

#6—October 22, 1976

Dear Network People:

Sorry for the superlong gap between #5 and #6—summer was very hectic for me, with lots of travelling and work deadlines. I'll do my best to keep to a bimonthly schedule for the coming period.

The two attachments are: an updated, expanded list of Network members (now 765 in number), and a digest of the first five mailings. The latter is what I will send to those just joining or inquiring about the Network; it's a lot easier than sending a set of back issues, some of which I've already run out of, and lots of the material in back issues is dated. The new listing contains mini-biographical information wherever we had it and a cross-reference list by states, for use by people who want to bring together nearby members or otherwise communicate with them. The only way to identify people who share your interests will be to look through the entire list. Jerry Horovitz (aided by Steve Lafer) carried out the complex task of putting together the new list. As threatened, those people (some 185 in all) who have never shown any indication of interest in the Network (via communication or contribution) have been dropped. These were mostly persons who appeared on various lists (e.g., Planners for Equal Opportunity) that we used at the outset for the initial Network mailings. As almost everyone since that time has explicitly asked to be in the Network, there should be few dropouts from here on in. We'll still "jog" people whom we haven't heard from for a long time and continue to drop those who don't respond. Let us know of any errors you spot in the list, and we'll make known the necessary corrections.

It seems to me that the Network is woefully short on students. Trying to put more of them in contact with us should be a high priority. Could those of you who teach in planning and related programs make a special effort to identify radical and quasi-radical students, and either send me their names and addresses, or let them know how to get in touch with us.

LOCAL NETWORK MEETINGS: Summer doldrums have meant that fewer local meetings of Network people have occurred. As most of those that have occurred since the last mailing were quite some time ago, I'll provide only brief reports. The NY Area Network group met on June 26 for an all day session (at Columbia Univ.), devoted primarily to study of the abandonment problem. Representatives of four groups active in this area (Oceanhill-Brownsville Tenants Association, U-Hab [Urban Homesteading Assistance Board], the Metropolitan Council on Housing, and Homefront) presented their views, and discussion followed. There were also presentations from visiting representatives of other "networks" (Natl. Lawyers Guild, Health PAC, and URPE [Union of Radical Political Economists].)

The zappy Boston Area Network group met on June 23 (a session I was able to attend, as I was teaching a summer session at BU), July 27 and Sept. 15 (with another meeting scheduled for Oct. 19, at which Bob Goodman is presenting his current work on "Changing Business Strategies in the City and the Future of Urban Organizing"). Much of the June 23 meeting was spent discussing possible future directions for the Network and projects that might be carried out on a local or national basis (see extensive discussion of this at the end of this newsletter). On July 27 the discussion was around possible creation of study groups in the fall and movement toward creation of a skills bank. The Sept. 15 meeting, in addition to dealing with matters from previous meetings (the

current status of Urban Planning Aid—Tenants First Coalition, skills bank), heard about a new Learning Cooperative for Social Policy Planning that Barbara Beelar and others are putting together, had a guest speaker from Fair Share, and discussed the question of political actions and support by the Boston Network. Because these are matters of interest to everyone, I'm reproducing those parts of their minutes dealing with these subjects:

The Learning Cooperative for Social Policy Planning: Growing out of the realization that planning education and the planning profession were retreating from social planning concerns, Barbara Beelar suggested a cooperative as a place that could provide post graduate training for concerned professionals as well as more structure for activities like the Network. Developed with conceptual assistance from Ken Geiser, Sandy Rose, Jay Ostrower, and Carl Sussman, Barbara's proposed center would focus on four learning areas: content courses, work skills, professionalism, and social and economic change. Content courses would explore concrete issue areas such as housing and health. Work skills could include training in proposal writing, cost accounting, and communications. Issues of professionalism might deal with such items as images of work, elitism in job roles, and new roles for planners and architects. Social and economic change courses could range from how to make changes in particular job situations to issues of broader radical change. The proposed center would offer a funded base for groups like the Network to meet. Barbara stated that she was planning to send her proposal to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the organization that supported many early social planning programs. NIMH, however, unsure of the lasting effects of its earlier enterprises in the social planning field, was reluctant to fund the Learning Cooperative without knowing how many professionals might be interested in its activities. In order to gauge professional support for the Center, which evoked much enthusiasm among those attending the meeting, Barbara was planning to send out a 'market' survey to planners and architects in the area. Those persons interested in talking with Barbara about the Learning Cooperative should contact her at the Cambridge Center for the Study of Public Policy (617-547-4473, 123 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge 02138), co-sponsors of the project.

