

PLANNERS NETWORK

#90—October 31, 1991

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□ **FINANCIAL MINI-REPORT:** Financial contributions have dropped substantially since the previous issue; we have received contributions from only 23 Networkers amounting to \$989. Even in our lean editorial and production mode, that doesn't begin to cover the costs of an issue.

Our year-to-date totals now stand at 296 contributors providing \$9,974. In sharp contrast, our October 1990 figures were 465 contributors and \$14,065—even though our 1990 mailing list was 50 names shorter. As a result, we've accumulated a 1991 deficit of \$1,852 for the first nine months. If you want the newsletter to continue, participation and contributions have got to go up.

To tell quickly when you last supported PN with a check, look for the date after your name on the mailing label. We change (or add) the date when we get a check. So if you haven't contributed recently, we'd like a check from you. Thanks.

□ **PN PUBLICATION PLAN:** Some careful PN readers may note the late-October date of this issue (coming after the delayed appearance (into September) of our usual August issue), and wonder what's afoot. The answer is a gradual transition as part of a planned shift in PN's publication schedule. We have been coming out in even months (February, April, June, etc.); beginning in March 1992, we will publish in odd months (January, March, May, etc.). During the transition, please check in the "Etcetera" section for the copy deadline for the upcoming issue. Once we have completed the switchover, the deadline will

revert to the first Monday of the month. We're making the shift in part to accommodate a January-February 1992 sabbatical by newsletter editor Prentice Bowsher. We hope you'll bear with us.

Passing the Word

□ **ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION:** From PNER Thomas A. Dutton (Dept. of Architecture, Miami Univ., Oxford, OH 45056): My new edited book, *Voices in Architectural Education: Cultural Politics and Pedagogy*, presents authors who conceptualize architectural education within a critical analysis of the larger society, and who take up the issues of class, race, and gender. It includes chapters from PNERs Jacqueline Leavitt and Tony Schuman. Copies: Bergin and Garvey Publishers, 88 Post Rd. W., Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881, 203/226-3571. No price listed.

□ **PUBLIC POLICY PhD:** The Univ. of Massachusetts at Boston (Harbor Campus, Boston, MA 02125, 617/287-5550) is starting a Ph.D. program in Public Policy, and accepting applications for Fall 1992, when the program will begin. PNER Michael Stone is among the faculty; the Program Director is Barry Bluestone. The Program "is designed to produce public policy developers and analysts who are community-conscious, politically astute, and technically sophisticated," according to a UMass brochure.

The Planners Network

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

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

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

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

The Planners Network Newsletter is published six times a year as the principal means of communication among Network members. Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we need funds for operating expenses. The Steering Committee has recommended the following amounts as minimums for Network members: \$15 for

students and unemployed; graduated payments for the employed of \$25 plus \$1 for each \$1,000 earned above \$10,000.

Members of the Steering Committee: Chester Hartman, DC, Chair; Emily Achtenberg, Boston; Eve Bach, Berkeley; Bob Beauregard, Pittsburgh; Donna Dyer, Durham, NC; William Goldsmith, Ithaca; Charles Hoch, Chicago; Joochul Kim, Tempe; Judy Kossy, Buffalo; Jacqueline Leavitt, LA; Peter Marcuse, NYC; Alan Rabinowitz, Seattle; Tony Schuman, NYC; Andree Tremoulet, Pittsfield.
Newsletter Editor: Prentice Bowsher.

□ Enclosed is my check payable to the Planners Network for \$ _____

□ Please check here if this is a new membership.

□ Please check here (current members only) if this is an address change, and write your former zip code _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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□ HOMELESS/HEALTH CARE: *The Manual of Common Communicable Diseases in Shelters*, edited by James J. O'Connell M.D. and Janet Groth R.N., is based on six years' experience by the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. Copies are \$21.95, from: Fund for the Homeless, The Boston Foundation, 1 Boston Pl. 24th Flr., Boston, MA 02108. Details: Rhonda Elliott, 617/723-7415.

□ HOUSING ACT UPDATE: The National Housing Institute (439 Main St., Orange, NJ 07050, 201/678-3110) has collected a series of articles on the National Affordable Housing Act, from recent issues of *Shelterforce* magazine, which explain the Act and analyze its impact, its challengers, and its shortcomings. Authors include PN Chair Chester Hartman and other PNers. Copies are \$5.

