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Dear Sol :

I trust all goes well with you and Diana. We here have been enjoying an extremely mild winter together with the warm frenzy of activity initiated by the new Australian Government.

Our Melbourne office, in association with A. M. Voorhees & Associates, has been kept busy working for Tom Uren's new Department of Urban and Regional Development, though NURDA, now the Cities Commission, and the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads. They've done major studies of the future of the SE Sector of Melbourne Region, and of Geelong. The favoured growth centres have been selected, and budget allocations for urban and regional development purposes have been made. Geelong, Campbelltown, Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst-Orange, Manaroto (SA) and Salvado (the coastal corridor north of Perth) have been given a guernsey.

I presume you know that Campbelltown has been nominated by the NSW authorities as the next NSW University site provided that the Campbelltown New City Project receives full government support. On July 18, the SPA published their full glossy plan for the Campbelltown-Appin-Camden New City Complex - the report is enthusiastic about the concept of "Community Schools"!

The NSW Government has received a report from a Parliamentary Committee advocating what seems, from the limited reports so far available, sensible surgery on the SPA, and a possibly better arrangement of state, regional and local responsibilities for economic and physical development planning and control.

Meanwhile, what Clyde Cameron calls the Canberra fat cats (up to \$26,000 per annum for 2nd division officers jobs), continue to multiply. Every academic and judge worth his salt is on one of the new Commissions of Enquiry, as you would doubtless be if you were here - or are already, without me knowing.

It's interesting to observe the bureaucrats struggling to cope with the trendy demands of the new Ministers and their personal staffs. On two issues, I've been called to meetings to try to sort things out. For example, Tom Uren and John Mant and Paddy Troy called for a report on the new (anti-expressway) approaches to transportation planning. The Commonwealth Bureau of Roads commissioned CGV who recommended new styles and techniques of "open" planning and interest group participation. The Bureau suppressed the CGV recommendations and reported to the Minister that, in effect, the old "closed shop" styles of Australian transportation planning were still essentially OK.

The Cities Commission boys are scared still of real citizen and interest group participation - they favour consultants who have squads of young sociologists who research and report on social structure and people's attitudes "objectively" - without stirring up too much fuss. It's an ill wind that blows no one any good, so USC and other consultants are engaged in looking for good sociologists and welfare economists to hire. Can you recommend any names I can pass on to our various regional directors and managers?

We lost three good young staff people earlier this year but have now succeeded in replacing them but there's a general shortage throughout the country of senior people in all fields of urban studies and planning - most particularly economists.

Don's just returned refreshed from his two to three month overseas sabattical. I'm planning to get away for three weeks in October to visit Melvin Webber and others at Berkeley, the Voorhees people in Washington, and investigate the results of the AMV "open" and "participatory" metropolitan transportation planning review process in Boston.

I've contented myself over recent months with supervising the City of Adelaide Planning Study and the 1973/74 review and revision of the City of Sydney Strategic Plan.

The Sydney Action Plans are gradually being completed and implemented. Andrew Jay presided over an historic occasion in a Surry Hills community hall last month. Following a four week exhibition of the Surry Hills Action Plan draft proposals, and the distribution of 10,000 newsprint copies of these (enclosed), Andrew led the People for Planning Campaign, the local residents and the Builders Labourers Federation to support our Surry Hills Action Plan so fully that even before it has been finally submitted to Council, there's now a people's and labourers' "green" (black) ban on anything not in accord with our proposals. A People's Committee, including Peter Lindwall, our Action Plan Director, has been established to administer the precise use of the people's power

through the "green" ban! I reckon this is historic, in as much as I can't recall "people's power" ever before in Australia being used to enforce an official plan - even if officially established bodies, such as the Council and the Government, have been ignored by the alternative government, the Resident Action Groups and the BLF, which now de facto control development throughout most of Sydney. I'm delighted that our work has now won their blessing.

I've read a good deal, but presumably not enough, about similar ferments in London. I'd be interested in your view of it.

So much for local news. Now for the specific point of this letter.

Last February, Denis Winston took me to dinner and urged me to apply for his Sydney Chair of Town and Country Planning. He leaves on December 31st next. The closing date for applications was April 30th last, but I wanted time to consult my own mind and didn't apply at that time.

*1971 City of Sydney Plan*

*published*  
I've been mulling over it for six months now. Since the ~~CosSP~~ was finished, I've been chafing at the routine of consultant practice. I find management and administration of the firm, together with the repetitive nature of most of the jobs, increasingly boring. I've finally decided (Eva has helped me to this decision), that after 13 years of consultancy, I'm now ready and really keen to take on something entirely new. I feel like a battle scarred old veteran of the early guerilla phase of what has now developed into full scale war, and would enjoy teaching the massive numbers of young people who must now carry on the war. It's become obvious recently that, since the December 2nd revolution, the demand for competent urban and regional "planners" of all shapes and sizes far exceeds any conceivable supply in the near future. The critical weakness in the system is now no longer on the demand side, but on supply - not only of cannon fodder for the bureaucratic trenches, but also of ideas, theory and methodology.

Back in 1960, I promised myself I'd spend up to 15 years finding out what self-conscious urban "planning" was really about out there in the great unwashed metropolises, and then go academic and teach. It has taken me six months to realise that it's now or never - I don't really want to go to Canberra or overseas, ~~I enjoy Sydney too much~~ and I don't want to uproot Eva and the kids.

At first, I kidded myself I was indispensable to the firm - but I've deliberately taken days and weeks off duty over recent months, and left the others to cope entirely alone - and somehow they have! I will have to spend some of my time up until May and June next year ~~super-~~ ~~vising the City of Adelaide and City of Sydney teams~~, but after that,

*in*

*polishing off some of the  
Action Plans,*

I could escape altogether. I'd still like to act in the outside world occasionally - but more as a critic and advisor to consultants rather than as a managing consultant myself.

<sup>Ganzard</sup>  
I've discussed it with Don, and we're both thinking of particular people to take over from me - Ian Arnold already is acting as the de facto Managing Director of USC - know anyone who would be interested in becoming Director of Planning?

During the great days of public debate this past year, I've often found myself constrained from speaking my mind because of USC's position as consultant to some authority - and imagine that I could speak and write more critically from an academic position.

<sup>had</sup>  
Just as I <sup>had</sup> convinced myself that I ought to apply for the Chair, Denis Winston and Henry (Jack) Cowan, (who holds the Sydney Chair of Architectural Science) rang privately to say the list of applicants was pretty weak, and wouldn't I like to apply?

<sup>you might like to act as one</sup>  
So I've just spent three days compiling the enclosed, and late last night decided that ~~you had to head the list of my referees. The application was lodged this afternoon, and will go before the first meeting of the selection committee this coming Friday afternoon.~~

<sup>that</sup>  
~~I regret I left it so late. I didn't have time to ask for your consent. The Registrar will presumably now write to you. So its over to you.~~

Peter Johnson, Dean of the Faculty, has a strong desire to revolutionise the Sydney Town and Country Planning Department. Nothing has been done over recent years pending Denis' retirement. I have had a few discussions with him and it seems that we could work together pretty well. He is, as you probably know, keen on introducing sociology into architecture. Since you run the only sociology school for miles around Sydney University, we should be able to continue to work together if I am ~~transubstantiated~~ Presumably, you and I could also continue to work as consultants to USC!

Regards

*Yours sincerely*  
*G.*

*Please let me know - by telegram preferably to "Urbssearch" Sydney, & I'll advise the University accordingly*

*would  
How do  
you feel  
about this?*