to offer and then do it.

As the hour grew late with no conclusion in sight, it was proposed that members involved with plant closing issues present their work at the next meeting, and that the discussion of the future activities and structure of the Network continue at that time.

Dec. 8 was the date set for the third in this series of meetings; we'll report the denouement in our next meeting.

BAY AREA (contact: Jerry Horovitz, 1489 Sanchez, SF 94131, 285-4169)

Held a forum on Nov. 11 to see/hear a slide presentation/talk by David Wilmoth, who just returned from Cuba. Future forums are planned with representatives of the women's architect/planner group that just returned from China, and a session on the future of Oakland.

AIP/ASPO conference: Lew Lubka has sent in the following report:

"The theme was 'Getting It Together' but alas, it never did quite make it for a number of reasons, the first being that basically the same tired, shopworn, non-solutions were offered—no hope there. Secondly, with the pending merger of AIP and ASPO, it seems as though they've banked their jets and are sort of coasting. ACSP has somewhat turned me off because they're getting more and more like ivory tower academics divorced from reality. As usual, of course, there were lots of old friends to meet, new people to get acquainted with and few worthwhile sessions. I really missed Chuck Kaswan, who died in early September. I always looked forward to seeing him at these conferences.

I did set up a meeting of the Network, and for the future, I've learned: 1) get the notices up as early as possible; 2) explain on notices what the Network is (many people still haven't heard of it or don't know what it is about); 3) pick a time in the early evening after the regular sessions are finished, but before dinner. From 5:30 to 6:30 would be best.

Anyway, the meeting that was convened had representatives from Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia. We discussed how can the Network express itself effectively in AIP/ASPO. Having a booth with literature was brought up. It was also felt that we should agree on an approach and our members should then participate in panels by presenting papers. Another possibility was to set up a panel of our own.

There was considerable discussion on possible participation in the ASPO meeting in Indianapolis April 29 to May 4. Erica Pascal, an attorney with ASPO and the editor of Land Use Law and Zoning Digest, was quite helpful. The theme for the ASPO conference will be "Energy."

The Network Newsletter could help support papers and sessions in which our members were involved. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussion about whether there was an energy crisis or whether it was just manufactured by the energy monopolies to facilitate a ripoff of the public, the effect of the Alaska pipeline on the way of life of Eskimos, and energy boom towns.

Some of the people present said that papers they had submitted to AIP were either censored or otherwise screened. Others said that from their experience there was no tampering whatsoever. It all depends on who selects the papers for a particular panel.

What was pleasantly absent from the meeting was the soul searching that has taken place at other meetings I've attended where people ask but nobody fully agrees on "what is the role of the Network and what is a 'radical planner'".

Following up on that, here's a message from Erica Pascal (ASPO, 1313 E. 60 St., Chicago 60637, 312-947-2560):

"The Planner's Network will have a room set aside at the ASPO Conference in Indianapolis for a meeting/reception on Monday May 1, 1978, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The theme of the conference has been considerably broadened from just energy. There will also be sessions on small town and rural planning, neighborhood revitalization, or anything that people care to develop. People can contact me with ideas for sessions, but

please not just with ideas of things they want to speak about. Be a little more comprehensive and creative in your thinking."

CHINA HANDS RETURN! A group of women architects and planners have just come back from a three-week trip to China. Among the Network people in the group were Marie Kennedy and Florence Ladd (Boston), Judy Kossy, Amy Cohen, Val Schliecher-Woods and Majorie Hoog (NY), and Sara Ishikawa (Bay Area). People should contact them about speaking, showing slides, etc. (addresses in directory.) Folks outside those areas might consider putting some bread together to have one or more of them visit.

THE SUBTLE ANATOMY OF CAPITALISM is a book Jesse Schwartz has just edited (Goodyear Pub. Co., PO Box 2113, Santa Monica, CA 90401, 540 pp., \$8.95.) Examination copies available.

THE WOMEN'S BLDG. in LA (1727 N. Spring St., LA 90012) is something Angelenos, and others interested in the women's movement, might want to check out. It's a "public center for women's culture . . . through which women's experience, history and visions can enter the public domain." They have a graphics studio, video center, a slide registry of women's visual art, a large performance space, cafe, classroom and meeting spaces, an extension program, the Feminist Studio Workshop, and a Summer Art Program.

