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Regular Features

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After the Longest Walk

Native Americans Look to Their Own Resources

We should take it as a lesson that here in Wakpala (on the Standing Rock Reservation) there is no drinking water, but a fifteen minute drive away in Mobridge, the white people have all the drinking water they want. And we own that river (the Missouri River, under the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty) that flows right by here. We should take that as a lesson.
—Russell Means, American Indian Movement

In northern Wisconsin, Exxon has recently discovered substantial deposits of copper under and adjacent to the Mole Lake Chippewa lands. The company offered the people of Sokeagon Chippewa Mole Lake reservation $20,000 for the mineral rights to the reservation and began buying up adjacent lands to pressure the tribe to accept the "reality" of mining.
—Howard Berman, "Resource Exploitation", Akwesasne Notes *Spring 1978*

The Indian nations and their lands have again become the target of exploitation by the white man, his government and his corporations. In the last century, Native Americans made many forced walks from their lands—the marches of Eastern tribes to Oklahoma, the Walks of Chief Joseph, the Trail of Tears, the forced relocation of the Navaho and many other tribes. They were settled on what seemed like barren and worthless land. Now, their territory and their rights are again being threatened.

As Jose Barriero, a Native American spokesman explains, "It is the irony of history. The white man moved us around in the last century. They took us off the farm land, the gold land, etc. But now the country needs a new fix—energy—and we are sitting on that, on land more valuable than they ever imagined. So now they are trying to figure out how to get the resources—the coal, the oil, the uranium—that are ours by treaty."

Anti-Indian Legislation

One of the strategies being pursued by the government and the corporations is legislative. There are currently eleven different bills under discussion in Congress that are aimed at taking away Indian rights. Although the bills are not expected to pass, this rash of legislation is indicative of growing anti-Indian sentiment among people who see the Indians as a roadblock to development and growth.

The most far-reaching proposed legislation is the Native American Equal Opportunity Act of 1977, which would abrogate all treaties in the name of ending discrimination against Native Americans. The impact would be the closing of all institutions that are specifically for Indians and the cancellation of all special hunting and fishing rights. The Act would, in effect, make Indians like all other American citizens—without any special rights or privileges that are theirs by treaty.

Other bills also attack Indian rights to self-determination. The Criminal Code Reform Act of 1977, if passed, would diminish Indian self-government and increase state and federal jurisdiction on the reservations. The Omnibus Indian Jurisdiction Act of 1977 would limit the power of tribal jurisdiction over tribe members. Other bills would limit or cancel hunting and fishing rights.

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Notes

The National Consumer Cooperative Bank has been passed into law. Already existing coops and groups that may want to become coops are organizing so that the bank can be used effectively. To make sure that small and low-income coops take full advantage of the bank's capital and programs, a series of workshops are being scheduled around the country. To find out about workshops in your area, contact: Shanti Fry or Michael Freedberg at **The National Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies, 1901 Q Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.**

An underfunded but important federal appropriate energy technology program is finally spreading across the country. This past spring, the Department of Energy funded more than a hundred small-scale energy projects in the West Coast area. This month, DOE is scheduled to accept applications from the Midwest and the Northeast.

Eligible projects cover a broad range of appropriate energy technologies, including solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and water. Awards are given both for idea development and for actual demonstration projects. West Coast grants ranged from $328 to $49,000 and were given to individuals, non-profit organizations, state and local agencies and small businesses.

To find out how to submit an application, contact: **Appropriate Energy Technology Pilot Program, Department of Energy, Washington DC 20545.**

Wind energy is moving ahead on a number of fronts. The federal budget for wind energy research and development will probably jump from $30 million this year to $60 million next year. Much credit goes to the American Wind Energy Association, which drafted a 40-page wind budget proposal and lobbied the Feds to see that much of it was adopted. The Association recently opened a Washington office and now publishes a quarterly newsletter. Also, a national convention featuring notables in the wind energy field and exhibitions of wind energy hardware begins September 25 on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. For more information, contact: **the Wind Energy Association, Suite 1111, 1717 K Street NW, Washington DC 20036.**

The Michigan Coalition for Better Waste Management is holding a conference on solid waste management through appropriate technology on October 6 and 7. For more information, contact: **Jeff Dauphin, 1324 Lake Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49506.**

The Cooperative League of the USA annual congress is probably the major gathering of the year for people involved in the many phases of the cooperative movement. This year's congress is set for Washington DC on October 24 and 25. For more information, write to: **CLUSA, 1828 L Street NW, Washington DC 20036.**

The March of "Progress" . . .

How Does Your Garden Grow: Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has come up with a unique plan to enhance his country's environment. He decreed that everyone over ten years old plant a tree a month for the next five years. Not a bad idea—but the plan is being implemented in true Marcos style. Violators face fines of $135 and loss of citizenship privileges, including the right to acquire land, run for public office or graduate from school.

Solar Overkill: Private utility companies claim to like solar energy, but insist that it is still too expensive to be practical. Attempting to prove the point, Pacific Power and Light built a solar home called Tera One at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. Tera One does get all its space heat from the sun, but the 35,000 people who have toured the home in the past year see more than a working model. They see a system with a $150,000 price tag, expensive enough to convince most that solar energy is indeed beyond their reach.

Considerably less publicized by Pacific Power and Light are effective solar space heating systems being built in Oregon for as little as $650 (like Troy Irwin's solar-heated mobile home). Other affordable solar systems in the state have saved consumers as much as $250 a year on electrical bills and have cost no more than a good electrical resistance system.

Grandiose models like Tera One are too expensive for the average homeowner, but they are well worth the price as anti-solar publicity for utilities threatened by cheap, decentralized sources of energy.

—From *Oregon Times*, May 1978

What's Good for General Motors: Up until 30 years ago, most cities had clean, efficient electric trolley lines. Los Angeles, for example, had an extensive system that carried 80 million passengers a year on its 3,000 electric trains. In the 1940's the tracks were torn up and replaced with buses, an event that was repeated in over 40 big cities at the time.

This was not because diesel buses are more efficient that electric trolleys. The Toronto Transit Commission found that buses are slower, last 2/3 as long, and cost 22¢ a mile to operate, compared to the trolley's 16¢ per mile. Electric transit is also quieter and pollutes less. So why were the systems destroyed? In 1936, General Motors, Firestone Tires, and Standard Oil formed a company called National City Lines to buy up electric trolley systems in cities like New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Oakland, St. Louis and L.A. Having gained control of the nation's urban trolley system, National City Lines ripped up the tracks, junked the trolley cars, and put GM buses on the roads.

By forcing commuters to ride its buses, GM was able to increase not only its bus sales, but its car sales as well. Here's how: once National City Lines had converted the transit system to GM buses, they would sell them, often to city governments; but since diesel buses cost more to run, these transit systems soon went into debt and had to cut services. With fewer bus runs, commuters had to rely more on cars built by GM, Ford, and Chrysler.

—From *Why Do We Spend So Much*, Popular Economics Press.

When Will Washington Fund Recycling R&D?

Resource recovery is attracting much attention and a good deal of money these days, but it seems as if Washington's solid waste officials have not yet heard about the real progress being made by grassroots recycling groups across the nation in the past eight years. Or, they have been looking the other way. While recyclers develop new and efficient technologies for pick-up, sorting, storage and marketing, federal solid waste planners keep funneling money into high technology resource recovery solutions.

Department of Energy: DOE's Urban Waste Technology branch has $11.5 million in 1978 appropriations available for resource recovery research and development. The only mandate for the use of those funds is that the money be used to develop technologies that recover energy from urban waste. The office has issued four major requests for proposals and has funded over twenty other projects.

The emphasis, though, is clearly on high technology solutions (see "Open Letter to Solid Waste Planners", *Self-Reliance,* May-June 1978, for a full critique of these garbage-to-energy plants). Energy production is stressed, not net energy savings through material recovery—and that means large-scale recovery plants.

Don Walter, Chief of the Urban Waste Technology branch, could identify only one small-scale high technology project that was receiving funding. Systems Technology, Inc., in Dayton, Ohio, was given about $80,000 to examine small-scale waste-to-energy options, to develop a model for determining the various trade-offs and to support directions for future small-scale research and development. Although Walter said that after the draft report is released this month, "a considerable block" of money would go toward small-scale system development, he could not put a dollar figure on his assertion. However, even this money is for the development of small-scale high technology plants. There is no money in this program for low tech recycling options.