Presentation by Fair Share: Marc Dyen, researcher for Fair Share, gave an informative and detailed presentation of what Fair Share was doing, why it was doing it, and what it needs from people in the Network. Briefly, Fair Share is a mass based interracial working class organization with over 2000 members residing primarily in Boston, Springfield, and New Bedford. Fair Share is a multi-issue oriented group that has been organizing around such issues as economic justice (exemplified by graduated income tax and utility rates) and neighborhood deterioration (e.g. tax assessments) in an attempt to build membership and produce change. Funded primarily by the National Catholic Charities, Fair Share has become more self-sustaining through door to door fund raising and proposals to private foundations. Fair Share's half a million dollar annual budget allows them to support a permanent staff of 24 field organizers, researchers and administrative staff as well as a large number of part-time people. When asked what Fair Share's success had been so far, Marc pointed out that while it had not defeated such corporations as the utility companies, Fair Share was now a powerful force on the scene and the establishment had to contend with it. As the organization has continued to grow in real and apparent strength, its members have increasingly recognized that the

government works for special interests. Still, whether Fair Share moves in a left direction is problematical, partly because Fair Share is in a transition stage in which staff power is receding and community resident power is increasing. He pointed out that because Fair Share has become involved in many day to day bread and butter issues, it needs help from Network participants to do both long range planning and intermediate planning to seek solutions to problems such as what would be good state policies in such areas as transportation, employment, and energy.

Network Actions: Emily Achtenberg reported that several times in the last few months, community groups asked if the Network would offer them support either through participation in demonstrations or public testimony. For example, community organizations concerned about HUD withdrawal of Section 8 funds from the South End asked the Network to testify on their behalf. In this case, because the Network lacks a decision-making mechanism between meetings, Emily was unsure how to proceed. To handle such problems, Emily proposed that affinity groups organized around such issues as health or housing be given discretion to take stands in the name of the Network. Her only reservation was that different affinity groups might disagree on broad issues. Pat McGuigan suggested that that as an alternative to Emily's proposal, the Network could designate a committee to make decisions between meetings. Marie Kennedy, however, argued against the committee approach. Although comfortable in such areas as housing, Marie did not feel she had the expertise to make decisions in other areas such as health. Since she viewed the Network as informal, Marie felt she wouldn't be hurt if she disagreed with another affinity group's stance. Ken Geiser stressed that he would feel comfortable with stands taken in the name of the Network as long as the issues were talked about in small groups of people knowledgeable about the issues. Barbara Beelar suggested that such groups could be formed from already existing Network lists and she volunteered to pull such lists together and mail them to Network participants. Again, however, the issues of an overall group name arose. If affinity groups were to take stands for the Network, what shall we call ourselves? Among the suggestions made at the meeting were the following: the Boston Network of Planners and Architects and the Boston Association of Planners and Architects. Given the complexity of the issue, the desire for more Network members to be present before a policy was made, and the lack of an agreed-upon name, the question of affinity group stands was tabled until the next meeting. In the meantime, Network participants were urged to think about the matter and appropriate names for the organization.

The Boston Network's next meeting is 7:30 pm, Wednesday, Nov. 10 at MIT, Bldg. 7-403, (Emerson Rm.). Morris Zeitlin of the NYC Network will speak on Soviet housing (with a comparative reference to Coop City), the 1974 Soviet Urban Study Tour, and his experiences with the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians, the union of design and planning professionals (and others) which he was active in and described in the last Network mailing.

Both local (regional) Network groups will doubtless use the revised membership list for their future mailings, but if you want to make contact, get in touch with Bruce Dale, 260 Starling Rd., Englewood, N.J. 07631 for the NY area, and in Boston it's Jon Pynoos, 27 Everett St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138, (617) 491-0253. There are now substantial numbers of Network people in other areas as well—LA, Chicago, Seattle, Madison, Baltimore, Toronto. Why doesn't someone in each of these areas (you, maybe) take the initiative of calling together people in your area, for a meeting or social gathering, so you can get to meet each other and begin talking about some common activities and concerns. The handy-dandy geographical breakdown included in the members' listing will help you identify who your geographical comrades are.

UPA/TFC UPDATE: As of mid-October, Urban Planning Aid still had not heard about its refunding (it is being funded on a month-to-month basis). CSA is still trying to see how it will handle the politics of it all; their hearing officer recommended refunding. The Tenants First Coalition Defense Committee is actively organizing to defend itself against the civil conspiracy suit filed by developer/landlord Max Kargman. A good deal of publicity has been generated in the Boston area about the case, and it was the subject of a major presentation at the National Lawyers Guild's Executive Board meeting in August (attended by a thousand people). An experienced and well-known Boston law firm has been hired to coordinate the case, and the elaborate discovery process is now underway. It will be a long, drawn out case, expected to last 2-3 years. UPA employees have also filed a \$10,000 invasion of privacy suit against the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce (active in anti-UPA efforts) for having hired Gordon Hall, one of the old-time "anti-Red" investigators, to compile dossiers on past and present UPA staff members. Kargman meanwhile has extended his attack to Low-Income Planning Aid, another Boston anti-poverty group; because of complaints by the politically well-wired Kargman, LIPA's CSA funding is also in doubt. Fund-raising is being actively pursued. As I've remarked previously, it's a terribly important suit, in terms of the future of tenant organizing and other forms of political activity; if the pernicious civil conspiracy laws can be held to outlaw such activities as organized rent strikes, anti-eviction demonstrations, attendance at tenant union meetings, work on tenant newsletters, and provision of organizing and technical assistance for all these activities, we're all in big trouble. Among other forms of help, the Tenants First Defense Committee obviously needs lots of money. If you've got lots, or even less than lots, their address is c/o Low Income Planning Aid, 2 Park Sq., Rm. 611, Boston, Mass. 02116.