NETWORK is a new "magazine of the housing movement", published bi-monthly by the People's Housing Network, 29 E. 22, NYC 10010. From the first (June, 1977) issue, it seems to be fairly NYC-NYS oriented. Sub price isn't indicated.

Yet another network to bring to your attention is the Socialist Health Workers Network, just formed in N. Calif. They're beginning with study groups in SF, the E. Bay and Sacramento-Davis, and a newsletter. Contact: Rick Brown, 1707 Buena Ave., Berkeley, Cal., (415) 527-2054.

FROM MICHAEL SMITH (Dept. of Pol. Sci., Tulane U., New Orleans, 70118): "In a book I'm now finishing, I look at a variety of 'alternative' planning styles that take into account class interests and the need for an adversary style of activism, but go beyond the misconceptions of politically pluralist advocates of 'advocacy planning' a la Davidoff. Any thoughts you or other members of the Network might have or 'examples' you might suggest would be most helpful (and, if used, most gratefully acknowledged.)" Smith also has two papers Networkers might be interested in: "Toward a Theory of Citizen Participation in Urban Renewal in Two Federal Systems [US & W. Germany]," and "On Public Policy for Self-Management: Towards a Bill of Rights for Working People."

NICK JEFFRY of the Arch. Assn. in London (36 Bedford Sq., London WC 7) is interested in returning to the US to find a job teaching a political economy—political sociology approach urban studies and planning; he also can teach on China (and has co-edited a book, with Malcolm Caldwell, *Planning and Urbanism in China*, in press for Pergamon.) He's planning to be in NY, Phila., and Oklahoma in Dec.

BILLIE BRAMHALL, of the Denver Planning Dept.'s Small Area Planning Div. (rm. 400, 1445 Cleveland Pl., Denver 80202) would be interested in corresponding with people on city government and neighborhood planning, to share thoughts on the work she is doing. She also invited anyone passing through Denver to stop in. (Incidentally, we'll be glad to publish any other open invitations from Network members—it's a further, serendipitous way of people linking up with each other.)

In that same vein, Jennifer Coile (35 Avalon Dr., Brownsville, TX 78520) writes: "Newsletter #9 asked what function the Network has for those of us who are geographically isolated from other concentrations of Networkistas. Communication, just receiving the newsletter, is extremely valuable. Those of us off the beaten track do get to travel, in official (e.g. conference) and unofficial capacities, and I'm hoping that I can feel free to use the Network list to call up people and get together for lunch or whatever to get a dose of support and discuss issues with a perspective that might be hard to find in our home towns. Likewise, I can offer a place to stay to any Networkistas who find themselves on the border, by the sea in Brownsville."

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FROM SHAWN WHITFIELD (12, St. Alban's Mount, Inglemire Ave., Hull, England): "I would be grateful if you could put me in contact with any of your fellow planners who could supply me with literature on community socialism, or with anyone with a similar interest in the topic. I am of course prepared to make this a two-way process and supply information about the British experience of planning and its radical input."

CHARLIE DEKNATEL wants people to know about the Center for Rural Affairs, PO Box 405, Walthill, Neb. 68067, which "does very interesting work on agriculture and rural life in Neb., including reports on the effects of changing agricultural technology and other things as well as publishing a newspaper and newsletter."

THE PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL (558 Capp St., SF 94110) has a series of guides and booklets available on such subjects as small claims court, tenants rights, foodstamps, immigration, using a law library, public records, wage garnishment, unemployment benefits. Many are available in Spanish as well, and they're all inexpensive—most in the 25-50 cent range. Write them for their publications list.

JOB: Bob Catlin of the Univ. of So. Fla. wants Network people to know about an available assistant professorship in applied public administration. Write to Dr. Jamil Jreisat, Chair, Dept. Pol. Sci., Univ. So. Fla., Tampa 33620 (813) 974-2384.

ENERGY AND REALITY: THREE PERCEPTIONS is a booklet (38 pp.) Jim Benson has just published, which appears to have an "appropriate technology" orientation. Available for \$1 from the Inst. for Ecological Policies, 9208 Christopher St., Fairfax Va 22030.