Eleven and a half million dollars is a lot of money. That sum could capitalize statewide processing, storage, marketing and related business ventures in the five states that now have recycling associations. It could provide the boost that recycling needs nationwide.

To express your support of source separation recycling alternatives in solid waste management, write to: **Don Walter, Urban Waste Technology Branch, Mail Station 2221C, Department of Energy, Washington DC 20545.**

Environmental Protection Agency: In May, the House Appropriations Committee approved President Carter's $15 million addition to EPA's fiscal 1979 solid waste budget of $56.9 million. The $15 million is the first of three equal installments that are to be used specifically for urban resource recovery planning grants. As reported by *Perspective,* a newsletter for solid waste officials, between fifteen and thirty cities will receive planning grants ranging from $300,000 to $400,000 as part of the President's urban policy program. The $15 million can only be used for planning and feasibility studies, not for the engineering or construction of resource recovery systems.

The Resource Recovery Division of EPA has already spent about $100 million on the planning, demonstration, implementation, and evaluation of high technology plants.* In contrast, only $1.1 million has been spent on the development of low technology systems. This $15 million could be used to plan city-wide collection/recycling systems.

It could also be used to supplement the regional technical assistance panels created by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. EPA currently contracts out solid waste technical assistance work to several firms in each of the ten federal regions (members of the regional panels). At present, these contracts are being given exclusively to firms with high tech capabilities. Yet community-based recycling groups are in need of good technical help for the planning—and implementation—of low-technology recycling systems. And high tech firms rarely have the expertise on source separation systems that community-based recyclers have developed in the past eight years.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, the West Michigan Environmental Action Coalition has already asked the city to obtain federal funds so that the organization can hire a technical assistance team and develop plans for an expanded city-wide recycling system. Along with other recycling groups across the country, the Coalition plans to pressure EPA to allocate a large chunk of these new funds for low-technology waste utilization planning. You can support these groups by sending your opinions to: **Stephan Plehn, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Resource Recovery Division, USEPA, 401 M Street SW, Washington DC 20024.** And when you write to either DOE or EPA on this matter please send a copy to the Waste Utilization Project here at the Institute.

DOE Conference in Chicago

Recently, I attended a DOE conference in Chicago that brought together solid waste industrialists, officials, financial backers and other experts for a discussion of commercialization plans for urban waste-to-energy technologies. Many attendees discussed barriers to commercialization. Not one complained of a shortage of federal research and development funds for waste-to-energy systems. In fact, two officials who planned and now operate a refuse-derived fuel plant in Chicago—one from a utility company and the other a city official—felt that federal funds were even a hindrance. They complained that acceptance of federal funds meant the acceptance of both federal co-ownership and the complicated rules that go along with handling federal funds.

Enough is enough. It is time for resource recovery plants to sink or swim in the marketplace. And it is time for federal money to be rechanneled for the development of low technology recycling systems. The time for citizen pressure is now.

—Neil Seldman

*EPA has never given us an exact breakdown of their expenditures in support of resource recovery plants.

Carter's Crash Course on Solar Energy

No one actually expected the "moral equivalent of war," but solar advocates had some reason for optimism after President Carter's Sun Day speech on May 3. Under the raindrops at the Solar Energy Research Institute in Golden, Colorado, Carter announced a major review of the nation's solar energy policy, implying that the time had come to move solar development quickly ahead.

The domestic policy review process mandated by President Carter and scheduled to wind up this month is worthy of more attention than it has received from the news media. Only two other times in the past twenty years has a president requested a full review of government policy on a domestic issue—once as a prelude to the War on Poverty and the other Carter's own urban policy review when he first took office.

This review of solar policy, whatever its outcome, is noteworthy. Many of the recommendations and decisions that emerge from the review will be the solar gospel in this country for at least the next decade. Several million dollars and five months of time from over 130 people went into the process. It was a major undertaking.

Unfortunately, the President himself seems to have lost some of his enthusiasm for solar, now that Sun Day is not generating thousands of letters and Jerry Brown has his hands too full with Proposition 13 to build an electoral constituency around solar energy. The summer-long re-evaluation will undoubtedly boost solar development and make government agencies consider more carefully the impact and relevance of a solar transition to their programs. But, because of the constraints of politics and time—and the awesomeness of the task of planning for the future—the effort is likely to provide less than most solar advocates had hoped for or even expected.

Warning signs came early. Carter invited 18 federal agencies to take part in the review, but the Community Services Administration, ACTION and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare were ignored. That effectively eliminated from the review all federal agencies that serve as advocates for low-income, community-based constituencies. When these agencies protested, they were belatedly included.

The President then assigned more than 130 people to the task of documenting—in fewer than five months—where the nation stood on solar energy and where it could go. At the start, most of the review team didn't know a solar collector from a washboard. According to one review member and solar advocate, "We could have done a much better job with more time and half the people."

The pressures of time and politics

In most policy studies of this kind, the stated goal is thorough and objective data collection. This is usually an unattainable goal, since politics dictates much of what can and cannot be said and done. In this case, Carter made it clear to review participants that he did not want the development of solar energy to cause any substantial increases in the overall federal budget. That put federal agencies in the awkward position of proposing new solar programs that might lead directly to the axing of some of their existing programs. If CSA, for example, were to suggest a program for low-income solar applications, the agency had to be prepared for the possible dropping of another low-income program as a way of keeping federal expenditures stable.

Many recommendations from the review will be the solar gospel in this country for at least the next decade.

Energy chief James Schlesinger was also a factor. Although he kept a low profile during most of the review, participants were mindful of Schlesinger's previous incarnations as Secretary of Defense and director of the Atomic Energy Commission and of his recent public pronouncements to the effect that solar energy is nice but "still a long way off." Amory Lovins may have lunch with Carter and refer to the nuclear industry as a dinosaur, but Schlesinger is still the one with the power to make decisions. One of the conditions placed on review participants was that at no time could they discuss the broader energy picture. This was to be a *solar* policy review, not an *energy* policy review. As a result, the possibility of the "soft path" and "hard path" being incompatible could not even be considered in policy conclusions and recommendations.

Information gathering was also colored by the resources that could be marshalled by the various agencies. The big budget departments like Defense and Housing and Urban Development had no trouble assigning full-time staff to attend the dozens of meetings and lobby for their interests. Smaller agencies like ACTION and CSA generally had trouble keeping pace.

Through determined effort, however, staff members at these low-income and grassroot-oriented agencies won some important points on the six study panels, where most of the data was evaluated (panels included research and development, regulations and incentives, federal operations, solar impacts, financing, and international operations). A member of the finance panel, for example, reported that HUD officials tried to rule out equity—the development of solar for all classes of Americans—as a consideration in the study. The HUD people were rehashing the two-year old RUPI study which, in effect, concluded that solar is too risky to develop for low-income people. With effective lobbying among panel members, though, staff from CSA and ACTION and others interested in affordable solar energy got the HUD position overruled.

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The Public Speaks Out on Solar Energy

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance, under a subcontract from the Franklin Institute, helped monitor the ten regional public hearings on solar energy that were held this summer as part of the President's Domestic Policy Review. Although specific comments by hearing participants were not incorporated into the final report presented to President Carter, several themes were repeated enough at the hearings that the President could not possibly misinterpret public enthusiasm for a stepped-up national solar policy. The following are excerpts from a report on the hearings submitted by the Institute to review members. Copies of the full summary are available from the Institute for $2.

The timetable for the hearings was so tight as to make outreach difficult. Yet the response—even with a short lead time—was astonishing. So many people requested time to speak that in six regions, the hearings were extended beyond one day. We may roughly conclude that between 7,500 and 20,000 people came to listen or to ask questions.

The dominant criticism of the federal government from all quarters was of its inaction. The mayor of Seattle opened the public hearing there by telling the federal panel, "We need action, not study. DOE should get off its butt and get things done." A member of the California Energy Commission stated, "Don't get tied up in another five years of studies. Buy solar equipment now."

People were unclear as to why this governmental lethargy was continuing. A public interest group in California divulged a study showing that the top 20 administrators of DOE had all worked for defense-related or energy companies. Others saw the problem as inherent in the bigness and bureaucratic nature of the federal government.