HARRIET COHEN sends in the following report on the Women's School of Planning and Architecture, held in Santa Cruz from August 8-21:

"Fifty-five women participated, ranging in age from 20 to 58, and varying from design students to carpenters, a nutritionist, and practitioners of architecture, planning, and landscape architecture.

We developed a flexible program so it was possible to be fully involved in at least two of the seven core courses. Many women chose one of the more thought-oriented experiences, such as the politics and ideology of urban planning, or the writing process, in conjunction with one of the more tactile, woodworking or tapestry-making. Emphasis ranged from a very personal and explicitly feminist exploration of self in relation to environment, to a more extroverted course on energy conscious design which introduced us thoroughly to principles and to a multitude of examples of energy conservation and uses of solar energy techniques. In another course women experienced the roles of designer and client simultaneously by designing spaces for each other. We met in small groups, and large groups, indoors and often outdoors under a redwood or bay tree, with a glorious ocean view beyond.

At least equal in importance to our formal experience was the opportunity to meet each other, share similarities and differences, explore both personal and professional subjects, and form a supportive community. WSPA is particularly unusual as a setting in which women of many social and political orientations can communicate. We represented the full spectrum of lifestyles, from fairly traditional nuclear families to radical lesbians, and every variation in between. Our involvement in design and the environment and our need for mutual support in our work (in male-dominated professions) enabled us to meet on common ground, grow towards an acceptance of our differences, and transcend the tendencies toward competitiveness and stereotyping.

Two weeks at WSPA are very busy, often intense and provocative: a supportive and growth experience which produces an added energy to take back to our respective worlds for another year.

For information on future programs, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Women's School of Planning and Architecture, Spring Lane, Farmington, Connecticut 06032."

DAVID GURIN has prepared the following report on the June UN Habitat conference in Vancouver (a slightly shorter version of which appeared in the Aug. 5 *WIN* magazine). He also asked me to include the following postscript:

"One jarring note at Vancouver, from Simon Gibbs, a British planner who provided a place for drafting the citizen participation statement: 'Following the drafting meeting held at my invitation on Tuesday, 1 June at the home at which I was a guest in Vancouver, two small objects of great sentimental value to my hostess were found to be missing. I would just appeal that if anyone has these could they please send them back to Dr. Crichton, 4557 Langarra Ave., Vancouver B.C.'"

Under the banner of Habitat, two series of meetings were held in Vancouver, British Columbia, in June. One was the official United Nations Conference on Human Settlements that considered proposals which *if* made specific, and *if* implemented with lots of money could affect the way people live in cities and villages around the world. However, with the Arab-Israeli conflict lacerating the UN the specifics and the dollars from the rich countries are not likely to be available soon. Thus, the more realistic approach of the unofficial Habitat Forum became all the more interesting.

At least one hundred planners from the U.S., Canada, and elsewhere attended sessions of Habitat Forum. Most of these also joined Planners Network sessions at which there was an exchange of planning and political experiences. Citizen participation in planning emerged as a key issue and a strong statement was drafted equating participation with community control of the entire planning process. This was submitted to Habitat Forum for inclusion in its recommendations to the official U.N. Conference. (A Canadian Planners Network was also set up as a result of a number of radical architects and planners meeting at the Forum.)

The official UN Conference meetings were in posh downtown hotels. Habitat Forum met chilly renovated airplane hangars at Jericho Beach, about 20 minutes from downtown. The Conference was dominated by boring diplomatic speeches and slow attempts by the world's ministers of housing and of the interior (who headed most of the delegations) to frame proposals in language agreeable to all. The Forum was comparatively concise and passionate when speakers described "self-help" housing for the squatters of the world and "appropriate technology" that could be available to the poor, and harmless to the environment. When Forum speakers detailed successful community organizations or new building methods, audiences with similar experiences on several continents added ideas and encouragement.

The documents prepared for the official conference were well-researched and their proposals well-intentioned, but they lacked the specifics of time and money needed. They didn't set, say, 1990 as a goal for providing everyone clean water, now unavailable to 40% of the world. Nor did they appropriate the \$6 billion that could do this, though it's a slight sum compared with the \$300 billion annual world armaments expenditure.

Two basic UN proposals had to do with the use

of urban land and the right to shelter. "Land should be managed as a resource in the interests of the community," said the UN. This goal could remain a pious wish or it could become reality through taxation or expropriation in each country, although that would conflict with land owners who are the ruling elites in most of the world's cities. In Manila, for example, some land prices have risen a thousand fold in twenty years. Great parcels of the city are vacant awaiting speculative profits while squatters huddle on small tracts.

