

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 1974, 9th Annual Conference is now history. Only four of the ninety or so members in attendance suffered the tribulations of lost luggage and only one of the two buses on the Boston tour hit only two automobiles. Probably, by now, only one or two of the ulcers generated by the members of the Program Planning Committee are still active but, for sure, the new president is reeling at the helm of an organization that has approximately doubled in size and roughly quadrupled in committee-making fervor. How else can you account for the existence of one new standing committee and three (or is it four?) new ad hoc committees?

For those of you who missed the conference and who have never been to the New England Center for Continuing Education, I recommend a special trip to see it. It would be difficult for anyone to describe the rather utopian atmosphere that prevails there. It was a perfect setting and a good conference.

The post-conference report of proceedings is currently being put together for distribution in the near future. I have just had the opportunity to see Dr. Paolucci's keynote paper, which, of course, will be included. As a good keynote address does, this one gets at the essence of our theme, "Multi-Disciplinary Synthesis."

She says that as housing educators, we are really concerned with the same area that Doxiadis has called Ekistics or the science of human settlements. This is a complex science and requires more than intuitive problem solving methods. General Systems Theory is the name usually given to a scientific methodology that separates the problem solving process into the distinct phases of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Sometimes referred to as Systems Analysis or Planning Methodology, this process offers the great advantage of being a common language to many disciplines and thus can serve as a strong unifying element in the collaborative or team approach that is essential for arriving at solutions to complex problems.

Another point that Dr. Paolucci makes is that such a team needs an "integrationist" manager and that such a person should not be a generalist but an inter-disciplinarian, one who can see the relationships between the relevant areas of expertise that need to be brought together to form a team.

The key words, then, are "systems" and "integrationist". I believe they both must be built into the housing curriculum.

—Walter Moran
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