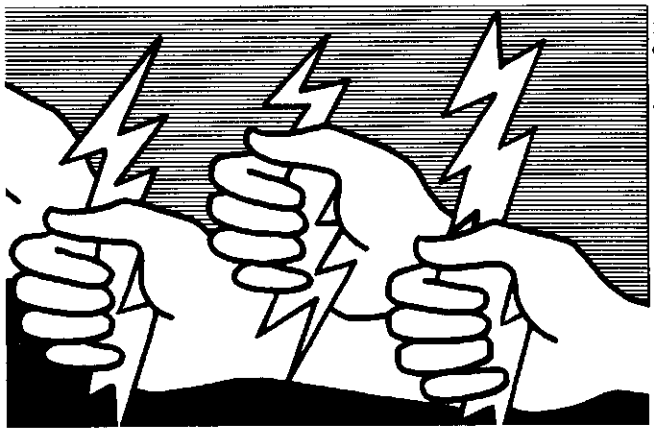
Although many speakers openly criticized the government, the public did not come to the hearings simply to criticize. There were very few speakers whose testimony consisted entirely of criticism. People had come to tell the federal government what they wanted, not what they did not want.

Strong support for decentralized systems

The most surprising aspect of the hearings was the lack of discussion of the energy crisis. The support for solar energy was far less a response to the energy crisis than it was a reaction to the scale of institutions in America. To most people, the benefit of solar energy was in its social and political implications. A consulting group in Atlanta advised, "Stop laboring under the illusion that energy is a technical problem. It is not. It's a social problem."

The dominant theme of every hearing was strong support for the decentralizing and self-reliant characteristics of solar energy. Decentralization was emphasized not only because of cost advantages, but because it leads to a different relationship between the consumer and the energy he or she uses.

Many people saw solar as a way to build community. One speaker said, "Solar creates jobs in the local community and keeps the money there, rather than sending it to . . . companies . . . and institutions miles away." Speakers repeatedly urged the government to decentralize its funding programs and emphasize small businesses, individuals, and small research organizations. In Kansas City a member of the consumers' panel said, "Government contracts and grants continue to go to the big industrial applications instead of the money being divided up and a large part of it being spent on grassroots projects."



Steven Snider

There was a consensus that DOE had funded too many high cost, capital intensive systems. One small manufacturer of solar in California said, "We are trying to make solar high cost and complicated." A person from Wyoming noted that, several years ago, DOE had awarded a university $34,000 to study greenhouse design. That same summer, several low-income students built a greenhouse for $800 that has needed no heat for the last three years.

A sophisticated and concerned public

There was a great deal of support for passive solar energy systems. Many people urged that the federal income tax credit for solar energy be revised to include passive systems. The public proved to be highly sophisticated in discussing the economics of solar energy. Many people sharply criticized the simplistic formula which calculates payback periods based on artificially low fossil fuel prices and artificially high solar prices. In almost every region, people cited the Battelle Memorial Institute report on the amount of subsidies given in the past to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries. Many demanded parity between solar and other energy sources.

No one testified on behalf of a larger budget for the Department of Energy. What people were requesting was a transfer of funds within the existing budget, primarily *from* nuclear and *to* solar.

The overall theme was: *do* something. People want a clear response to their recommendations from the President and from DOE. They want an answer which indicates where the federal government disagrees with public recommendations, how the government will proceed, and what the federal solar energy program will look like.

Cooperation Keeps Chicago Community Schools Going

Only a short decade ago, the failure of the American educational system, particularly in large urban areas, was a central focus of social and political concern. In the late 1960's, books like Jonathan Kozol's *Death at an Early Age* documented with passion and anger the discrimination and stifling oppression endured by most inner-city school children.

Arguing that educational opportunity was an essential requisite for economic opportunity, radicals and reformers alike searched for alternatives that could improve inner-city education. Activists hoped that, if schools could train youth so well for failure, they could also be a powerful force in training youth for motivation and success. As George Dennison wrote in *The Lives of Children*, "If, as parents, we were to take as our concern not the instruction of our children, but the lives of our children, we would find that our schools could be used in a powerfully regenerative way."

Two different alternatives developed rapidly in the late 1960's: community control of the public schools and "free" or alternative schools existing outside the public school system. Community control experiments were conducted in many large industrial cities. In New York, where community control was most widespread, the experiment turned into a bitter and ugly confrontation between parents and the vested interests within and outside the schools—teachers, administrators and the political machine. In the aftermath, the door that was opened briefly, and that had allowed inner-city parents a strong voice in the education of their children, was quickly shut. Community control was laid to rest as one more experiment of the Sixties that had been tried and had failed.

The Network is a coalition of 46 schools in the Chicago area, all of which operate outside the public schools. Two-thirds of the schools serve the inner-city.

Alternative schools, often parent-controlled or run by students and teachers, also experienced great growth in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Many were begun by middle-class parents or teachers eager to provide children with a less authoritarian environment in which to develop and learn. In contrast to what Jonathan Kozol once called these "wheat germ and yogurt" free schools, there also developed a large number of inner-city survival schools, like Harlem Prep in New York and the D.C. Street Academy. These schools attempted to teach basic reading, writing and math skills, so that inner-city kids would be better prepared for finding a job and would be better able to understand the world they were born into. Political awareness and understanding were key elements of the educational strategy: students should not only learn skills, but they should understand the economic and political forces that militate to keep them in their place in the ghetto.

These schools multiplied in American cities throughout the early 1970's; but by the time of the 1973-74 recession, money was tight, many teachers were burnt-out by low salaries, long hours and lots of frustration, and many free schools were either retrenching or collapsing. Others were forced to affiliate with the public schools in order to stay open and funded. The sense of expansion was gone; the focus of education had shifted from innovation to "back to basics." The centrality of education as an issue gave way to broader questions of the economy, inflation and unemployment.

The Alternative Schools Network

Yet, in cities across the country—such as Milwaukee, Cleveland, Newark and San Francisco—the drive to keep alternative schools open and serving the needs of inner-city community youth did not slacken. Perhaps the best example is the city of Chicago, where the Alternative Schools Network was established in 1973.

The Alternative Schools Network began as an outgrowth of the Festival of Alternative Education held in Chicago in 1973. People at the Festival, many of whom had been involved with alternative schools for several years, recognized the need for a central clearinghouse for information, resources, fund-raising and policy work. As staff member George Hagenauer explained, "You can have a lot more impact on funding agencies and in the field of education if you are speaking for a whole network of schools. In Chicago, it has made a big difference."

ASN is currently a coalition of 46 schools in the Chicago area, all of which operate outside the public schools. Two-thirds of these schools serve the inner-city. About half are high schools and the other half elementary schools. There is one adult education program. All were started by parents, teachers and community residents eager to provide for the needs of their children and their community. This year, between 4000 and 5000 students are enrolled in ASN schools.

Community-based Education

Many of the schools—especially the high schools—combine practical work in the community with classroom work. At the Lumumba-Jackson Community Learning Center, each student is required to do an internship at one of several community organizations, such as the Omega Food Coop or the Flanner Senior Health Care Clinic. At Prologue High School, students work with a non-profit housing rehab group called Voice of the People. They earn a little money, learn how to read plans, do math for the carpentry measurements and help improve their neighborhood at the same time.

Participation in the administration and planning of the various school programs improves the sense of both community and self among parents and students. Hazel Hudson

has been the driving force behind the inner-city Bethel CAM elementary school for many years. Recently, she went back to school and earned a B.A. degree—while remaining involved in the school.

ASN sponsors a program that places chronic truants in alternative schools. The attendance record of these students has averaged 93% because, as George Hagenauer says, "school makes sense to them." Classes are small, learning projects are rooted in the neighborhood, and the environment is both supportive and challenging.

The shared Network resources enable the individual schools to benefit from projects they could not undertake on their own. This year, Network schools will have 70 CETA slots among them—the result of a single proposal submitted by the Network central office. As Hagenauer notes, "The agencies would rather deal with one proposal than 46 different ones. It makes their work easier."

The Network has also developed a video project, staffed by two CETA-funded teachers. Up to 100 students participate each year from the various schools. Students decide on an issue that is of concern to their community and make a videotape, learning the fundamentals through doing. As was the case with a tape made on the arson problem in Chicago, the finished product is often used as an organizing tool. Staff member Denise Zaccardi told reporter Carol Brightman, "One of the things I try to do is show people that, in cooperation with others, you can do things to change your life. For me, video is one way to find out about these issues."