"Adequate shelter and services are a basic human right," proclaimed the UN. However, capital is scarce for building houses for the poor, or for providing them with infrastructure (a favorite word at the Conference) of water and sewer lines, transport, and electricity. Capital is more readily available for luxury apartments, high-rise offices for multi-nationals, and imported cars for the tiny middle classes of the under-developed countries.

In the Third World 150 cities have more than a million population. A Nigerian delegate recounted for the Conference the efforts to keep up with the rapid growth of Lagos, now a city of more than 2.5 million people. Mongolia's Minister of the Interior told that as a result of "the victory of socialist productive forces" infrastructure is being provided for Mongolians to convert from nomadism to town and village life. A Paraguayan delegate showed a three minute film depicting the concern of President Stroessner, the military ruler, for human settlements. He has built a model town: Fort Stroessner.

The official presentations of the US and other developed countries were models of good public relations. Lists and categories of problems—numbers of dilapidated dwelling units, tonnage of pollution—were arranged neatly, as if the tables and graphs were themselves solutions. And protest against official plans were incorporated to show citizen participation.

A Canadian exhibition showed demonstrators protesting expressways and asked poignant questions about the value of expanding the use of cars. But in a brief stopover in Toronto I found that the Spadina expressway, which activists thought they had defeated after years of battle, is suddenly alive with construction crews pushing their way downtown. And, in another part of Toronto, the Metropolitan government is threatening with mass eviction an island community that manages to get along quite well with ferries and no automobiles. Canada, it seems, sponsored the Habitat Conference while planning the destruction of some of its own best habitats.

Vancouver itself is a sad example of this. Its setting along an indented harbor beneath stunning high mountains is perfect. Its recent city planning is something else. Multi-national and Canadian investment schemes pulverized the old downtown of the city. Diversity and street-level activity were wiped out to make way for high-rise offices, hotels, and apartment buildings, separated by meaningless empty plazas. A Moroccan delegate, walking down the arid main street of Vancouver, with high rises lined up like tombstones, told me that he thought Habitat could

more instructively be held in an old North African-walled city.

Donald Guttstein, a young local architect, published last year a book called **Vancouver, Ltd.**, showing how developers, financiers, builders and government planners work as a team to squeeze profits out of downtown and to spread the population in vast suburbs.

But if Vancouver itself didn't offer the best example to the world, some of the people who made Habitat Forum into a two week university of human settlements taught very well indeed. John Turner had one of the largest followings at the Forum. A British architect who has worked in both the *barridas* of Lima and the slums of London, Turner is a strenuous advocate of self-help in housing. He calls the huge blocks of government-built apartments in the Third World as well as in the industrialized West "architecturally hideous, socially alienating, and technically incompetent." In Lima, Mexico City, or even in the spaces between Caracas' *superbloques*, the rude shelters put up (often illegally) by the urban poor better serve their needs than the big projects. They cost less, form better communities, are more easily expanded to meet family needs, and are closer to jobs. After so much talk of self-help at the Forum, delegates at the Conference began to talk of the "informal sector" of housing production in their countries.

Appropriate technology advocates demonstrated how self-housed colonies could live comfortably with solar, wind, and geothermal energy—water cleansed in solar stills and wastes recycled through the earth. Nuclear power was generally viewed at the Forum as highly inappropriate, and maybe a threat to the very existence of human settlements. Forum participants marched downtown and lobbied delegates for a moratorium on the construction of nuclear power plants. But only the tiny delegation from Papua-New Guinea supported them.

The Forum itself was a monument to self-help. The builders used driftwood and beachcombed logs milled at the Forum's own sawmill. They connected four old airplane hangars with wooden arcades designed in Canadian Indian motif. Enormous bright colored banners and wooden sculpture adorned the plaza created by the arcades. It was a livelier urban space than any in Vancouver.

Inside the hangars, auditoriums were created to accommodate masses of people on platforms piled up to second story windows. The structure allowed people to sit or stretch out at various angles, staggered, or in groups. They discussed citizen participation in city planning. They heard an Israeli land expert praise a Syrian taxation system that discouraged speculation (ignored by the media in the general emphasis on Mideast bitterness). An Egyptian architect, Hassan Fathy, explained how to use local materials, local technology, and local labor for "no cost housing." He showed slides of Egyptian peasant homes, graceful and durable with vaulted mudbrick roofs.

Jack Munday, a 42 year old Australian building trade union leader, particularly excited the

Forum. He is the organizer of the "green bans," in which workers refuse to build, mine, or manufacture socially unconscionable products. Munday is a powerful advocate of the idea that worker concern with the ecological effects of their labor is as important as wages and hours.

The first green ban was put up against the development of high rises in Kelly's Bush, a patch of woods near Sydney Harbor. Munday told the audience how the unions informed the developers and potential scabs that "if one tree is destroyed in Kelly's Bush, the unfinished building would remain forever a monument to Kelly's Bush."

Green bans prevented construction of expressways that would have destroyed 25,000 working and middle class homes. And there is a ban on the mining, handling, and exporting of uranium in Australia. When a worker was fired for refusing to handle equipment to be used in uranium mining a massive strike was called.