□ NONPROFIT RESOURCE: *Nonprofit Corporations, Organizations, & Associations*, by Howard L. Oleck, a 1,544-page resource for nonprofit executives, lawyers and financial advisors, has been issued in a fifth edition by Prentice-Hall (Book Distribution Center, 110 Brookhill Dr., West Nyack, NY 10995). Copies are \$99.95.

□ NETWORKER UPDATE: From Networker Jim Kovar: I have accepted a position with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Nicaragua, as a project director of short- and medium-term community development projects. I would be interested to hear from other PNers located or working with issues in the Central America region. My address after mid-November: a/c Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR), Apartado Postal 5151, Managua, Nicaragua.

□ HEALTH CARE REFORM: Networker Bob Brand (100 N. 17th St., 10th Flr., Philadelphia, PA 19103, 215/972-5558) is working with union, consumer, and health care advocates of health care reform on developing a network of health care, economics, planning, and social services researchers to provide policy analysis and research on a growing agenda of specific questions. A special resource would be access to students for projects.

□ BANKING/READING LIST: The Financial Democracy Campaign (604 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27702, 919-687-4004) has compiled an initial, four-page reading list on financial topics, including banks and savings and loans, mergers and acquisitions, public policymaking, and international finance. No price listed.

□ HOMELESS/HEALTH CARE: *Healthcare for the Homeless: You Can Never Give Up* is a 33-minute video documentary by Oscar nominee Ben Achtenberg on health care needs of the homeless, selected delivery programs, and issues confronting doctors, nurses, and other providers. Copies are available for sale or rent, from: Fanlight Productions, 47 Halifax St., Boston, MA 02130, 617/524-0980, which also has a 28-page catalogue of other films and videos on a range of topics. Yes, PNer Emily Achtenberg is Ben's wife.

□ CHILDREN/CALIFORNIA: Children Now (663 13th St., Oakland, CA 94612, 415/763-2444) has issued two publications, *Children and the California State Budget*, a summary of how children are affected by mixed gains and losses in state funding,

and *What's Happening to Our Children: A County-by-County Guide*, a final copy of the group's annual state-of-the-children report. No price listed.

□ AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The July/August *Shelterforce* magazine featured three articles on affordable housing issues in the U.S. and Canada, including community reinvestment, follow-up to the National Affordable Housing Act, and the affordable housing agenda of Ontario's socialist New Democratic Party. Single copies are \$3; subscriptions are \$18, from: National Housing Institute, 439 Main St., Orange, NJ 07050.

□ REDEFINING 'HOME': The Whirlpool Corp. (Benton Harbor, MI 49022) has issued an eight-year *Home Life Issues Report*, which surveyed 700 recent articles in English-language periodicals for trends and patterns in household life, and concluded "that the future of the home may lie more in the direction of 'usability' than in shelter, status symbol, or self-expression." No price listed.

□ COURSE CATALOGUE: Univ. of California University Extension (Davis, CA 95616, 916/757-8639) has issued a 16-page catalogue of 1991-92 courses in land use and environmental planning offered in Davis, Fresno, Redding, or Sacramento.

□ OLD-GROWTH REDWOODS: The Trust for Public Land (116 New Montgomery 3rd Flr., San Francisco, CA 94105, 415/495-5660) has proposed a \$214-million debt-for-nature swap in an effort to preserve the now corporately owned 4,500-acre "Headwaters Forest," of Northern California virgin old-growth redwoods. The complex deal would involve the failed First Executive Life Insurance Co., the Resolution Trust Corp., and a June 1992 state land acquisition bond referendum.

□ MENTAL DISABILITIES/HOUSING: The Mental Health Law Project (1101 15th St. N.W. #1212, Wash. DC 20005, 202/467-5730), which has focused on enforcing federal Fair Housing provisions against discrimination based on mental and physical disabilities, now is especially interested in representing elders with mental disabilities who have experienced the discriminatory impact of illegal rules.

□ URBAN STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS: The Urban Studies program at the Univ. of New Orleans (Lakefront, New Orleans, LA 70148, 504/286-6277) has fellowships available for Ph.D. candidates in urban and regional planning, urban affairs, and urban history tracks. The annual fellowships are renewable for up to four years, waive tuition and fees, and provide a \$12,000 yearly stipend. Details: Alma Young, Coordinator of Ph.D. Studies.