All of the Network schools and programs are geared toward the same goal—bringing together poor people with similar problems so that they can begin to see some solutions and act on them. The goal is education for change. ASN staffer Jack Wuest quotes Luis Fuentes, the former superintendent of District 1 in New York:

> *The maintenance of the culture of silence depends upon a conditioned acceptance of the inevitability of things as they are and the obscurity of the structure of oppression. If this oppression is understood, it can be transformed.*

The Alternative Schools Network is located at 1105 West Lawrence, Room 210, Chicago, IL 60640.

Carter's Crash Course on Solar Energy

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Advocates of small-scale and decentralized solar development also landed some key positions on the integrating group, a committee designed to fill in holes and tie together the work of the six panels. As a result, the integrating group took a more aggressive position in support of solar than did the generally more conservative study panels.

As time ran short

Time constraints, however, became obvious in July. A series of ten regional public hearings on solar energy, from June 12 to June 29, drew an enormous response. Thousands of citizens expressed the need for small-scale and afforable solar energy *(see page 5)*. In the rush to meet deadlines, however, the six panels finished their reports exactly one day after receiving written reports on the public hearings. They had no time to incorporate the specifics or substance from any of the public hearings into their reports.*

In early August, the rush again became apparent when the integrating group passed a summary report to the White House that all sides later conceded was shoddy and superficial. According to one review participant, an attempt to present a readable and easily digested report backfired. "A topic like government insurance, which generated five or six pages of material," the source explained, "was condensed to one meaningless sentence." The White House rejected the report and scolded the integrating group for its work.

As *Self-Reliance* went to press, the impact of the domestic policy review was still unclear. The final integrating group report planned to present a range of options, from the present minimal solar effort to a significantly expanded program. The White House staff was then supposed to present the report and some selected options for Carter's consideration. Schlesinger's role and Carter's plans to enact his decisions remained unknown, even to review participants. By the time you read this, however, the President may have already reported to the public on the results of the review and on his future plans for solar policy.

When it was all over, some review participants expressed guarded optimism about the process, describing it as "the best chance" to influence Carter's thinking and a "sincere effort by many good people." Others were not so sure. One member said, "On a scale of one to ten, I'd give the review about a three." Another considered the review merely a public relations attempt to outflank California Governor Jerry Brown on the solar issue.

One definite result was the solar education of over 130 government employees from more than twenty different agencies. If this contingent were to become an advance guard of solar advocates, then the review process will have had an impact where it was least expected—not in the White House but in the agencies themselves.

—David Macgregor

*The public hearings *were* effective, however, in showing the government just how important affordable and decentralized solar options are to large and vocal segments of the American public nationwide. The strong showing cannot be ignored.

Progress Reports

Worker-ownership in Clinton

It didn't take long for the excitement to die down in Clinton, Massachusetts. The day after President Carter paid a much publicized visit there last year, the town's leading employer, Colonial Press, announced it was shutting down. Overnight, 1800 people were out of work and Clinton had the highest unemployment rate in the state.

Since then, a considerably less publicized effort has been made to restore some of the lost jobs to Clinton. This month, Colonial Press is scheduled to reopen as a small typesetting business. Ten people will be employed at first, but the company has plans to expand to three or four hundred employees.

This time around, Colonial Press will run quite differently. Employees themselves will own and manage the company. Decisions will be made by a board of directors elected by employees, each having one vote.

Employee-owners of the new Colonial Press include both blue and white-collar workers, as well as former union and management officials of the old plant. Most of the reorganization work, including business plans and sales projections, has been done by the employees themselves. Help has come from the Industrial Cooperative Association (ICA), a Cambridge-based group that develops financial packages for employee-owned businesses. Of the quarter million dollars in start-up costs, about half has come from the workers themselves and interested individuals. For the rest, ICA has been negotiating with the Community Investment Fund, a new fund based in Massachusetts that invests in socially beneficial businesses.

Unlike some other forms of employee-ownership, Colonial Press is organized to keep decision-making with the employees. Company stock has been structured to inhibit employees from exchanging control for highly appreciated shares. A key to this organization is a one person/one vote system, rather than the more common one share/one vote system.

The company plans to expand its typesetting operation from ten to 40 employees over the next year. Then Colonial hopes to re-enter the book manufacturing market. If all goes well, it will become one of the largest worker owned and controlled companies in North America.

To share its experience with other businesses considering employee-ownership, ICA is preparing educational materials which include model by-laws and articles of incorporation, special cooperative accounting procedures, private and governmental funding sources, and a step-by-step history of the organizing, including video-tapes. For more information, contact: **ICA, 2161 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140.**

N·YC teens build solar wall

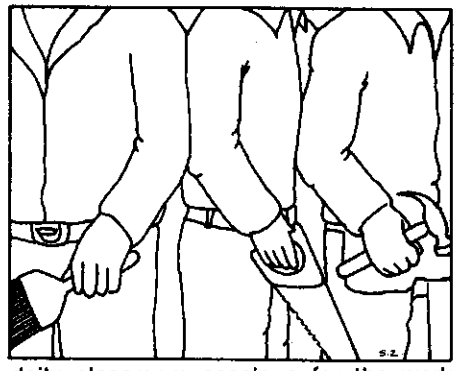
A community group on New York's Lower East Side is proving that solar systems can be both economical and designed in a way that lay people can understand and control.

CUANDO (Cultural Understanding and Neighborhood Development Organization) is installing a 534-square foot "solar wall heater" in a previously unheated gymnasium. The wall will save an estimated $150 to $250 per heating season compared to traditional heating methods. What's more, neighborhood youths who use the gymnasium are constructing the wall themselves.

CUANDO members were familiar with nearby solar experiments on East 11th Street. The group liked the idea, but knew that an active technology using solar collectors would involve too large a capital investment. That's when discussion turned to the possibility of a passive system.

Unlike active systems, passive solar heating systems require no expensive plumbing, pumps or other moving parts. As a rule, passive systems cost about 75 percent less than active systems and are easier to build.

Technical assistance for the solar wall heater has been provided by the Energy Task Force, a group of architects, engineers and educators. Construction, which began in July and is scheduled to end in September, is interspersed with



daily classroom sessions for the work crew on passive solar design. CUANDO offers several other courses, including gardening and aquaculture. All of the courses are designed to teach skills that young people can take home and use in projects involving their families and neighbors.

For more technical information on the solar wall heater, contact: **Ted Finch, Energy Task Force, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10010.** For information on CUANDO, write them at: **9 2nd Avenue, New York NY 10009.**

Solar technology goes to jail

Eleven inmates at the Somers Correctional Institute in Connecticut are now building a 50-gallon solar water heater for the prison. The project is part of the nation's first prison program in solar technology.

The six-month course includes classroom instruction as well as a hands-on project. Graduates will be certified and assisted with job placement when they are released from prison. In the meantime, other solar and energy conservation projects at the prison are being considered. Inmates may also be applying their new skills on state-owned buildings outside the prison.

The course at Somers was designed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Two other prisons, in Florida and Tennessee, have just begun solar technology instruction. A spokesperson for DOE said as many as 50 prisons may offer similar programs within a year. For more information, contact: **Debra Langford, DOE, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20545.**

Greenmarkets grow to eight

Greenmarket, New York City's first farmer's market for locally grown produce, expanded to eight locations this summer. Two new sites are in Brooklyn and in Washington Heights in Manhattan.

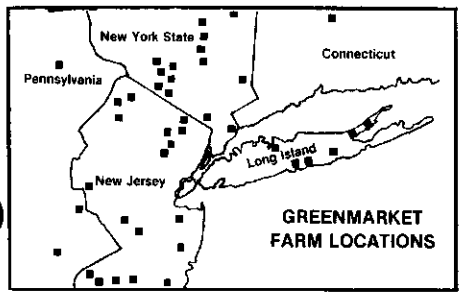
Greenmarket is one of the country's largest farmer's markets and has been a model for similar operations in a number of other cities. As many as 30,000 city residents visit the markets in a busy summer week. About 40 farmers from New Jersey, upstate New York and outer parts of Long Island sell produce through the market. Many depend on Greenmarket sales for a major portion of their summer income.