LEW LUBKA has sent in a study he and his students have just completed of housing filtration, titled "Senior Citizens Hi-Rise Apt. Bldg.—A Study of Housing Turnover in Fargo, ND"—available from Lew at the Grad. Prog. in Comm. and Reg. Plng., ND St. U., Box 5673, St. Univ. Sta., Fargo 58102.

THE MAINE HOUSING RESOURCES COUNCIL is "a state-wide organization of low-income housing advocates and providers for the people of Maine." Further information from Network member Roger Leisner, who is their Sec.-Treas. (54 Gage St. #4, Augusta 04330).

ANTIPODE: A RADICAL JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHY wants to make itself known to Network people. Among the recent issues: "Urban Political Economy"; "Origins of Capitalism, Politics of Space"; "Underdevelopment: Socio-Economic Formation and Spatial Organization, Mode of Production and Third World Urbanization"; "Geography and Imperialism, Political Economy of Journey to Work." It's a quarterly, \$9/yr., available from PQ Box 225, W. Side Sta., Worcester, Mass. 01602.

BOB ROSS (Dept. of Sociology, Clark Univ., Worcester Mass) has available a paper titled "On Political Economy and the Study of Social Policy."

SOLID-WASTE RECYCLING: A request from Jack Huttner (6 Lisa Lane, E. Islip NY 11730): "I am researching alternative solid waste recycling, particularly the labor-intensive recycling of household waste products. My interest is in energy-efficient, neighborhood centered and controlled methods of collection. I am gathering information with the possible aim of organizing a suburban collective. I am looking for operational models, secondary materials industries, and some general information on collective social formations and institutions . . . Any references or sources will be greatly appreciated."

"**ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND THE FUTURE OF NEIGHBORHOODS**" is an analysis including testimony and recommendations based on hearings held by the NYC Commn. on Human Rights. It's available (free) from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, CCHR, 52 Duane St., NYC 10007. "Although some of the recommendations apply only to NY State, others have wider applicability" writes Nathan Weber. "None of the recommendations are radical, of course, given the fact that a City agency published it, but some ideas are usable, particularly the notion that the state should be given the power to extend repayment periods on mortgage loans—a brake on low-income homeowners and tenants being forced out of their homes as a result of foreclosing attempts."

FROM EVELYN FRANKFORD (900 West End Ave., 11A, NYC 10025), Director of the Assn. of Lower East Side Settlements: "One of the projects that I am most committed to is planning and developing what we call the Life Option Center—Community Care for the Elderly. **This is a long-range plan for the settlements to create in one community—the Lower East Side of Manhattan—an integrated system of community care as an alternative to institutionalization and to the current labyrinth of agencies that the elderly must negotiate. The plan is based on the premise that social and health service providers work without structural connections to one another, leaving the elderly person in the lurch. A network of services must address two issues: interfacing existing services provided by voluntary and governmental agencies and developing new services.**

The Life Option Center calls for a network of health care, home health care, housekeeping services, housing (individual and congregate), social services, self-help, and leisure time activities. The network would offer different levels of involvement, from service provider as volunteer or paid worker, to service user, particularly among the older elderly and the very frail . . . While my work involves social service planning, I have done housing work also, and I am particularly interested in the connections between the two: how to create both the physical environment and the social community that must be part of it. I'd be interested in hearing from anyone whose work spans both areas."

"PLANNING IN CUBA" is a short article David Wilmoth (Dept. of City & Reg. Plng., Univ. of Cal., Berkeley 94720) wrote for the college paper, based on his recent two-week visit.

THE NEW ARCHITECTURE MOVEMENT'S 1978 wall calendar is available (\$3 airpost, from Bob Maltz, 14 Holmdale Rd., London NW6, checks made out to him.)

"DISCRIMINATION BY DEFAULT: A STUDY OF THE TRI-STATE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION" is a 146-page report by the Suburban Action Inst. (257 Park Ave. S., NYC 10010).

