

## HUD denies urban flight over

By DAVID E. ANDERSON  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — A growing number of commentators say U.S. cities are recovering from the decade of turmoil, abandonment, white flight and decline that gave the nation the phrase "urban crisis."

The government department responsible for the cities says this diagnosis is far too optimistic; that the flight from the central cities continues.

Those who detect new life in the old cities point to movement by young, white professional "urban pioneers," the rebuilding and renovation of older residential neighborhoods and the revitalization of some downtown commercial areas.

These observations, leading some to conclude that the urban crisis is over, has so shaken the Housing and Urban Development department that HUD's Urban Policy Staff has produced a 44-page rebuttal to one of the most influential "myths of the urban crisis" articles.

The article, "The Urban Crisis Leaves Town," by T.D. Allman appeared in the December 1978 Harper's magazine and has been widely cited by columnists and urban affairs writers.

HUD said the article "presents a misleading, often inaccurate and inconsistent portrait" of the nation's cities.

Accurate generalizations about the state of the cities are not easy to come by be-

cause their status involves a number of elements including jobs, housing condition and supply, population movement and fiscal trends.

Much of the current optimism about the state of the cities, reflected in the views of Allman and other commentators, stems from the belief that cities are once again attracting affluent whites from the suburbs while upwardly mobile blacks are increasingly moving to the suburbs.

Proponents of what is being called "gentrification" point to renovation and revitalization of Washington's Capitol Hill neighborhood, some areas of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and New Orleans, as examples of the "urban pioneer" movement.

HUD concedes that this is happening in a few cities.

In a separate report on displacement — the involuntary removal of low and moderate income minorities — HUD noted that the so-called "in-movers" are "generally upwardly-mobile young couples or single individuals without children whose income range from \$10,000 to \$30,000 a year." But the report also indicated that many had rented in the central city before buying homes.

According to HUD, "overall population migration patterns continue to sap the economic and social vitality of cities."

Between 1975 and 1977, HUD says, one

million more families moved from central cities to suburbs than moved into the central cities from suburbs.

In a separate study supporting the HUD view, John L. Goodman Jr., of the Urban Institute said while suburbanites moving back into the city have increased, "the increase has occurred because of the growing number of suburbanites and not because any given suburbanite is more likely now than before to move to the city."

Goodman said it was a misconception that those moving to the city were white, childless professionals.

"Most of the movers from the suburbs to the cities are neither childless nor professionals," he said, and except for age and race (there are few black suburbanites) the back-to-the-city movers "are quite similar to those already in the city."

"Contrary to popular opinion, suburbanite-to-city movers do not substantially raise the average socioeconomic status of city populations," he said.

HUD said that it has found that because of net outmigration and the lower average income of in-migrants, "central cities lost over \$17 billion in family income from 1975-1977. Furthermore, the poverty rate in cities was higher in 1977 than in 1969."

Some optimists looking at the cities also see a major shift in black moves to the suburbs, indicating for them that the barriers of suburban racial segregation in

housing are being broken.

Allman, looking at population shifts in congressional districts found that black suburban movers are "now a significant demographic pattern."

Others, however, question the optimism.

"The flow of blacks to the suburbs is thus far a very limited one," according to HUD.

It said that between 1975 and 1977, approximately 170,000 black family heads of household were central city to suburban movers — 4 percent of the 4.4 million black families living in central cities and their suburbs in 1977.

At the same time, whites moved out of the central city at a considerably higher rate so that while the number of blacks in the central city may have declined slightly, the percentage of central city residents who were black increased from 22 percent in 1970 to 23 percent in 1977, HUD said.

HUD officials are not without optimism with regard to the state of the cities.

"Some American cities are doing better," according to HUD.

But they still see the basic issues that gave rise to the urban crisis — poverty, unemployment, racial segregation, commercial and business disinvestment in central cities — as all too pervasive.

## The Lighter Side

### Nixon: a non-person in U.S.?

By DICK WEST  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — In the Soviet Union, discredited government leaders sometimes are relegated to "non-person" status and treated as though they never existed.