Success is due in large part to meticulous organization. Before a new location is established, market organizers spend months dealing with community groups, small businesses and city officials in the area. The site is evaluated for demand, access and potential traffic problems.

Barry Benepe, the moving force behind Greenmarket, said that established businesses have sometimes objected to a new market, but, in most cases, farmer's markets have helped other businesses. "We've documented the spillover effect well, though, so that merchant associations are sponsoring both of new markets," Benepe said.

The markets do not really compete with supermarkets either. "Only about 8 percent of a supermarket's shelves are for produce," Benepe said. "And half of that is for tropical stuff which we don't carry."

Greenmarket has indirectly spurred supermarkets to aid local farmers. "We have definitely raised consumer awareness of the value of locally grown produce," explained Benepe. As a result, at least one local farmer is negotiating a contract to supply a supermarket with his produce. "That will preserve his land for farming and keep fresh, locally grown produce in the city, which is what Greenmarket is all about," Benepe said.



Through experience, Benepe has learned that keeping produce "locally grown" requires constant vigilance. There are simply too many farmers with incentives to import produce to the market from outside the region. As a result, Greenmarket administrators spend a good deal of time checking farms and making sure farmers follow specified arrangements.

For groups planning to start their own farmer's markets, Benepe suggests at least eight months lead time to find farmers and select sites. Benepe also says that more time dealing directly with farmers will ensure quality produce and smoother operations. This means that groups hoping to start a farmers' market for next spring had better get started now. For more information, contact: **Greenmarket, 24 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018.**

Selling recycling in New Paltz

A recycling project in New Paltz, New York is taking a hit-'em-in-the-purse approach to promoting its services—with considerable success. A flyer for the New Paltz Recycling Project compares the town's $43,000 a year landfill budget with the $70,000 its refuse would be worth if recycled. The flyer shows that total recycling would save each family of four $42.07 a year in tax dollars. Last year the project recycled 252 tons of garbage, saving New Paltz $1400 in reduced landfill cost while generating $3,200 by selling recycled garbage. For more information, contact: **Glenn Gidaly, PO Box 550, New Paltz NY 12561.**

When writing to any of the contacts mentioned in SELF-RELIANCE, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope. It will speed the reply and will save these folks some money.

Town asks "Why flush?"

Last May, a series of large sinkholes opened beneath the sewage lagoon in West Plains, Missouri, leaking more than 50 million gallons of sewage into Ozark groundwater. Soon, over 800 persons became ill and stores which could afford to import spring water were doing brisk business with frightened customers.

Local officials responded to the crisis by asking the federal government to bail them out. But a citizens group has launched a water conservation campaign in an attempt to prevent a repeat of the West Plains disaster. Called "Why Flush?" the group is urging area residents to cut down on water use, flush toilets less often and petition sewage authorities to consider waterless toilets in their solution to the contamination problem.

The group is preparing a display of readily-available composting toilets, fact sheets on the local water supply and sewage system, and an information center for receiving public comment on the present sewage problem.

Information already gathered shows that in critical areas of conservation, health, and economy, compost toilets are superior to conventional sewage treatment plants. A typical central sewage plant in Missouri, for example, uses 20,000 gallons of water per person each year. Operation and maintenance, including treatment of harmful effluents, costs between four and six thousand dollars per home. Compost toilets, on the other hand, use no water, produce useful compost instead of harmful effluents, and cost between three and four thousand dollars per home.

The "Why Flush" Campaign has also distributed a chart to local residents showing how much water is normally used for a dozen household activities and how much could be saved through simple conservation measures. Eventually, the group plans to produce maps, video-tapes, traveling displays and a puppet show on the idea of water conservation and alternative sewage treatment.

For more information, contact: **Stuart Leiderman, Drury MO 65638.**

Off the Shelf

Histories and Strategies:

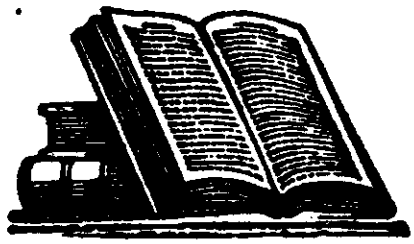
It is often helpful to step back from our preoccupation with the future in order to examine both the roots of the present crisis and historical precedents that may point to new solutions. Several of the books reviewed below are primarily histories; others are analyses of historical trends. Most make worthwhile and thought-provoking reading.

Lawrence Goodwyn
Democratic Promise
Oxford University Press,
New York, 1976. 718 pages. $19.95.

In this massive retelling of the history of the Populist Movement in America, Goodwyn analyzes in great detail the institutional base created by thousands of American farmers in their attempt to build a movement that was economic as well as political. In reaction to exploitation by banks and local merchants in Texas, Alabama and other states, farmers initiated a vast network of sub-alliances that worked out cooperative marketing and purchasing exchanges, put together informal "bulking" of cotton sales, organized mass rallies, lecture tours and picnics. Before its collapse in the 1890's, the Populist Alliance network had created a "movement culture" and many sophisticated programs. The book is a healthy reminder of the collective creativity that is possible when a social group under attack organizes against its oppressors.

Frances Fox Piven and
Richard A. Cloward
Poor People's Movements
Pantheon Books, New York, 1977.
381 pages. $12.95.

We should have recommended this book long ago, since it is such an important study. The authors attempt an analysis of what makes for a successful poor people's movement and why such movements eventually stall and fail. They argue passionately and carefully that mobilizing discontent into disruptive action is, in the long run, more significant than building a national organization. They analyze four case studies: The Unemployed Workers Movement in the 1930's; the Industrial Workers Movement in the 1930's; the Civil Rights Movement; and the Welfare Rights Movement. Piven and Cloward force the reader to think about social and economic change in terms of power and political influence, in terms of what is historically and politically possible rather than simply what we would like to see.



Bruce Stare (editor)
Socialism and the Cities
Kennikat Press, Port Washington NY,
1975, 212 pages. $6.95.

This collection of essays examines the record of Socialism in practice in six American cities: Milwaukee, Bridgeport, Reading, Schenectady, Oklahoma City and Passaic. Each of these cities was governed by a Socialist mayor at some time in the past sixty years. What all these articles reveal is that the practice of local Socialist government in America was primarily a variation on the progressive reform movement with an emphasis on clean, streamlined government, cost accounting and central purchasing, and public ownership of utilities and transportation. One significant difference between Socialists and Progressives was the opposition of the Socialists to any change to city manager or commission forms of government, changes which would have and often did weaken grassroots neighborhood control over municipal politics, weakening Socialist strength and increasing the power of urban elites. The quality of these essays is somewhat spotty, but the anthology topic is an important one.

Thomas Lee Philpott
The Slum and the Ghetto
Oxford University Press,
New York, 1978. 428 pages. $17.95.

The tension and firebombings and territorial wars that exploded between blacks and whites in Chicago in the 1960's did not evolve in a vacuum. In this book, Thomas Philpott analyzes the development of both black (the ghetto) and white ethnic (the slum) neighborhoods in Chicago during the boom years of 1880 to 1930. The color line was drawn early in Chicago and terror tactics against blacks trying to live outside the Black Belt were common in the 1920's. Philpott looks at the very different social realities of the upwardly mobile white ethnics and the ghetto-bound blacks and argues that middle-class housing and social reformers, by never questioning the limits of the business creed as the motivating force for reform, were not only unable to unmake the slum but were accomplices in making the ghetto.

William Tabb and Larry Sawers
Marxism and the Metropolis
Oxford University Press,
New York, 1978. 376 pages. $5.50.

In the past decade, many radical political economists have turned their attention to the city and to an analysis of "the urban crisis." This collection of articles presents some of the most exciting work currently being done on the historical development of cities, the forces behind urban renewal plans in the fifties and sixties, and the nature of the municipal fiscal crisis of the seventies. Starting with the realization that conflict and cumulative crisis are the facts of urban social and economic dynamics, the authors proceed to analyze how the conflict between social classes has shaped and continues to shape the spatial, political and economic reality of urban development. A good sourcebook. Many of the authors are part of the *Planners Network* organized by Chester Hartman (360 Elizabeth, San Francisco CA 94114) and mentioned in *Self-Reliance* #13.