A miscellany of comments from Mark Heyman (Sangamon St. U., Springfield, Ill. 62708): "(1) In the September letter, Mark Winogrand reports that San Francisco is revising its zoning ordinance, and he is interested in techniques (such as doubling the allowable density for housing for senior citizens) 'to get the housing we need while protecting existing neighborhoods.' Do radical (or non-radical) planners still believe in zoning? I thought it was widely accepted that zoning serves (not too well) to maintain the status quo, but that's about it. Remember 'Requiem for Zoning' over a decade ago? Recently, AIP published an article (by a California planning director) attacking zoning. Mark writes that 'We land use planners always joke that zoning ordinances are subservient to the market place.' It's no joke . . . (2) Re John Friedmann's communication: This Spring I will teach a graduate public administration (sic) seminar, 'Planning as Education', which will start with his *Retracking America: A Theory of Transactive Planning*, and also study some ideas of Bertram Gross, Donald Michael, Edgar Dunn, and others. I am interested in how to make transactive planning 'work.' Indirectly connected to the seminar is an essay I am working on in which I hope to identify a role for neighborhood government in the existing system of governance in metropolitan areas. Communications on these ideas—directly or through the network—are invited."

JAN REINER wants to bring the following two books to everyone's attention: Mike Davidow *Cities Without Crisis* (Internatl. Publ., 1976, \$3.95); A.S. Miller *The Modern Corporate State* (Greenwood Press, 1976, \$15)

FROM JOEL FRIEDMAN (58 Ozone Ct., Venice Ca 90291): "I would like to mention two projects I am currently involved in. Hopefully fellow Network members will be able to provide some needed information as well as contact me for any help I can provide. First, I am attempting to gather all sources on community-generated housing that deal with American housing. I would be interested in any information, sources, case studies, etc. of self-built, community-generated housing in the United States with a particular interest in any examples of such housing in L.A.

Second, for my M.A. thesis in planning at UCLA I am researching the relationship between changes in the spatial structure of a city and changes that occur in the capitalist system. With the underlying view that monopoly capitalism directly and indirectly changes the spatial structure of a city to suit its needs, I am interested in studying those changes to see how and why they occur. Specifically, I would appreciate references to any 'radical' studies of urban renewal that attempt to document the profit-making, for certain interests, role of urban renewal as well as its role of restructuring the city to fit the needs of monopoly capital. In a broader light, any studies of the urban land market, the housing market, Marxist theory on 'space', or the role of the State in urban renewal would be appreciated. I have a series of sources on the more theoretical aspects of the issue, M. Castells, D. Harvey, etc. but need to see more practical studies. For anyone interested in the subject a reading of M Castells 'The Wild City' and David Harvey's *Social Justice and the City* would provide an introduction."

JOHN TURNER'S postponed US trip will now happen in Jan. He has sent a list of topics he's prepared to talk and meet with people on: the nature of housing in society; the values of housing; the economy of housing; housing authority; politics, government and housing; housing policies; housing action; housing and development. For a sheet detailing these topics and other information, write John at 30 Greenwood Rd., London E8 1AB.

BILL THOMAS (just relocated for a year to 28 Harrington Gdns., Flat #1, London SW7) has sent in materials on a series of 55 Town Hall meetings, titled "Wages, Welfare or WHAT?", held last July 14 all over Oregon, involving 3,000 people. These were designed to explore public opinion regarding public policies and government programs. For materials on the meetings, results, etc. contact Thomas.

HOUSING ABANDONMENT IN NYC is the 139-page two-year study Homefront has just published (a whole bunch of Network people—Tom Angotti, Debbie Bell, Almuth David, Ann Meyerson, Mimi Rosenberg, Ton Schuman, Nathan Weber—worked on it.) It focuses on the economics of housing and concludes that "we must force the government to take full responsibility for restoring our deteriorating housing to decent conditions, *at no further cost to us tenants.*" Copies (\$5 plus postage) are available from Tony Schuman, Urban Deadline Architects, 2248 Broadway, NYC 10024. They also have prepared a 3-page summary of their findings and strategy. According to a covering letter from Tony, "What we are looking for specifically is to build a consensus around our critique of the inadequacy (and class bias) of the current 'self-help' programs through our discussion of the bottom line cost difficulties which force low-income co-operators to function as landlords. We seek to dispel the cynicism about government involvement in housing through pressuring the government to accept more responsibility for housing rehabilitation, and through demonstrating that low income tenants cannot afford, in many instances, any mortgage money at all, even at no interest."