We Americans like to tell ourselves it couldn't happen here. But what does one make of a recent survey conducted by Public Interest Opinion Research?

The survey was based on a three-part question phrased as follows:

"Some people say in recent years that the wives of presidents were as capable as their husbands and might have even made better presidents. Do you think this is true or not true in the case of Betty Ford?"

"How about Lady Bird Johnson?"

"And, how about Rosalynn Carter?"

To end the suspense immediately, only 21 to 26 percent of those interviewed replied affirmatively. Ending the suspense, however, does not terminate curiosity about the survey.

Do you get a feeling someone is missing from this particular grouping of first ladies? Wasn't there another first lady of recent vintage who fitted in there some place?

My memory is about as reliable as a Three Mile Island reactor valve, but it was my recollection there was a first lady between Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Ford.

Whipping out my trusty almanac, I quickly ascertained that Mrs. Johnson's husband was the 36th president, and Mrs. Ford's husband the 38th.

That strongly indicated the wife of the 37th president had been excluded from the survey as cleanly as if her husband had never been in the White House.

I now felt certain enough of the omission to call up the polling company and inquire about it.

The official I talked with confirmed my suspicions. However, I was not able to elicit the cause of the omission. The firmest answer I got was "no real reason." Which could mean anything from an oversight to a policy decision.

Two thoughts arise from this investigation. One is that the survey can hardly be considered a model of scientific opinion sampling. For had the other first lady been included, the overall results might have been different.

In that husband-wife capability comparison, the majority opinion might have been on the distaff side.

My other thought is that here we have a good illustration of why discredited leaders can't be turned into non-persons in America. For that sort of thing to work, all mention of the name would have to be suppressed.

In this country, when a former first lady whose husband fell from grace is ignored by one medium, other media call attention to it.

Could anyone writing such an expose be so absent-minded as to forget the identification?

## Senate hesitates on some states' rights

By CHERYL ARVIDSON  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Seventy years ago, agitation for the election of U.S. senators by the people instead of state legislatures reached a peak. But the Senate has constitutional amendment providing direct election of its membership.

Advocates of a popularly elected Senate decided to try to bypass the method of amending the Constitution. They petitioned Congress for ratification under the constitutional provision that says "on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, Congress shall call a convention for proposing amendments."

At the point when only one more state was needed to activate the provision, direct election amendment was approved by the traditional process: two-thirds of approval in the House and Senate followed by majority vote ratification by four-fifths of the legislatures.

Even though the convention method of amendment has been available since the Constitution was written (by a constitutional convention), all 26 amendments proposed since then have started in Congress.

Ratification by three-fourths of the legislatures also would be a requirement. Amendments proposed by a constitutional convention. But beyond that, there is agreement among legal scholars about the ground rules of the convention method.

There is debate on virtually every point — from which state petitions are counted toward the required 34 to the system of voting to be used by a convention. About 400 petitions for a constitutional convention on various topics have been approved by legislatures over the years.

Congress came closest to having to face the issue in recent times in the 1960s when 33 states sought to overturn the Supreme Court's "One-Man, One-Vote" decision on legislative reapportionment.

The 33rd request for a convention was approved in 1967. Would Congress still be bound to call a convention if a 34th state asked for it now? Some scholars say no; others say a single petition is valid forever; others say a reasonable time limit applies.

Other "close calls" have included an effort to repeal the 16th Amendment raising income taxes launched by 28 states between 1939 and 1955; and a convention to prevent polygamy passed by 27 states between 1907 and 1915.

Now, the drives for amendments requiring a balanced federal budget and limiting abortion have constitutional scholars and legal experts squirming.

So far, 28 states have asked for a convention on the general topic of a balanced budget, 14 on abortion.

The budget proposals vary widely in detail. Some states include the word "amendment" they want considered; others just ask for a convention on a budget. One petition forwarded to the Senate asks for a convention to limit growth of federal spending.

"The question that would have to be faced at some point is, are all those counted in the same pot?" said Kevin Foley, chief counsel for the Senate Constitution Subcommittee, which is collecting state petitions.