After Fourteen Year Battle

Neighborhood Wins Right to Design its own Park

Community-controlled parks allow neighborhood residents to plan open spaces suited to their particular needs. Most cities have many vacant lots that can be turned into useful community parkland; but the process is often long and difficult. In the Adams-Morgan section of Washington DC, residents have waged a 14-year battle to control the only large piece of undeveloped land in their neighborhood. The following report describes some of the problems they encountered and how they overcame them.

The four acres of land bordering Adams Mill Road in Washington DC have been vacant for as long as anyone in the area can remember. Old-timers recall a little construction work there more than 20 years ago, but that quickly stopped when workcrews uncovered the remnants of an old cemetery. "Bones and casket handles were popping up everywhere," according to one observer.

Owner Maurice Shapiro did not appear to be too interested in his land after that. But nearby residents, a mix of poor and middle-class blacks, whites and latinos, were not about to let it go to waste. Charlotte Fillmore was the first to use the land regularly. She runs a daycare center in Adams-Morgan, and in the early 1960's she began taking children to the unfenced and overgrown property. "It was the only place the little ones could play off the street," said Mrs. Fillmore, "and it's still that way today."

"It was the only place the little ones could play off the street—and it's still that way today."

Soon, other neighborhood people started using the land. Walter Pierce, just out of high school at the time, organized his now famous "Ghetto Invitational" sports tournaments there. Other residents would stroll through just for the peace and quiet away from hot city streets. Before long, Shapiro's land was a well-used neighborhood park. Residents had cleared away rubble, planted flowers, built bleachers and playground equipment and were keeping the place tidy.

Occasionally, Shapiro would show up and complain. "He threatened to arrest me once," said Mrs. Fillmore, a fiesty 79-year-old woman who works full-time keeping her daycare center afloat. "We just left and came back the next day. I didn't see him again for years." Shapiro was probably too busy: he is one of Washington's major real estate dealers and owns many valuable properties in the District.

Everyone seemed satisfied until a few years ago, when Shapiro suddenly reappeared on the scene. He had apparently solved the cemetery problem and, hoping to capitalize on the Adams-Morgan renaissance and the land speculation that accompanied it, had plans to sell the park to a private luxury townhouse developer for $2 million. Shapiro, who reportedly paid just $35,000 for the land, was about to make a handsome profit.

Residents win the first battle

Adams-Morgan residents were up in arms. They organized meetings to alert the neighborhood to Shapiro's plans and then pressured public officials to take action. It took two years of letter writing, telephone calls and demonstrations, but Congress eventually appropriated $1.6 million for the city to acquire the land. Shapiro, however, is holding out for a higher price, and the matter is now in court. In the meantime, the city has taken the land by eminent domain.

Transferring the park from private to public ownership was a big victory for Adams-Morgan, but the battle is not over. When the land was "saved," many residents lost interest in it. Others were content with the expectation that the city would take care of the land for the neighborhood.

A small group, however, knew that the city would not automatically maintain the land, now called Community Park West. Moreover, they felt that city plans for its new property were not likely to reflect how neighborhood residents wanted the land used.

So residents continued to organize. They formed the Committee for Community Park West, which now meets regularly to consider what further development should take place at the park. Staff members of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, many of whom live in Adams-Morgan, act as technical advisors to this group. The Committee is developing a master plan for the park, so that the city will not be able to railroad its own agenda through upcoming community meetings.

Early this spring, the committee organized a highly successful cleanup and festival at the park. About 150 people raked trash and picked up litter that had accumulated over the winter. In the afternoon, residents enjoyed folk music and ethnic food prepared by their neighbors. A local tenants group sponsored a game called "Help the People Knock the Speculators." For 25 cents, players got an opportunity to knock over a stack of beer cans labeled with the names of local real estate developers. Several people worked on a mural donated

continued on p. 15

Native Americans Look to their own Resources continued from page 1

It is because of these bills—and because of the deep-felt need among Indians for renewed unity and struggle—that about sixty Native Americans left the island of Alcatraz off San Francisco on February 11. It was then they began The Longest Walk, a 3000-mile trek across the continent to Washington DC that spokesperson Barriero called "a spiritual and historic walk for survival."

By the time they reached the nation's capital in mid-July, the walkers' numbers had swelled to close to 3000, including representatives of over 100 Indian nations, a contingent of Japanese Buddhists and many non-Indian supporters. The march had become a symbolic cornerstone in the process of rebuilding Native American unity, pride and activism.

The walk was led by elders of many different Indian nations and the week-long activities in Washington included marches to Congress and to the Supreme Court, rallies and information booths. Some of the participants were clearly angry at the federal government. Wally Feather, a coordinator for the week in Washington, explained, "Why should we even have to walk? We are over one hundred sovereign nations. They should send limousines for us like they do for foreign dignitaries."

Toward Sovereignty and Self-Sufficiency

The twin issues of sovereignty and self-determination are constant themes in Indian demands and strategy. The Longest Walk Manifesto, issued on July 22, is entitled *Affirmation of Sovereignty of the Indigenous People of the Western Hemisphere.* As one walker responded when asked what will happen now that the march is over, "Now, we go back and strengthen our nations. We are going to teach the white man a lesson—the lesson of how to be an American. We let them run our affairs and they failed, failed in the grossest way. Now we will make sure we do it ourselves."

One manifestation of this drive toward self-determination is increasing interest in the potential uses of appropriate technologies on the reservations. John Mohawk, editor of *Akwesasne Notes,* "a journal for native and natural peoples," **(Subscriptions $5 or more; Mohawk Nation via Rosseveltown NY 13683)** notes that "until two years ago, it is probably true that the focus of Native American activity was land acquisition. But now there are several efforts around the country to get self-sufficiency projects off the ground." With pressure from government and corporations increasing as the search for new sources of scarce natural resources intensifies, many Indians see the choice as one between self-sufficient survival and destruction of their land and their way of life.

Native Self-Sufficiency

The Tribal Sovereignty Program is a non-profit organization designed to provide technical and financial assistance to groups involved in projects aimed at re-establishing tribal sovereignty. Under the auspices of the Youth Project, Program staff have worked with many of the tribes mentioned in this article. The organization publishes a simple but very useful newsletter, *Native Self-Sufficiency,* which focuses on alternate energy sources and other appropriate technologies for promoting economic self-reliance among native communities. Donations of $10 or more are tax deductible and will help keep the newsletter going. Write to: **Native Self-Sufficiency, Tribal Sovereignty Program, P.O. Box 1044, Guerneville, CA 95446.**

Signs of Progress

Some efforts are bearing fruit, building upon traditional skills and lifestyles and incorporating new technologies that are consonant with traditional native culture. "A faint wind is beginning to blow in," states the staff of *Native Self-Sufficiency* (see box). "You can barely feel its warm breath and hear the rustle of leaves . . . Our people are rediscovering our most ancient truths." Below are descriptions of several self-sufficient projects now underway on Indian reservations:

AKWESASNE NOTES

Cameron Chapter, Navaho Nation: There are about 80 different chapters or subgroups on the Navaho Nation. The Cameron Chapter is the largest on the reservation, encompassing 600 square miles and consisting of 2500-3000 people. Located near the Grand Canyon, the Navaho are caught between the dual pressures of land too dry for farming and mineral companies looking to grab control of the uranium-rich land. In order to strengthen the nation's hold over their land base, the Cameron Chapter has begun a project to increase agricultural production through the use of dry-land growing techniques developed in Israel. This year, an experimental fifty areas of alfalfa, melon, squash and potatoes were grown. The project will increase cultivation by 200 acres a year until 1000 acres are being farmed. By growing in riverbeds and catching the 6-10 inches of yearly rainfall, the Navaho hope to provide food and jobs for their people and to replenish the depleted rangelands for their sheep. The tribal department of labor has decided to fund the project as a training center for tribal members.

The Cameron Chapter is also building two solar greenhouses which will help provide a more nutritionally-balanced diet and will help to heat the adjacent community centers. A Department of Energy grant *(see page 2)* will help pay for the greenhouse, the hydroponic growing system, a solar still for desalinating groundwater, and an educational campaign around energy-conserving technologies. Contact: **Jacques Seronde, Cameron Chapter Experimental Farm, P.O. Box 85, Cameron, Navaho Nation 86020.**

Northern Cheyenne Housing Authority: In the past, the Housing Authority has had trouble with federal government housing programs. "In general," stated director Virginia Toews, "we have had a very difficult time in getting HUD to address the needs that Indians have . . . We now have boxes with extremely high maintenance and heat costs because HUD decided that we had to 'westernize' these people . . . (rather than) provide innovative housing which preserves the family structure."