THE NEW HARBINGER: A JOURNAL OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT is a new quarterly published by the N. Amer. Student Cooperative Organization (Box 1301, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106). More information about the journal and other NASCO publications and services available from Steward Kohl, the Coordinator.

REVIVING THE INNER CITY COMMUNITY is a 72 pp. paperback by Ed Marciniak of the Inst. of Urban Life, about the E. Humboldt neighborhood of Chicago. \$2.95 from the Dept. of Pol. Sci., Rm. 601, Loyola U., 820 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 60611.

The Oct. 1977 issue of *Neighborhoods*, newsletter of the Inst. for the Study of Civic Values (401 N. Broad St., Phila. 19108) has an interesting essay called "People Need Housing: The Case for Walk-In Homesteading." It's a position piece on a program initiated by Milton Street under which, it appears, people just come in and occupy abandoned buildings, rather than going through the slow, bureaucratic HUD and city procedures. Henry De Bernardo of Community Legal Services (Sylvania House, Juniper and Locust Sts., Phila. 19107) has a packet of newspaper articles and other materials on Street's movement available.

"STREETS OF THE FLOWERBOXES" materials available from Jack Stokvis (Dept. of Comm. Dev., 100 Hamilton Plaza, Paterson NJ 07505).

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DAVID GIL (Prof. of Social Policy, Brandeis Univ., Waltham Mass 02154) has sent in a few papers that might be of interest, among them: "Social Policy and the Right to Work", "Overcoming Cultural Impediments to Human Survival", and "Clinical Practice and the Politics of Human Liberation."

THE ASSN. OF LONDON HOUSING ESTATES, a metropolitan-wide public housing tenants association, has just published its "Housing Strategy" document, available from Michael Drake at ALHE, 17 Victoria Pk. Sq., Bethnal Green, London E2 9PE.

DISPLACED PERSONS: Sybil Frenette (Lot 103, Kilkenny Dr., Winnipeg, Canada R3T 2NG) writes: "I am presently employed at the Inst. of Urban Studies at the Univ. of Winnipeg as a research asst. We are conducting a study of displaced tenants who have lost their accommodation due to the financial hardships placed on their landlords to maintain a building at the existing, strict minimum standards. With rent controls and lack of subsidies, landlords have found it necessary to sell or demolish their properties rather than return them to the standards of safety. Our present problem is in trying to track down the relocated tenants to look into their degree to satisfaction with their previous dwelling as well as their difficulties in finding adequate new accommodation. I would be interested in discovering the techniques used by other planning agencies in trying to locate tenants who have been evicted."

NATL. ASSN. OF NEIGHBORHOODS: Tom Logsdon has sent in an article by Milton Kotler from *FOCUS/Midwest* (vol. 12, #75) titled "The Neighborhood Movement in America and NAN." NAN may be contacted directly at 1612 20th St. NW, Wash. 20009.

THE INST. FOR LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE (1717 18th St. NW, Wash. 20009) has a new publications list and brochure. They also publish the bi-monthly newsletter *Self-Reliance* (\$6 the sub.)

DR. CHRISTOPH BADEL (Inst. fur Sozialokonomie der Wirtschaftsuniversitat Wien (Franz Klein-Gasse 1, A-1190, Vienna) writes: "We have started a research project inquiring into the different forms of civic action resp. self help groups in the U.S. I would like to ask you whether you could give us some information in this field. We are interested in the financial and social implications of self-organisation in general and do not concentrate on planning problems. Therefore we try to obtain a general view of actual models at first. As we know that there exist many local activities of citizen action in the U.S., particularly material on self help organisations of supra-local importance will be of high interest. Any documents describing aims, organisational structure, financing and internal problems could help us. Also any advice concerning other persons or institutions we should contact for information will be appreciated."

ED MEEHAN (Edward Meehan & Assoc, 861 Arlington Ave., Mansfield Oh 44906) writes: "We are interested in associating with other small private consultants or individuals who are interested in working with local communities in conducting workshop sessions, people-prepared plans and programs. We are now in the middle of publishing a book on citizen involvement techniques. We'd like to correspond with pro's who have an interest in community resurgence and rejuvenation through the application of motivation and marketing techniques."

