

The only active political organization on the campus was the Young Communists. They were recruiting new members with care. I spent many hours in discussion with one member. I was critical of the "establishment," which encouraged him to believe that I might be a good prospect. The discussions served only to solidify my beliefs in the economic and political ideals that had been taught to me in school.

I continued to be critical of the Communists because I disagreed with their ideals, and of the establishment because IT WAS NOT LIVING UP TO MY IDEALS.

My time at the University of Oregon was important for another reason. It was there that I learned about the profession of public planning. One of the first courses I took was entitled "Survey of the Visual Arts," and one of the arts surveyed was "city and regional planning." The course was taught by a landscape architect. It did not take long to realize that the work of a planner dealt not only with land but also with people.

My mother had given me a great love of nature when I was a young boy, through her appreciation of it and the many weekend family hikes in the Cascade Mountains and on the Oregon beaches. Here was a chance to combine my first love with my increasing and already strong concern for the condition of man.

Without reasoning it out, or even wondering why, something clicked and I knew that was what I wanted to do: be a regional planner, for large regions. Never before or since have I experienced such an immediate, intense and lasting desire.

It was the summer of 1948. There were very few planning schools operating then. The instructor of my class was trying to get one started at the University. I stayed on for two more years, taking courses in the social sciences as well as architecture. By the summer of 1950, it was clear that a planning program would not be started at the University. Besides I needed and wanted to go to work.

The time at the University of Oregon was valuable in three other ways, besides firming up my belief in the American economic and political ideas and starting me on a public planning career.

A friend and I each purchased one of the first 3-speed English bicycles, just then starting to be imported. During three extended bike tours along the West Coast, I learned that life without the comforts and security of cities was possible and pleasant. It was a lesson used later in Alaska.

For some time I had wanted to marry, and, according to the prevailing standard, I was saving my virginity for that event. However, when the right girl had not yet appeared, at age 25, I entered, unprepared, into the world of sex. I learned later that such behavior was not only against common moral standards, but also against the law.

The fifth major event in my life at the University of Oregon was a rounding out, you might say, of my own personal philosophy. I had not been reared in a religious atmosphere and belonged to no church. My father had been reared as a Methodist and my mother as a Lutheran, but neither went to church often while I was growing up and did not make me attend; and, I did not attend.

So, not having a working religion, I fashioned one for myself, using my own experiences and what I had learned from others. I formulated definitions for important words, like love and hate, and freedom and happiness. At the time, I considered myself an agnostic.

My good mother lamented that I was "never the same" after the University of Oregon.

There were not many public planning jobs in the early 1950's. Most of the state planning programs that had been started in the late 1930's, to meet Federal requirements for public work grants, were shut down during World War II, when the Federal money was turned off. Federal grants for city planning were not to begin until mid-decade, with passage of the Federal Housing Act of 1954.

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The cold truth of the matter was that there were more than enough experienced planners left over from the earlier programs to fill the jobs. In addition, I had no degree in planning.

I took what jobs I could find in social work and on a surveying crew. Finally, in January, 1952, I got my first planning job. It was a planning aid, at \$250.00 per month, in the Tucson City-Pima County Planning Department. It was a good job. I worked mostly on administrative details for zoning matters, but also was allowed to prepare a plan for the replating and zoning of an undeveloped part of Tucson. I don't know if my plan was ever used; for soon after I had gone to work I was recalled to active duty in the Navy.

MORE PREPARATION

From July, 1952, through June, 1954, I served as an Aerologist (Lt. j.g.) at Pearl Harbor and aboard a small aircraft carrier. The carrier operated mostly in the West Pacific, from Korea to Hong Kong. The ship was docked in Japan a lot because its budget for fuel allowed it to operate at sea only about one-third of the time.

The opportunities that I had to observe the Pacific Island and Oriental cultures gave me a new perspective of my own. I acquired an even greater appreciation for the liberty and the standards of living that we do enjoy in the United States. In addition, I observed in Japan the well ordered, aesthetic lives for which the Japanese are famous. I saw that people could live together in harmony and beauty.

This two year tour in the Navy gave me my first opportunity to be an administrator. My main job was to prepare weather forecasts and typhoon warnings both at Pearl and aboard ship. Aboard ship, I was also a division officer and managed the twelve man "weather shack" crew.

While stationed in Hawaii, I met and married a girl who was to be my wife until 1968. This was a first marriage for her, but the second one for me. I had been married to another girl who bore me a daughter. The child was later adopted by her stepfather.