Other questions of procedure — how delegates would be chosen, whether an amendment should be passed by a simple majority or a two-thirds vote of the states, whether each state will get only one vote as was the case in 1787 or whether voting should be weighted according to population — are also up in the air.

But the biggest controversy is over limiting a convention to a single topic. Liberals and conservatives alike fear there is no way, even by law, to guard against a "convention."

"It would put the Constitution back on the drawing board where even a crackpot or special interest group would have a chance to write the supreme law of the land," said Howard Jarvis, the author of California's Proposition 13 that so-called "taxpayers' revolt."

The Senate has passed bills twice that would spell out procedures for a constitutional convention, including limiting the convention to a single topic. The House never acted.

Legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate again this year. It is unlikely that it will be considered unless the magic number of 34 is reached. "We've been closer before, quite closer before," Foley said. "Each state has a tougher and tougher as you get closer. On a controversial issue like this and if you may get a lot of states real fast, but it becomes tougher to get those extra states you need, so you can't automatically make the assumption that it is a happy."

## Chinese army ready and confident: Peking

By W. WINFIELD MILLER  
United Press International

HONG KONG — China's month-long border war against Vietnam has been a battlefield test since the Korean War — has left Peking confident and ready for another, Western military analysts say.

Despite Peking's admission that 20,000 of its troops were killed or wounded in the February fighting, China is ready to launch another "punitive" attack on Vietnam if that appears necessary to halt Hanoi's "expansionist" moves in the region, analysts say.

Having tested its rusty war machine, "The Chinese really believe they can defeat the Vietnamese army and the Soviets (Vietnam's strongest ally)," says one diplomat.

The Chinese have warned that hostilities will erupt again if the Vietnamese abandon their policy of regional hegemony and anti-Chinese policy.

But China also is aware that the Soviet Union, which played only a minor supporting role in the Vietnamese in this winter's fighting, may not stand on the side of the war breaks out again.

This and a buildup of Soviet pressure on China's northern border, has increased concern by Chinese leaders over their outmoded military hardware. Western military experts say China's military equipment is 10 to 20 years date and they believe it will take Peking at least 10 years to modernize it.

"What they have is not that modern, but it is adequate," says one military analyst. "The artillery they used in the border war is basically the same used in Korea and is damned effective."

China's awareness of its outmoded equipment is shown by its frequent trips abroad for hardware — mostly to France, Britain and the United States. China needs new anti-aircraft missiles, tanks and jet fighters. Its aging MIG-19 and the Chinese-designed F-9 fighters were considered too vulnerable to risk their being shot down during the border war, the analysts say.

The Chinese military has been impressed by the French Mirage 2000 jet fighter and the British Barrier jumpjet, the military experts say. They also are interested in France's "Hot" and "Milan" anti-tank weapons.

No contracts for military hardware have been signed with foreign nations. The Western experts say could indicate less than full agreement among Chinese leaders on how rapidly modernization of the Chinese army should proceed.

To launch its punitive attack against Vietnam, China relied on the age-old "wave" tactic — sending thousands of troops surging across the border into five northern provinces at 26 points.

"The Vietnamese were stunned by the overall scope of the thing," says a diplomat specializing in Chinese affairs. "If the Vietnamese were not humbled by the attack, they would have been made at least a lot more wary of the prospect of future fighting."

China has admitted 20,000 of its troops were killed or wounded in the border war and estimates of Vietnamese casualties run as high as 50,000.

Western experts say China's high casualty rate and the threat of Soviet intervention if a second round of fighting erupts could give China second thoughts about launching another invasion.

## More Americans investing abroad to hedge inflation

By KAZUO MIKAMI  
United Press International

NEW YORK — Foreign investment is in vogue among individual American investors as a hedge against domestic inflation and Japan is emerging as a lucrative market.

At the end of 1977 American holdings of foreign securities totaled \$49.3 billion, compared with \$27.4 billion at the end of 1973, according to U.S. Commerce Department figures.

More than half this investment is in Canada — \$26.9 billion at the end of 1977. Although the figures have not yet been adjusted, Commerce estimates that Americans increased their holdings by \$3.4 billion last year.