More sage words from John Friedmann (School of Arch. & Urban Plng., UCLA, LA 90024): "I've been quite astounded at the response to my short note on 'basic needs' in the last Newsletter. I must have received between ten and fifteen letters, some short, some long, requesting the bibliography and telling me about various concerns. I wonder what magic was at work."

All sorts of meanings can be attached to the concept of basic needs. Some people associate basic needs with physiological survival. That may have medical relevance, but has no relevance to planning. Then there are Maslovians who distinguish between basic needs (at the bottom of their hierarchy) and higher needs of human fulfillment (at the top). If they are proper Maslovians, they will argue that basic needs have priority, with higher needs

coming into play only when basic needs have been met. It's a sort of infra-superstructure argument which is familiar to Marxists: first comes the grub, and then morality (Brecht). There are lots of problems with this formulation, including: (a) lack of socio-cultural specificity, (b) exclusion of social structure and inter-personal behavior as relevant dimensions of need-generation/fulfillment, (c) discrepancy with frequently observed inversions between supra and infra: what's 'basic' turns out to be controlled by 'higher' need levels (how else could you explain a hunger strike?)

Another meaning of basic needs has to do with minimum standards of living as applied in social welfare: the poverty line approach. Basic needs in this instance is what the bourgeoisie is willing to establish as the limits of its social responsibility. (There are alternative explanations.) In any event, basic needs in this sense refer to the needs of 'the poor' who are also frequently referred to (in typical military-bureaucratic language) as the 'target group', the objects of bourgeois benevolence. Well, I'm not very interested in this meaning either.

The meaning which I find exciting, though I am by no means clear about all of its implications, understands basic needs as a *reciprocal entitlement*. Accordingly, basic needs refer to those claims that we make on relevant communities by virtue of our membership in them and which obligate us, in turn, to respond to the claims made by these communities upon ourselves, to contribute to their work. This formulation makes basic needs the object of *civic discourse* within the relevant communities, so that the needs may be objectified. Thus, they are relative, not absolute needs: they are subject to change. In this way, too, basic needs become part of what is not often referred to as 'special struggle.' (Civic discourse and social struggle are closely related but not identical; they are related as dialogue is to dialectics.)

It is clear that in this view, the idea of basic needs has a lot to do with the kind of social formation we both have and could have. Which needs are guaranteed? What reciprocal actions are required? How is civic discourse structured? How much scope is there for non-violent social struggle? How uniform is the provision of basic needs? To what extent is the market economy relied upon in their provisions?

It seems to me that these and similar questions afford Network planners an opportunity for engaging in significant social criticism and, through social criticism, in social practice.

Recently, coming back from a meeting of Asian planners and researchers which had been held in Nagoya, Japan, I had this related thought. I wonder what Asians (and indeed other Third Worlders) would reply if they were asked to describe in what sense the United States is an underdeveloped country. We used to go so confidently abroad, dispensing advice, secure in our knowledge that we come from the most highly 'developed' country in the history of the world. Well, that confidence is gone. All we can offer is consumerism as a way of life (for those who can afford it). Basic needs? That's unemployment compensation plus food stamps. The centers of our great cities are gutted. A third of our Third World population is without steady work. Unemployment at home is directly related to the exodus of transnational enterprise to overseas locations where a cheap labor force can be exploited. Most of us are excluded from meaningful discourse: we are reduced to the objects of public opinion surveys. Do we have a national project?

And so we could go on. I think we should begin a dialogue on these and related questions. It is by seeing ourselves as 'underdeveloped' that we can perhaps recover a sense of national greatness. I am prepared to enter into correspondence with anyone who cares to write, but I think the dialogue must be extended to all parts of the country. It should become part of our 'civic discourse.'"

NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN CENTERS: Marcia Brooks, a community planner with the newly established Neighborhood Design Center of Oakland (1419 Broadway, Rm. 722, Oakland Ca 94612) writes: "I would like to appeal to Network members who are currently working in Community Design Centers (CDC) for information or advice. (1) Funding—What monies have CDC's received from professional organizations (AIA, AIP, etc.) if any; what private or public 'foundations' support CDC's; and what public monies (state, federal, CD, etc.) CDC's have been able to secure? (2) How do you handle project selection and set priori-

ties? (3) Any advice or information on keeping a cooperatively run office reasonably efficient. In addition if anyone knows of any Oakland group which may need free planning or architectural services please feel free to refer them to us."