Munday is out to destroy the myth that concern with the environment is anti-labor. This is true, he feels, only if labor is making things that really shouldn't be made. The point was applauded by Andy Pollak, a United Auto Workers organizer from Detroit. He said that autoworkers had no vested interest in making private cars. They could as well make bicycles, trolleys, buses, and trains. Moreover, the "dirty dozen" congressmen named by the US group Environmental Action as having bad environmental voting records, also have bad labor voting records.

Munday was once president of the Communist Party of Australia, which he led in condemning the Soviet invasion of Checkoslovakia. Like Alexander Dubcek, he is for "socialism with a human face," but also with an ecological heart. The State Department denies him the right to enter the US, but he elated the Forum, and even an official of the US delegation visiting from downtown. I took the opportunity to ask the official whether the Federal government would ultimately come to New York City's aid. "Of course," he said, "we can't afford to waste all that infrastructure."

SOME JOBS: The City of Savannah is looking to fill two jobs, one as Housing Administrator (\$15,402), one as Housing Planner (\$10,500). People interested in further information should contact Suzann Slyman, PPB Administrator, Office of the Asst. City Mgr./Development, P.O. Box 1027, Savannah, Ga. 31402. (The letter I got about this was dated mid-August, so I can't vouch for the jobs still being available.)

The National Housing Law Project (U.C. Berkeley) is looking for a new director. It's where I worked (for 3½ years) when I first came out here. The Project has a staff of about 8 attorneys plus research assistants and a pretty hefty budget. It is a resource with great potential for law reform, research and publications, support for organizing, etc. in the housing area. If you know of any good radical attorneys, preferably with a Legal Services background, who would be interested, they should contact the present director, Al Hirshen, 2313 Warring St., Berkeley, Ca. 94704, before Nov. 30.

The Univ. of Minnesota's School of Public Affairs is looking for an Assistant Professor, "to teach the preparation of comprehensive plans and programs as an integral part of the public decision making process." Applications due by Jan. 1 to John S. Adams, Director, School of Public Affairs, U. Minn., Minneapolis 55455, (612) 373-2653. Marty Krieger of the Network can be contacted (same address) for more informal information.

JOHN TURNER is involved in setting up an international Network for Local Housing Action (provisional title), an outcome of the so-called "Self-Help and Low-Cost Housing" symposium at Habitat. His description follows:

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"The proposal (for a Network for Local Housing Action), originally outlined in the last chapter of my book (*Housing By People: towards autonomy in building environments*, Ideas in Progress series, Marion Boyars, London. To be published by Pantheon Books. English edition currently available from Theatre Books, 659 Younge St., Toronto M4Y 1Z9, Ontario), was picked up by the symposium participants who used the book as a background paper. Over 1000 people signed the register for followup material, and from over 40 countries. Many, especially those from Third World countries, who are involved with community action often in very difficult circumstances, desperately need support from experienced peers. Most, of course, are agents for local activists and leaders but these are the people with access to international communications and media. The actual or threatened destruction of communities can sometimes be averted by local action when supported by professionals and politicians—and the latter can be supported, in turn, by more fortunate people like ourselves. Equally and, in the longer run, even more importantly is our commitment to the exercise and development of local control over local matters (housing and settlement in our case) in all contexts. Like the Planners' Network, we are concerned and involved with local action in the First as well as the Third World. (How much scope there is in the Second World remains to be seen.) Obviously the two networks will overlap and the non-coincident areas will be complementary.

We anticipate an intensive correspondence between a limited number of people, each of whom will themselves be centres of more local or regional networks. A network of networks, in other words, and of persons, not institutions or organizations, whose own personal networks may be extended without being coopted. The problem of integrating the hierarchic vertical and lateral network relationships will be more clearly stated in the draft which we will send you soon.

After initial work by the Canadian organizers of the Symposium, Bruce Fairbairn and Charles Haynes, Judith Ryser is leading our own team here in London and Rotterdam with some financial support from the Development Planning Unit (of the School of Environmental Studies, University College of London, where I am now primarily based). We have enough to prepare a proposal for funding and anticipate support from several European sources. Any suggestions for potential sources of funds, especially for centres in Third World countries, will be greatly appreciated. We expect to have our preliminary proposal ready for circulation in a few weeks' time.

In case you or some Planners' Networkers still have the misconception that Housing By People = self-help or do-it-yourself home building, I enclose a) the keynote paper I gave at Habitat Forum and b) a draft announcement for a series of dialogues that I will be having during the coming two months at the AA in London, and c) the Statement we issued from the Symposium at Habitat. [I'll send a copy of these to anyone who's interested—enclose a buck for costs—CH].

Our proposal will emphasize the complementarity of the existing networks, and we will use the Planners' Network and the Architectural Association Graduate School Communications Network (for housing and community action in Britain mainly) as examples, unless there are objections. Correspondence should be addressed to: Network Project, c/o Judith Ryser, DPU, 10 Percy St., London, W.1."