Investment in Japanese securities by Americans totaled \$1.2 billion at the end of 1978 and there are indications U.S. investment in Japan is increasing, partly because of the dollar's depreciation against the yen and partly because of the low Japanese inflation rate.

"I'm extremely bullish on the future of American investments in the Japanese stock and bond markets," said Daniel Schrimph, president of the Convertible Fund of Japan, Ltd.

The open-end mutual fund — an in-

vestment company that issues an unlimited number of shares and redeems them on demand — invests in the convertible bonds (those exchangeable into common stock) of major Japanese industrial corporations.

While Europeans have been quite active in the Japanese market in the last 15 years, Schrimph said, "this has not been quite the case in America."

"Yet today we do see a huge trend towards American investments abroad."

"American investors are recognizing that foreign investment is a way to hedge against inflation and that international diversification of their assets is a way of reducing risks," Schrimph said.

The American investor has been hurt in the U.S. market, he said. He sees his assets being eaten away by domestic inflation.

If he owns a small business, Schrimph said, he sees his margins eroded by increased labor costs and decreased worker productivity.

Statistics show, according to Schrimph, that over the last 10 years investment of U.S. dollars in Japanese securities has yielded about 17 percent annually.

"About a year ago," he said, "we decided to form a group of very wealthy investors — mostly individuals — convinced

that there was a need in the United States for a service to the individual that seems to be available only to big institutions, namely to have a vehicle whereby he could diversify his assets."

"So far, we have been very successful," he said.

The fund's current portfolio is diversified over some 25 companies in 10 industries — including construction, food, optical, and shipping and air transport.

Japanese securities are governed in much the same way as those in the United States, Schrimph said. For example:

—Information is as readily available as it is here.

—The rules of exchange are more or less similar to the ones in this country and disclosure requirements also are similar to those in the United States.

—There are few restrictions on Japanese companies. As yet, there is no OSHA or EPA and the mood of capitalism is overwhelming.

"So long as Japanese inflation is lower than America's and productivity is higher," he forecast, "the yen will continue to appreciate" in value against the dollar.

Therefore, growth is anticipated from current income, capital gains and currency appreciation, Schrimph said.

## Japan's economy has lesson for U.S.

By DONALD H. MAY  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — More than two decades ago, the United States taught a defeated Japan how to make its post-war economy more productive. Now the pupil has done so well, the teacher is taking lessons from it.

Congress' Joint Economic Committee Tuesday began an inquiry into how Japan has been able to make its productivity grow four times faster than that of the United States since the 1950s; France, Italy and Germany more than twice as fast as the United States.

Productivity — in this case, output per hour of work in the private economy — is becoming less and less a subject discussed only among businessmen and more and more a public issue.

Economists generally agree that it is only by increasing the rate of growth of

productivity that the United States can, in the long run, solve its problem of inflation and achieve a higher real standard of living for its people.

Productivity is involved in the health of the dollar and the extent to which U.S. jobs are lost to foreign competition.

In 1950, according to committee chairman Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, it took seven Japanese workers to produce what one American produced. By 1977, it took less than two Japanese to match one American.

In 1950, it took three German workers to equal the production of one American worker; now it takes 1.3 Germans.

Japan's productivity grew 8 percent in 1978; that of the United States only 0.3 percent.

So Bentsen called to the witness table Joji Arai, manager of the U.S. office of the Japan Productivity Center, established

with U.S. help in 1955, and asked him the secret.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Arai said, Japan gave preferential tax treatment to its export industries in order to earn foreign exchange with which to buy technology and new equipment from abroad.

Twenty-nine percent of Japan's output between 1962 and 1972 was invested in plants and equipment, Arai said, compared to 13 percent for the United States.

Japanese companies spent \$10 billion on research and development in 1977, about half the amount U.S. firms spent. But the Japanese economy is half the size of this country's. And all Japan's research was commercial, Arai said, while the U.S. research figure includes space and defense.

Japan, Arai said, has less of an adversary system of collective bargaining. It loses 1.5 million person-days per year to strikes compared 35 million for the U.S. in 1977.

## THE BATTALION

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Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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