Presently, the Northern Cheyenne are building five solar homes with HUD funding, four with active systems and one with passive. The inclusion of a passive system was made possible by a $20,000 grant from the National Center for Appropriate Technology. The cost and performance of each will be analyzed and compared. Toews reports that the Indians are more interested in the passive system, since "they don't have to fool around with mechanical systems" that are unfamiliar to them. Write to: **Northern Cheyenne Housing Authority, Lame Deer MT 59043.**

Choctaw Gardeners: According to *Native Self-Sufficiency,* the Choctaw have traditionally been known as "the master farmers of the South." Recently, the tribe has begun an organic gardening program aimed at growing nutritious food, restoring the soil and, if possible, generating income selling any surplus that may be produced. The local agricultural extention service is providing assistance and training, both in gardening and in food preservation and storage. Project workers also present the principles and goals of the organic gardening project in schools and to community groups. Contact: **Bob Ferguson, Choctaw Organic Program, Route 7, Box 21, Philadelphia MS 39350.**

Aquaculture: The Pyramid Lake tribe in Nevada was the recipient of a Department of Energy Appropriate Energy Technology grant this spring. The tribe is installing and testing a solar system for both heating and cooling the hatchery to replace the very expensive electric heating and cooling system now in use. Contact: **Pyramid Lake Indians, Sutcliffe NV.**

Photovoltaic Cells: Schuchuli, Arizona, is a remote Indian village of 95 residents 110 miles west of Tucson. By autumn, the village will have its present rickety diesel power electric system replaced by a solar cell system that will provide electric light to each of the fifteen homes, a small refrigerator system in a central building and the use of a commercial wringer-type washer and an electric sewing machine. As reported in *Solar Utilization News,* the federally-funded project will cost $100,000 and will provide for the entire village's annual consumption—which is less than 75 percent of what a typical American family consumes in a year.

How Not to Plan for Self-Sufficiency

When the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) opened its Indian office in 1967, there was hope that economic self-sufficiency could be spurred by well-conceived projects. But the past eleven years have been painful proof that projects planned by outside "experts" in Washington cannot answer Indian needs.

EDA, according to an article by Bill Richards and Bill Peterson in the *Washington Post,* has sunk $61 million into 93 projects. The various EDA-backed enterprises have run up an operating deficit of over $20 million.

EDA has funded a dozen Indian-owned motels and hotels. Two are now closed and the other ten are running a deficit. On the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, EDA spent about $1 million on a "tribal complex" of stores, a bar, a campground, a restaurant, a reconstructed prairie fort and a motel. The cost to the tribes was so overwhelming that they sawed the motel in half and sold one half in Pierre. The complex left the tribe with an operating loss of $668,000.

A second Indian "self-help" program was the outlay of $30 million to build 41 industrial parks on reservations. According to Richards and Peterson, occupancy rates are around 5 percent and many businesses dropped out after only a short time.

Why have these EDA-backed programs failed? Primarily because EDA expected Indian development to be a mirror of economic development in other parts of the country, despite the geographic and cultural differences. EDA officials were trying to build economic self-reliance on the reservations, but they could not conceive of programs that grew out of Indian needs rather than Washington blueprints.

As one tribal official complained: "What the EDA wanted us to do was put on our buckskins and sit alongside of the road with our beads. They wanted us to perform like clowns to the white people so they could throw their nickels and dimes at us."

Building for the Future

Other self-sufficiency projects are still in the developmental or feasibility study stage, but the trend toward self-sufficient development is growing. The American Indian Development Corporation is helping four Montana reservations plans for energy self-sufficiency, using local coal reserves. The Passamaquoddy's are investigating the use of tidal power along the northern cost of Maine.

In New York State, the Owl's Head Self-Sufficiency Center is a dream that is now approaching reality. The center will be a place where, through experimentation, local tribes will be able to develop a local economy geared to the survival on the land of the northeastern Indian tribes. As John Mohawk explained, "It would be an active effort to recreate traditional technologies and combine them with new ones. Tanning leather, building solar collectors, learning midwifery and other health care skills, developing intensive agricultural methods. We will develop these technologies and then teach the younger ones how to survive."

The strategy of self-sufficient development always comes back to the question of survival. For good reason, Indians do not trust the government and corporations which "give us money, whiskey, pollution and death" while "they take from us, as they stole from our grandparents, land, water, culture, and lives." The stakes are high—control over land and valuable resources, control over tribal development. The Native American struggle for self-determination and for self-sufficiency needs our support and our active assistance. For, indeed, it is a question of survival.

—Richard Kazis

Of Contracts, Grants and Other Sources of Revenue

For public interest and neighborhood-based organizations, fundraising is a problem that never goes away. Too much of every organization's energies are channelled into plans and schemes for raising money, money that is needed if the group is to do the work it originally set out to do. But there is little choice: an organization survives or fades on the basis of its fundraising abilities.

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance is now in its fifth year of existence. In each of our first four years, the Institute's annual budget has roughly doubled. We currently spend about $20,000 a month and, as the Institute grows, that figure continues to increase. That is a lot of money to raise each month and there have been months when it did not look like the ends were going to meet.

The Institute has never had one sole source of funding, one contract or grant that would cover all our expenses and end all our worries. As a result, the development of a solid base of funding from a variety of different sources has been a high priority for us (*see sidebar for a full accounting*). It has also been a source of confusion for some people and groups with whom we work. We occasionally have to answer questions like: if you get foundation support, why do you have to charge consulting fees? Or, if you get federal money, why do you insist on selling rather than giving away publications?

This article is an attempt to explain our funding history and the choices we have made about funding sources. We hope to give our readers a better sense of how the Institute operates and, by extention, how many similar organizations function.

Our Funding Base

The Institute is a hybrid organization: we do research, demonstration projects, information and outreach work, technical assistance and some policy planning. We work with the federal government, with neighborhood organizations (some of which are well-funded, many of which are not), with other non-profit groups and with municipal governments. Some of our work is on specific contract; much of it is not.

Our sources of funding reflect this hybrid organizational program. In the Institute's first seven months, when the work consisted primarily of research and writing on food, energy and waste issues (and when the budget was a little over $1000 a month for the whole organization), funding came entirely from grants and individual contributions. In the next year, the Institute branched out into income-generating activities as a way of supplementing grants and contributions. We began publishing articles and pamphlets for sale to the general public. We wrote articles for outside publications and began speaking at conferences and workshops. We also generated income from a basement cottage industry, growing sprouts for the local co-op market. That year, the ratio of grants and contributions to "self-generated" income was 4:1.

In 1976, Institute staff began seeking consulting contracts, both with neighborhood groups and government agencies. We provided expert witness testimony for the D.C. Clean Air Coalition and lined up small contracts with both the District's Commission on Residential Mortgages and the Federal Energy Administration. That year, the percentage of the Institute's income that was self-generated climbed to almost 50 percent. Over half of that was from the sale of publications and newsletter subscriptions.

The year 1977 was one of rapid institutional growth. Income from publication sales jumped 50 percent and income from consulting increased 600 percent. Since that time, consulting has continued to be a cornerstone of revenue-generation for the Institute, with the bulk of consulting contracts coming from the federal Community Services Agency and Department of Energy. A major contract was negotiated in 1977 with the Bronx Frontier Development Corporation in the South Bronx for assistance with their large-scale composting operation.

Foundation support for the Institute also increased in 1977. In some respects, the more than doubling of foundation support for the Institute during 1977 was the result of several year's work cultivating contacts and supporters in the founda-

Where does it all come from?