John also writes the following:

"I plan to do a round trip of the States in the New Year. This I hope to finance by lecturing on Housing By People (which is scheduled to appear at the same time in the States). Apart from the obvious interest in promoting sales, my main interest will be to get support for the network(s). We plan to come over for Christmas and I can stay around until mid-February. I may be invited to do a course for the IAP at MIT, which means that I would 'do' the East Coast and Eastern Canada during January. Then I would do a trip West, stopping off on the way and the way back during the first two weeks of February."

If any of you would like to help arrange a lecture for John during his trip, contact him directly at 2a Woodsome Rd., London NW5 2LP. It's a worthwhile experience.

BERKELEY (CAL.) VOTERS passed two measures in their June elections that might be of interest to Network members. One, Ordinance P, was designed to make the Redevelopment Agency more accountable. It replaced the Redevelopment Agency's board with the City Council and created an advisory Community Redevelopment Commission to be appointed by the Council. It passed with 59% of the vote. Ordinance Q dealt with the long-standing controversial West Berkeley Industrial Park project; its passage means that 6 of the project's 20 acres must be set aside for residential use and also requires other measures to protect the city's housing stock. It's an interesting attempt to deal with renewal problems via the initiative mechanism. For further information, contact Dennis Keating, 432 Hudson St., Oakland, Cal. 94618.

NEWS LEADS is a bi-monthly publication of the Investigative Journalism Program, Urban Policy Research Institute (321 So. Beverley Dr., Suite W, Beverly Hills, Cal. 90212.) It's a compilation of in-depth work of newspaper reporters, plus listings of information sources and areas where investigation is needed. Its goal is to promote more and better investigative reporting in California, but it has wider appeal. The June-July issue (second published) had pieces on home mortgages, FHA, S&L redlining and private vocational schools. Subs are \$10 (\$5 for students.)

BILL GOLDSMITH, back from a year in Puerto Rico, writes: "It strikes me that one of the really productive activities of the Network in the near future might be to prepare to criticize the moves toward national planning. Whether Carter or Ford wins the prize, the corporations may well push through their version of national economic planning, whether to forestall crises or to co-opt public intervention in business. Some of the experience with city planning in this country (serving as naive ideologues to disguise business interests, spending public funds to subsidize profits, designing and using public programs to suppress local initiative) are sure to be repeated, though on a much more serious scale. We should draw the parallels and so far as possible, make the experts acknowledge the real content of their work."

ANOTHER MEMBER writes in, regarding directions the Network might take: "In travelling this summer I spoke with progressive planners in different cities. Often they were engaged in political struggles over planning issues. Conservative planners in their offices had taken one position—over land use, transportation, or zoning—and called it a 'professional' planning decision. My friends had taken an opposite position (usually in league with some citizens' group) and also, of course, called it professional. The conservatives, however, were generally the heads of agencies, and their professionalism had the advantage of being able to threaten the jobs of those in opposition. It might make life easier (and work more effective) for these progressive professionals if the Network were a professional organization which gave official support to planners fighting for principles we believe in. The kinds of issues I encountered planners embroiled in included preservation of agricultural land against suburban expansion, attempts to introduce (or reintroduce) trolleys and trolleybuses, fights against cutbacks in public transport schedules, and the normal battles you might expect against highways, housing abandonment, air and water pollution. In each case different planners were able to take different professional positions, depending on their politics. Do we need an organization that is avowedly professional and political? Or one that is openly professional but covertly political? or what?"

CONSTANTINE KARALIS (15 Brattle St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138) sends in the following: "In my work I continuously have to argue with administrative and security oriented brass on the subject of decentralization and to speak for what has been generally described as 'community based facilities.' There is a lot of rhetoric on both sides of the question—there has been no evaluation for when these things work and when not, at least not one which has gone to any reasonable detail. For example there is no compilation of experience by way of identifying a whole lot of different cases with some notes on each one. I think that this is an extremely important subject, one that needs more careful study. Similarly, I wish to gather examples of successful programs run 'in the community' especially for people in correctional and mental health systems. If this is reasonable I might edit some of this and send it out to people who need this kind of information to fight their own battles. My own work, mostly in Rhode Island plus a very interesting involvement with Bridgewater State Hospital has much to do with breaking up these institutions to smaller components and often doing much better for the 'inmates' by a wiser expenditure of public funds. The politics involved and the implications for 'professionalism' are incredible."

THESE TIMES is a new national socialist weekly newspaper just beginning out of Chicago. Jim Weinstein is the editor. It's a very ambitious and important undertaking, and if anyone can make it work, it is Weinstein and the staff he has put together. They're starting publication in November. For information and subscriptions (\$15 a year), their address is 1509 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622, (312) 489-4444. David Moberg, who'll be covering urban affairs for them, would like to hear from any Network members who "would be good correspondents, capable of writing clear, lively, penetrating journalistic accounts of various aspects of urban life and problems. We will, of course, be interested in the continuing crisis of finances and services in the city, long-range planning and development questions, popular movements and struggles over urban political direction and reports of innovative progressive actions whenever they occur." I urge you all to look into *These Times* and support it, by subscribing and contributing materials.

