
RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

in establishing a multinational agreement dealing with space activities and quarantine protocol, jurisdiction, legislation, and regulations. Robinson offers a detailed draft agreement which, as a minimum, forces communication among interested parties.

*A Pessimistic Look
At Nuclear Terror*

"Nuclear Sabotage" by Michael Flood, in *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (Oct. 1976), 1020-24 E. 58th St., Chicago, Ill. 60637.

If terrorism is partly theater, then nuclear terror makes for gripping theater. Flood, a chemist at the University of London, predicts increasing threats to nuclear power facilities by terrorists bent on blackmail and public attention.

No nuclear installation has yet been sabotaged in such a way as to release radioactivity, but Flood lists a total of 11 attacks, mostly bombings, against nuclear installations and facilities in the United States and abroad since 1969. Another 23 threats and hoaxes were directed at facilities in the United Kingdom between 1966 and 1975. More than 175 such threats were aimed at similar installations in the United States, including one by a hijacker who, on Nov. 12, 1972, vowed to crash a plane into the experimental reactor complex at Oak Ridge, Tenn. There have also been more than 100 acts of vandalism and sabotage at nuclear plants in this country.

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*On the Trail of
The Livable City*

"The Limits of Suburban Growth" by David R. Goldfield, with comments by Joseph Zikmund and Jeffrey K. Hadden, in *Urban Affairs Quarterly* (Sept. 1976), Sage Publications, Inc., St. George's House, 44 Hatton Garden, London EC1N8ER.

The city-to-suburb exodus that marked the 1960s may have ended with revitalized cities luring back former residents and even attracting a few in-migrants, writes Goldfield, professor of environmental and urban systems at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Using the Washington SMSA (Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area) as a model, Goldfield bases his conclusions on four premises: that with birth rates declining and more women entering the job market, there will be an increasing demand for affordable, high-density dwellings; that inflation, high interest rates, and climbing construction

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costs have stunted the growth of suburbia; that congestion, pollution, and even higher gas prices make a decline in "automobility" inevitable; and that rehabilitation of city housing, the availability of rapid public transportation, and the spread of urban problems to suburbia make the city an increasingly attractive place to live for the middle class.

Challenging Goldfield, Zikmund, a political scientist at the Illinois Institute of Technology and Sociology, and Hadden, a University of Virginia sociologist, argue that demographic shifts in the Washington area are not representative of the nation because of the huge federal presence there. (The "singles revolution" has helped make one-fifth of all households in the area "single households"; average household size has dropped from 3.22 persons in 1968 to 3.03 today; the birth rate in the Washington SMSA fell by 40 per cent between 1960 and 1970.) Zikmund and Hadden note separately that in other areas the dispersal of industry to the suburbs opens new, nearby job opportunities, encouraging continued suburban growth, while most cities are still doing little to create attractive residential environments.

Good inner-city housing is not cheap, says Zikmund, especially "when one adds fix-up costs, crime insurance and parking costs." Hadden adds that only if lower birth rates become permanent will demand for high-density housing be stimulated. He believes that Americans have accepted higher gasoline prices and that the drift outward toward cheaper land will probably continue.

In a rebuttal, Goldfield argues that the Washington, D.C., area may be the harbinger of future trends precisely because it is an atypical metropolis. "As the fastest-growing region in the 1960s, it led America's transition to a suburban nation," he writes. As in Minneapolis, Baltimore, and Jacksonville, the local government has joined bankers, builders, and landlords to rehabilitate run-down residences by collectively using the financial means available. Washington will not experience a new building boom and thus relieve the area's housing shortage. But with huge carrying charges and local antipathy stalling apartment construction in suburbia, Washington, like New York City, offers many spacious, old row houses that can be rehabilitated and subdivided to equal the per-acre density of high-rise public housing projects.

Pricing Education

"The Value of College As Seen by a Non-Economist" by Harold Howe II, in *The College Board Review* (Summer 1976), Box 2815, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

Former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan once recalled the advice an Oxford professor offered his students—that the only purpose of a university education is to know "when a man is talking rot."

Howe, the Ford Foundation's vice president for education and research, goes considerably further in arguing against economists who now seek to measure the value of a college degree solely in "cost