□ LAND TRUST/DC: The New Columbia Community Land Trust (1419 V St. N.W., Wash. DC 20009, 202/332-8800) is developing a two-building, eight-unit project to preserve affordable housing in gentrifying northwest Washington neighborhoods.

□ GLOBAL CITIES: *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*, by Saskia Sassen, explores how similar roles in international finance and advanced services for business transformed three cities with diverse histories into global cities with shared comparable economic and social structures. Copies are \$39.50 (288 pages, cloth), from Princeton Univ. Press.

Considering a Wealth Tax: or 'Where the Money Is'

by Frank Riessman

Willie Sutton's famous response to the question: "Why do you rob banks?," is relevant today. "Because that's where the money is," he replied.

Actually, significant wealth today is in the hands of less than two percent of the population, or about 4.5 million people, each of whom owns gross assets of more than \$300,000. Their net worth in 1988 was more than \$3.3 trillion.

We learn daily of new, unbelievable costs that must be met. At first, the savings and loan deficit was estimated at \$150 billion; then \$300 billion; and now there is talk it may go as high as \$500 billion.

Presently, the bank crisis is estimated to cost some \$60 billion; and this is sure to go higher.

The federal budgetary deficit ranges from \$150 billion to \$200 billion a year. To this add the \$11 billion or so that is required to produce an acceptable infrastructure, and last, but certainly not least, the billions required for education and the needs of the poor and homeless.

Robert Reich estimates that \$2 trillion will be required for rebuilding America in the 1990s, and he is referring to only the infrastructure and education.

This context, reinforced daily, has produced an enormous feeling of hopelessness on the part of the American people, as we wait to hear of the next big expenditure, whether for the Gulf War, or for the rebuilding of the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, the situation exists regardless of the state of the business cycle, whether in recession or in an economic upturn.

Where can the money be found to meet these staggering expenditures, and not

give short shrift to the human needs that typically are seen as the most easily sacrificed items on the list? There are two key sources: a wealth tax and a significant peace dividend.

According to economist William Dugger, in a recent *Journal of Economic Issues* article, a wealth-tax plan could yield \$155 billion a year, nearly enough to make up the annual federal deficit. With a generous deduction of \$300,000 per person, he proposes that the 4.5 million really wealthy people's wealth be taxed at 8%. This would yield \$155 billion a year (a tax rate of 20% would yield \$386 billion a year).

Similar large-scale receipts have been estimated for a peace dividend, resulting from the conversion of military expenditures. A very low cut of 15 percent a year

in these expenditures would yield \$450 billion over a decade, while a 30-percent cut, which certainly would not leave the United States defenseless, would yield \$900 billion over a decade. A 50-percent cut would yield \$150 billion a year.

This is real money—big money that could enable to us deal with the big problems—which could turn around the hopelessness and frustration that form the predominant political mood of the nation.

A wealth tax could reverse the terrible crisis of the cities and states, and, by rebuilding America, could return it to the first-class world status we hear we are losing.

A wealth tax could provide a real vision for America, yielding a program and a product that might heal the racist split that currently limits all progress.

Kevin Phillips, in his *Politics of the Rich and Poor*, has documented thoroughly how the rich gained, to the detriment of all other groups, during the Reagan era. Perhaps they might be asked to contribute some of that benefit to deal with problems emanating from the same era.

A wealth tax has the potential for a significant populist appeal that might unite the poor, the working class, and the middle class of all colors and persuasions.

It's appeal goes beyond responding to our various economic deficits. [A progressive income tax could redistribute income, and reduce budget deficits, but it would not redistribute wealth. It might be useful as a complement to a wealth tax.]

By reducing the enormous concentration of wealth, a wealth tax embodies a moral appeal to fairness, a powerful American tradition consistent with an egalitarian society.

PN Special Feature

In its Special Feature, *Planners Network* presents thoughtful, provocative writings about substantive concerns and issues in the planning professions. Essays typically highlight a single issue, and illuminate it with examples and insights.

The Special Feature editor is Bob Beauregard (Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Forbes Quadrangle, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, 412/648-7600; Fax: 412/648-2605).

We are grateful for Networkers' support of this feature, and encourage continued ideas, suggestions, commentary, and dialogue.