ROBERT COWAN of the Town and Country Planning Association writes: "I was interested in reading about the networks that are developing in the USA. There are a number of similar networks in Britain, some with a degree of formal organization, others informal and depending on personal contact between their members. Between them, they are doing useful work in trying to make planning an activity that is not restricted to professionals. The networks that are effective have close ties with the people living in the areas which they are concerned with, and they involve people with a wide range of different skills. These activities are threatening to the position of professional planners, and so the professionals are now trying to get in on the act. The official professional body of town planners in Britain, the Royal Town Planning Institute, has even suggested that its members should have monopoly of 'planning aid': that only fully professionally qualified planners should be allowed to help community groups with planning problems. The RTPI defines planning aid as 'the giving of planning services free (or at low cost) to individuals or groups who could not afford full fees.' The reference to fees suggests that planning aid is a substitute for work by planning consultants: thus planning aid in the eyes of the Institute is completely professional and non-political. This professional smokescreen (and it is no more than that—the professionals have not shown their commitment to the concept in any active way) only serves to hide the work that is being done to involve people in planning and to demystify the planning process.

The Town and Country Planning Association, an independent pressure group and educational charity, has been running a Planning Aid Service for the last three years. This has involved giving information and advice to community

groups, and acting as a referral point by putting groups in contact with people and organizations who can help them. The service has had some financial support from the government, but as no fees are charged it has to rely mainly on TCPA's own funds. With small resources, the service has not been able to satisfy fully the demand for information and advice; but its experience has helped it to identify the need that exists and it is now looking for ways of contributing to the many new initiatives that are the key to future progress."

"CORPORATE LIBERALISM SHOWS UP AT RADICAL CONFERENCE" is the title of an article by Al Wroblewski on the 2nd Annual National Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies (June 10-13, Austin). It's a strong critique of the people there (and not there) and the approach underlying the conference. A few excerpts:

It was billed as the coming together of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. It was also billed as the convergence of the conservative side of the New Left. And it was billed as the emergence of a new neo-populist progressive radical grassroots movement. All of which means nobody knew who the hell they were or what they were doing other than getting off on electoral politics. Fire and anger was replaced with a certain coolness, an almost professional approach to problems.

The new reform politicians parading at the Austin Conference neglected the teachings of history. An inexcusable error evidenced by the self-righteous arrogance which has become a trademark for many of the new bloods. Kind of a "Ha-ha-ha! Look everybody! I can beat the bosses in their own backyard! Oh, I'm so clever and smart!" While this arrogance offends me personally it is also terribly dangerous. It suggests our new, half-cocked political messiahs are succumbing to the desires for prominence, glory, headlines, attention, taking credit for change (instead of helping empower the people), picking up a little plushier job, prestige, status, opportunities to insult the establishment publicly; the usual bag of cheap goodies those in power are more than willing to dish out. This drive for petty privilege can be easily exploited by those in command. And if the new politicians would stop a minute to take a look at how they're stumbling into the same traps laid fifty, sixty years ago, they might be shocked into a more humble frame of mind and actually come to their senses.

The article appears in *The Minnesota Leader*, an "alleged tri-weekly" which Al writes and publishes on his own. It's good, and a nice model for the kind of journalism more people ought to get into. Address: 2314 Elliot Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55404; subs are \$6 a year.

FRANK POPPER would like to bring to Networkers' attention a book he's co-authored with Earl Finkler and William Toner, *Urban Nongrowth: City Planning for People*. It's one of the Praeger Special Studies (with their annoyingly high prices—\$16.50 in this case.) The book "develops the case for a nongrowth approach by local communities and regions. Analyzes innovative social and economic efforts in some and the lack of such efforts in others. Provides specific suggestions and standards to assist nongrowth communities and regions in the area of social and economic responsibility."

HAUS-RUCKER (491 Broadway, N.Y.C. 10012) has published two booklets on developing rooftop projects: *The Rooftop Oasis Project: Tenant's Guide to Organizing a Rooftop Project* and *The Rooftop Oasis Project: Co-op Owner's and Landlord's Guide to Organizing a Rooftop Project*. They include background information on building and fire codes, zoning regs, insurance, finances. Each is 15 pages and costs a buck.

JESSIE SCHWARTZ would like to bring to Networkers' attention a book he has recently edited, *Theory of Capital Reproduction and Accumulation*, by Shinzaburo Koshimura of Yokohama National Univ.: "This classical Japanese work provides a formal basis for those wishing to build a model of accumulation on a regional level." It's available (\$6) from Dumont Press, 97 Victoria St. N, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

A "CONFERENCE ON AN ASSESSMENT OF NEWARK, 1967-1977" was held Oct. 1 — Stanley Winters sent in a notice for inclusion in the next mailing, but I'm a little late. If you're interested in what happened, contact him at the Dept. of Humanities; N.J. Inst. of Technology, 323 High St., Newark 07102, (201) 645-5219.