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance has a varied revenue base. Here is an accounting of what keeps us afloat:

- **contracts with community and other non-profit groups**—technical assistance in energy systems, weatherization and conservation, recycling businesses, gardening and open space planning, writing and press work, financial packaging.
- **federal contracts**—for studies, reports, evaluations.
- **foundation support**—for general support of work not covered by other contracts; especially for groundwork and technical assistance to lower-income groups.
- **individual donations**—an increasingly significant source of general support money.
- **sale of publications**—we sell our publications and selected books from other publishers.
- **newsletter subscriptions.**
- **Associate memberships** in the Institute.
- **direct mail promotional and membership campaigns**—this has been more effective for publications and the newsletter than for memberships.
- **magazine columns**—*Solar Age, Mother Earth News, New Internationalist.*
- **articles** written for publication in other magazines.
- **honoraria** from speaking engagements.

tion world. Last year, we were able to obtain grants from several foundations that had not funded us before.

Although this year is not yet over, a new and distinct trend has developed. Several of the foundations from which we have received support in the past do not like to renew their grants a second year. Thus, the number of foundations willing to entertain general support proposals from the Institute is more limited than in previous years. As a result, we have begun to develop more specific project proposals, have tried to reach out to foundations with which we have had no prior contact, and have looked to federal contract work for an increasingly large share of our revenues. It is quite likely that, for 1978, federal contracts (primarily related to energy and open space planning) will be the single largest element in our funding base.

What tomorrow may bring

Whatever the general revenue trend will be at the Institute, it is clear that we will always need to maintain a mix of foundation support, business revenue and consulting contracts. We cannot afford to rely solely on foundations. As Bob Bothwell of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (*see sidebar*) explains, it is not getting any easier to land foundation grants. Foundations had been required to pay out a minimum of 6.75 percent of their assets in grants each year, but the Tax Reform Act of 1976 reduced the required minimum to 5 percent. Although few foundations have reduced their annual giving, the legal sanction to do so now exists.

Moreover, a major shift is occurring in the foundation world, the shape of which is not yet clear. The Rockefeller Foundation has announced the termination of its Natural and Environmental Sciences Division and is phasing out the Quality of Environment program as a separate program. Other foundations are actively reconsidering their funding priorities and procedures. It is not a good time—if there ever is a good time—to rely solely on foundation money.

Yet, the Institute will, because of the nature of its work, always rely in part on cornering a small piece of the more than $2 billion disbursed by foundations each year. Were we to rely solely on contract work, many of our projects would have to end immediately. We would not be able to provide free technical assistance to poor or to young organizations. We would not have the flexibility to seize an issue while it is hot and provide timely assistance and momentum.

So we will continue to walk the tightrope, balancing between our dual identity as consulting firm and public interest research group. It is important to us that the balance be maintained—even if that makes it more difficult for some people and groups to understand who we are and what we do. To be exclusively one or the other would limit both our effectiveness and our impact.

National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy

How much do you know about the patterns of philanthropy in your city? Are critical public needs being ignored by private philanthropy? Between $4-5 billion are spent or distributed annually be foundations and federated fund-raising organizations, such as United Way. But only a small percentage of this philanthropy flows to organizations working to correct injustices and empower the powerless.

For this reason, the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy was formed to focus more attention on the patterns of private philanthropy and to work with individuals and groups concerned with the changing philanthropic grant-giving priorities.

NCRP is fast becoming a significant pressure group. Last year, the Committee launched a campaign to help groups in cities and states across the country to assess philanthropic giving in their areas. So far, groups have formed in Denver, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, and Arizona.

The Committee publishes an *Action Guide for Assessing Local Philanthropy* that can help individuals and organizations judge philanthropic patterns. It is available for $1.40 from: **NCRP, 1028 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 822, Washington DC 20036.**

Neighborhood Wins Right to Design its own Park *continued from p. 11*

to the park by a local latino artists' group. The Institute helped organize a community garden and offered free worksheets on caring for street trees and plants in window boxes.

The spring festival gave local residents a new surge of pride in their park and this summer, the first ever without the threat of the land being taken away, the park was well-used. About 20 adults and 15 children who had a special section of their own, planted gardens there. Walter Pierce organized neighborhood teens to build a fence for the garden, paint picnic tables and keep the lawn mowed.

Looking ahead

There is still more work ahead. The city has promised funds for ball fields, wading pools and perhaps a community center on the site. Residents are determined that, if the money comes through, their 14 years of maintaining and developing the park will earn them a strong say in how that money is spent.

And the planning continues. For the future, the Institute, with other community groups, has proposed a drop-off recycling center and a public education program on recycling. There are also plans to expand the gardening program. Composting would improve the terribly undernourished soil. And an outreach program at local schools would bring gardening skills to children whose only experiences with vegetables have been frozen packages or cans.

Fourteen years ago, Adams-Morgan was a different place than it is today. Speculation and displacement have forced many poor people to find new homes in other neighborhoods. But for people who have struggled to make Community Park West a reality—people of all ages, incomes, and racial backgrounds, many of whom still rely on the park for recreational space—the victory is sweet and the future promising. They have not lost their park to upper-income townhouse development: the momentum of development has been slowed, the park preserved and community identity strengthened.

—David Macgregor

Notes

A number of energy-related workshops and conferences have been scheduled for the fall. They include: **Critical Mass '78** covering a wide range of anti-nuclear and alternative energy topics, beginning October 6 in Washington DC (contact: **Susan Gluss, Conference Coordinator, Critical Mass '78, PO Box 1538, Washington DC 20013**). Also, an evaluation of solar heating and cooling systems sponsored by the Department of Energy, beginning November 28 in Golden, Colorado (contact: **Conference Group, Solar Energy Research Institute, 1536 Cole Boulevard, Golden CO 80401**). Passive solar design workshops for architects, engineers, builders and energy specialists will begin September 27 in Portland, Oregon. Other workshops will be held later in Denver, San Francisco and Boston (contact: **Passive Solar Associates, PO Box 6023, Sante Fe NM 87501**). Solar energy workshops for Midwesterners will begin September 16 in Des Moines, Iowa, moving to Council Bluffs on October 21 and Mason City December 2 (contact: **Energy Sources '78, 1342 30th Street, Des Moines IA 50311**).

A 14-minute slide show on solar energy prepared by the Missouri League of Women Voters offers a good introduction to the subject. The 80 slides and cassette-recorded script explain the importance and potential of solar energy for homeowners and businesses. Several examples of solar projects in Missouri are included. The show is free and a survey booklet of solar buildings in the state is available for a 35¢ handling charge. Write to: **League of Women Voters of Missouri, 2138 Woodson Road, St. Louis MO 63114.**

A New York State energy hot line has been established to provide homeowners and others with free information on energy conservation and energy-related matters. The hot line is run by the New York Institute of Technology with a grant from the New York State Energy Office. The line is open from 10 am to 4 pm weekdays. The numbers are (516) 686-7744, (212) 895-9813 and (914) 664-2868.

National Land for People has been helping family farmers and consumers who live within an easy drive of Fresno, California, a city of 165,000 people. The group has published a directory of farms, listing the location and types of produce available for direct sale to consumers. Almost 90 farms are listed. Groups wanting to compile a directory for their own area should contact: **National Land For People, 2348 N. Cornelia, Fresno CA 93711.**

Groups familiar with the federal Community Development Block Grant program may be eligible for up to $10,000 to help monitor the program in their area. Local contracts will be part of a nationwide monitoring project conducted by the Working Group for Community Development Reform. For more information, write to them at: **1000 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC 20007.**

Support Self-Reliance

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance is a research and consulting organization that explores the potential for, and the implications of, high-density population areas becoming independent and self-reliant. The Institute, incorporated four years ago as a tax-exempt non-profit organization, conducts basic research; develops working demonstration models of new technologies, institutions and small-scale production systems; develops educational materials; and disseminates information.

The best way to keep up with developments at the Institute and around the country that are relevant to the movement toward urban decentralization is to subscribe to SELF-RELIANCE. The best way to support the Institute is to become an Associate Member.

1) Subscribe to SELF-RELIANCE:

A year's subscription (six issues) costs $6 for individuals and $12 for institutions, libraries, government agencies and private businesses. Out of U.S., add $1.50/year for surface mail. U.S. first class, add $2.00/year. For air mail, add $2.60/year, North America; $4.20/year, Central America; $5.10 a year, South America, Europe, Mediterranean Africa; $5.80/year, Asia, the Pacific, other Africa, USSR.

2) Become an Associate Member of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance:

The $25 annual dues ($40 for institutions) entitle you to a year's subscription to SELF-RELIANCE and a 20% discount on all Institute publications.

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