□ **HOUSING LENDING:** The National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders (43 Commercial Wharf #9, Boston, MA 02110, 617/742-0532) has issued two publications: *Affordable Housing Loan Consortia: Financial Institutions Responding to Community Needs* (\$40), and *Addressing Policy Obstacles to Affordable Housing Lending* (\$20).

□ **LIBRARIES/FUNDING:** The Blue Mountain Center (Blue Mountain Lake, New York, 12812, 518/352-7391) is initiating a

series of meetings and activities in support of the public library system, which is faced with withdrawal of federal, state, and local funds, jeopardizing its roles as technical assistance provider, research facility, and educational institution. Contact: Harriet Barlow, Director.

□ **MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE:** The Renaissance Center for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation in Pittsburgh, PA, is developing a National Clearinghouse of Mental Health/Drug/Alcohol

information (225 Melwood St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213), and is seeking donations of appropriate pamphlets and resource catalogues. Details: William R. Carney, Director.

□ **LOAN FUND REPORT:** The Woodstock Institute (407 S. Dearborn #550, Chicago, IL 60605, 312/427-8070) has issued a 40-page report, *Lenders of First Resort: Community Development Loan Funds*, on nonprofit lenders which pool social investment capital from individuals and institutions, and then make loans for nonprofit community-based development efforts. Copies are \$8 for nonprofits; \$16 for others.

Upcoming Conferences

□ **LATINOS/MASSACHUSETTS:** The UMass-Boston Mauricio Gaston Institute for Community Development and Public Policy (Harbor Campus, Boston, MA 02125-3393) will sponsor a conference December 13-14 in Boston on "Latinos, Poverty, and Public Policy in Massachusetts." Details: Miren Uriarte, 617/287-5790.

□ **AGENDA/DEMOCRATS:** The Woman's National Democratic Club (15265 New Hampshire Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20036, 202/232-7363) is presenting a four-part seminar on "Shaping a Democratic Agenda." Remaining sessions are on "Improving the Quality of Life" (November 5), and "Where is the Money for Putting America on Track?" (November 19).

Calls for Papers

□ **LIVABLE CITIES:** The 12th International Making Cities Livable Conference has issued a call for papers for its March 17-21, 1992, sessions in San Francisco. Among possible topics: recreating the city center; reshaping suburbia and urban sprawl; models of community participation. Contact: Suzanne H. Crowhurst Lennard, Conference Organizer, Box 7586, Carmel, CA 93921, 408/626-9080.

Jobs

□ **PN REMINDER:** Some of the jobs we list may have application deadlines earlier than when you receive the newsletter. But deadlines sometimes can be adjusted. So we urge you to

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phone first, if a number is listed, and check on the deadline schedule.

□ **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:** The Chinese Community Housing Corp. (1525 Grant Ave., San Francisco, CA 94133, 415/984-1450) is seeking a senior, experienced Director of Management Services, to oversee daily operations in a growing inventory of low-income buildings, and head an expanding property management staff. Salary is based on experience. Contact: Gordon Chin, Executive Director.

□ **HOUSING LAWYER:** The Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (69 Canal St., Boston, MA 02114, 617/742-9250) is seeking an experienced housing lawyer to be part of a five-advocate shelter (housing and utilities) unit. Salary is based on experience. Contact: Barbara McLaughlin.

□ **DIRECT MAIL:** Public Citizen (2000 P St. N.W. #605, Wash. DC 20036, 202/833-3000) is seeking an experienced Direct Mail Manager/Development Officer, to run a complete direct mail fundraising program and supervise staff. Salary is based on experience. Contact: Jim Hussey.

Ex Conferences

□ **HOUSING LENDING:** The National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders (43 Commercial Wharf #9, Boston, MA 02110, 617/742-0532) sponsored a September 10-October 1 conference in New York on "Lending Techniques for Affordable Housing: Resources for the '90s."

□ **GENO BARONI,** a visionary Washington, DC, advocate/priest, and Assistant Secretary of HUD in the Carter Administration, was commemorated at an October 24 conference in Washington on the occasion of his birthday and the publication of his biography, *The Life and Mission of Geno Baroni*. Baroni died in 1983. Details: John Kromkowski, 202/319-5128.

Etcetera

□ **DECEMBER PN DEADLINE:** The arrival deadline for copy for the next *Planners Network* is Monday, December 9. We look forward to hearing from as many Networkers as possible. As always, our thanks to those who can type their notes. It reduces our chances of misreading what you write.

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