WARREN JONES (Continuing Education in City, Regional, and Environmental Planning, University of California, Berkeley, 94720) would like to receive leads from Network members about any consciousness-raising/educational forums or conferences that have been successfully mounted for the benefit of planners, public administrators, and other professionals, to explore and exchange ideas about alternative programs, services, planning strategies, etc. He is particularly interested in trying to utilize the resources of the University to mount such forums or conferences in California.

THOSE INTERESTED IN ENERGY ALTERNATIVES might look into the Midwest Energy Alternatives Network and their Newsletter, *Acorn* (Governors State Univ., Park Forest South, Ill. 60466, (312) 534-5000.)

ANOTHER NETWORK some of you might want to plug into is TRANET (The Transnational Network for Appropriate/Alternative Technologies. They're reachable c/o W.N. Ellis, 7410 Vernon Sq. Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22306.

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Well, time for a few "Whither the Network?" ruminations. We've been going for a little over a year. It's pretty clear that as a communications vehicle we serve a fairly useful and important function for one another, in exchanging information and views, linking individuals with similar interests to one another, and creating some sense of a professional-political community. Locally, some grouping have begun to come together on a more or less regular basis to interact in a more structured, activity-oriented fashion. There is of course no need to move beyond this, and it makes no sense to push things further than people's needs, interests and energies. But it might be useful to toss out some ideas as to possible future activities and directions for the Network. Most of these ideas were originally put forth by Jerry Horovitz, and he and I have discussed and refined them a bit. They were also discussed some at the Bay Area Network meeting of May 8 and June 23 Boston Network meeting. Let me try them out of the whole gang:

1) One notion is that the Network might function as a facilitator or umbrella, a quasi-institution, to undertake some activities in its own name, and to legitimize and make possible activities of members who either do not have an institutional base or would like to have a different base or identity for some of their activities. Research and action projects could be undertaken in the Network's name, and the Network could assist in securing grants and matching people, ideas and funds. On a selected basis, the Network might even submit proposals in response to RFP's, seeking to put together teams of Network people interested in working on a particular subject. Unemployed or unhappily employed members could develop proposals that could be submitted for funding under the Network's aegis.

2) Another Network function might be technical assistance. While this is probably best done on a local basis (with people easily available, aware of and in contact with local problems), there also are technical assistance projects for national groups (e.g. alternative budgets) or in areas where there are few Network members, for which central coordination would be appropriate. The Network might also secure an umbrella grant to support local providers of such assistance.

3) Putting together forums, lectures, mini-courses, etc. on planning issues, at universities and elsewhere. We could attempt to arrange for talks and presentations around the country by Network members with a particular set of experiences or expertise. Panels and symposia could be developed by members, and the Network could arrange with schools and other institutions (including workplaces) to sponsor these programs. (A booking agency of sorts, making use of our own nationwide contacts and individual skills.) Presentations at other conferences (AIP, ASPO, Habitat, URPE, etc.) might also be considered.

4) A longer range version of the educational function might be to organize extension course and external degree programs, either tied to existing institutions (e.g. the various "university without walls" programs) or autonomous.

5) A job bank. Making known the existence of the Network pool to those seeking progressive planners and related types, and keeping an active file of those seeking employment or change of employment.

6) Maintaining reference files of materials available from members and material relevant to the work projects of members.

7) Legal actions: Coordinating with law reform units (Legal Services, etc.) to provide supportive studies and expert testimony, prepare amicus curiae briefs, identify areas in need of litigation, seek ways of applying and extending progressive court decisions in the planning area. Active tie-in with groups such as the National Lawyers Guild would facilitate this thrust of Network activity.

8) Legislative lobbying on local, state and national measures (antidote to some of legislative work done by the establishment planning groups), testifying on behalf of the Network before legislative bodies.

9) Starting a publication (to supplement the newsletter) aimed for circulation outside the Network. Such a publication might consist primarily or entirely of extended reports by Network members of local events and struggles, innovative techniques, book reviews, etc. Many items mentioned in past newsletters could well be expanded into short articles of general interest. Such a publication might come out irregularly or quarterly.

There are doubtless other ideas that could be put forth as well. To carry out many of the activities listed above would of course require some kind of central office function, possibly carried out by a single person. Which in turn would require some funding.

I'd very much like to get your reactions to some of these specific ideas, as well as your views on whether the Network ought to move in these directions. Obviously, the Network will have different meaning for different people. Lots of you are pretty well tied up with your current work and political activities. Others would like the Network to play a more important role in their professional and political lives. I guess what I'm asking is how many of you fit into that latter category, what that specifically means to you, and what kind of energy you would be willing to expend to have the Network become more than just a means of staying in touch with one another. As stated, I don't feel that has to happen. But if there are a substantial number of you who want to have it happen, we can probably bring it about. Speak.

Okay, that's it. We still can always use bread — this mailing was particularly expensive, as all that typesetting of the list and precis of previous newsletters was very time consuming. (Note to those working for agencies and institutions: we recently received a \$10 subscription fee via purchase order from a planner member's city agency — a not bad way of supporting the Network.)

Until December (hopefully)

Chester Hartman