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CALIF. HEALTH ACTION COALITION (CHAC) is a growing organization of consumers, health workers, and community organizers. The group envisions 1) Developing mutual support to health groups for local struggles; 2) Defining statewide positions on health issues and developing political support for those positions; and 3) Providing critical analysis of the relationship of health and health care to the society in which we live. Current work focuses on three areas: health care services, health care planning and occupational health standards. A statewide conference is planned for Spring 1978. Anyone interested in CHAC should contact CHAC, Northern California, 1707 Buena Ave., Berkeley, CA 94703; or CHAC, S. Calif, 1518 Oakwood Ave., Venice, CA.

CONDOMINIUM CONVERSIONS: SF, like several other cities, is experiencing the onset of new forms of profit-taking by landlords: conversion of rental units into condominiums. The City has a condominium conversion law that requires 35% of the current occupants (in developments with 50 or more units) to approve the conversion, and also mandates making at least 10% of the units available to low-and moderate-income families (if subsidy funds are available). The City Planning Commission, which must pass on all such conversions, is trying to come up with some guidelines. Anyone with references to previous studies, knowledge of existing laws, or experience in other areas should contact Alec Bash at the SF City Pl. Dept., 100 Larkin St., SF 94102.

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL UPDATE: The ballot proposition, asking whether the City should purchase and renovate the Hotel, lost by a 2:1 margin, sadly. The election—the city's first under the new district (ward) system of representation—generally turned out very disappointingly: a very low turnout (51%), and conservative candidates elected from several districts where progressives had been expected to win. Anti-spending sentiment dominated, particularly on a measure as specific as the I-Hotel proposal, from which the average voter could conceive little direct benefit, and where the wording of the proposition narrowly framed the proposal as necessarily a cost to the city treasury. The vote came down strictly along class lines, with lower income and Third World neighborhoods solidly backing the proposition, and middle- and upper-income areas—which have far higher proportions of registered voters and a higher turnout—turning thumbs down.

The issue is still alive, however. Hotel supporters and City officials are meeting to discuss ways of implementing the original plan (City taking by eminent domain, with resale to the tenants), and there is possibility of a substitute plan whereby the City would take the building by eminent domain, demolish it, and build new public housing (with federal subsidies) on the site.

A word from our typesetters: "We in What's Your Line Graphics, who typeset the *Network Newsletter*, would like to let Network members know about the availability of our service. We are the 4-woman typesetting collective of the San Francisco Printing Cooperative. We exist to provide the progressive community and political movement with good quality, affordable typesetting for everything from books to letterheads. Call or write for an estimate and brochure: 964 Valencia, S.F., CA 94110, (415) 647-8053. (Commercial rates 45% higher; please specify.)"

We've prepared a new general document on the Network, outlining what it is and giving a precis of the first ten mailings. (We did the first one after the sixth mailing.) It's intended for those writing in to inquire about the Network, but any current members who want a copy can get one by writing.

The last newsletter was returned marked "moved, address unknown" from the following members; if anyone (especially regional coordinators) can supply a new address, please let us know: Phyllis Berkowitz (Camb.), Bob Bogen (Boston), James Carras (Boston), Harriet Cohen (NYC), Emile Combe (Tacoma), Marshall England (NYC), Edith Ericson (Univ. Iowa), Brad Fields (Balt.), Bill Freid (Camb.), Stephen Frizell (Brookline), Michael Haran (Camb), Hilde Jeffers (Phila.), Nabil Kassatly (Boston), Carol Katz (Camb), Liz Lusk (Madison), Harry Miller (Kent St.), David Nieto. (DC), Marcia Peters (Boston), Blair Pollock (Carrboro, NC), Phil Singerman (New Haven), Carlos Soto (Pitts.), Jeremy Woodoff (Savannah), Hai-Ping Yeh (Madison), Seref Yazicioglu (NYC).

All best for '78,


Chester Hartman

PS. SEND MONEY!!!

380 Elizabeth St.
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FIRST CLASS