My new wife traveled throughout Japan and to Hong Kong, meeting me at the ports where the ship docked. It was a rather sporadic and extended honeymoon. Soon after my release from the Navy, for a second time, we went to Berkeley where I had been accepted by the University of California as a graduate student in the Department of City and Regional Planning.

The planning curriculum for planners lasted two years. The planning curriculum was a good one. Its main emphasis was on preparing the students to administer an urban land use planning program. There were very few regional or state planning jobs in the nation at that time. There was not much course work on natural resource, social, or economic planning. Fortunately, prior courses helped me to fill in the blanks.

The California curriculum for planners lasted two years, and in 1956 I received a Master of City Planning degree. My thesis topic was Urban Dispersal for National Defense Purposes. I did, and still do, believe that a civil defense against limited nuclear warfare is possible and desirable in the United States.

My first job as a professional planner was for a research arm of the University of California. The University had a Federal contract to assemble information "basic to the

preparation of a national radiological defense plan." I helped in the organizational phase, and then headed the housing element of the project. In the latter position, I coordinated the work of up to twelve professional and subprofessional members of the staff.

Much to my disappointment, the Federal Civil Defense Administration decided to restrict rather than expand the scope of the contract work. The Nation still does not have a useful program or plan for civil or radiological defense in the event of war.

After the University job, which lasted 18 months, I went to Hawaii for a three-month contract, where I helped to organize the Territorial Planning Office.

Next was a job with the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration. My first task was to survey and report on municipal land use planning programs and needs in the state. This was followed by assisting with the drafting of legislation to create a comprehensive state planning program for New Mexico, with emphasis on water resource planning. After passage of the legislation, I organized and administered the new program. As I recall, the work consisted mainly of 1) promoting and administering a planning assistance program for cities, 2) preparation of a public works program analysis, and 3) drafting a detailed proposal for the comprehensive state planning program.

New Mexico had some bad political practices: People who had moved away, or had died, somehow managed to vote in the elections. Other people sold their votes, for as low as five dollars an election. When there was a change in administration from one party to the other (which could happen every two years) there were mass firings of "their" political faithfuls and hiring of "our" political faithfuls. Also, there was the practice of assessing, in the form of "donations," two per cent of an employee's pay, ostensibly to be used for campaigning to keep "our" party in power.

It took me a while to hear about these practices, and only two affected me directly. I was hired by a Republican administration six months before the end of one term. The upcoming election was going to be a hot one. I was asked for my donation. Well, that was an insult. I was not going to pay some politician for my job, and I told him I would donate "five cents."

No doubt I would have been fired on the spot if it had not been for the upcoming election. When the party in power lost the election my boss was gracious enough to not fire me in the last days of his tenure. For some strange reason the new Democratic governor did not have me fired either, and I still did not make any donations.

The term of governor was only two years, and wouldn't you know it: The administration that had originally hired me got back into office. Four days later I got my notice, effective in two hours. Later the Democrats got back in power. My detailed proposal for a comprehensive statewide planning program was resurrected and revised. For a time New Mexico had the most active planning effort in the Nation.

STILL TRYING

It was January, 1961. I wanted to continue in state planning work, and traveled about the country, seeking that kind of employment.

One job was with the U.S. Housing and Home Finance Agency, in Washington, D.C. I did not know it at the time, but I was being considered to head the entire Federal Urban Planning Assistance program.

Of two tasks assigned, one was to write a paper on the ways to improve the administration of the program. I recommended, among other things, that the current assistance program be phased out after all municipalities had had a chance to prepare one plan with Federal help. I reasoned that public planning was the biggest bargain of any government activity; and, if the municipalities did not think so after their first try at a comprehensive land use plan, then the Federal Government should leave them to their own devices. I was not selected for the job.

Another job that could have been permanent was with the Wisconsin state planning program. Within a very short time, the man who headed the program disclosed that he would like to be "a benevolent king." I did not, and do not, care for kings, benevolent or otherwise. I quit. He was later elected Lieutenant Governor.

There was one other short term contract, to help the State of Massachusetts prepare an application for a Federal planning grant, but that was all. My desire to stay in state planning work gave way to the need to make money. I went to work for the County of San Mateo, California, planning department, with the understanding that I would leave when I could get a state planning job. The family stayed in New Mexico. We had three daughters.

Most of my time with the County was devoted to one zoning case. The Pacific Gas and Electric Company had asked for a variance to widen an existing, but unused, power line easement. The easement more or less paralleled Skyline Boulevard, south of San Francisco. The time was mid-1962. There were no environmental protection laws. The area concerned, so far, had no steel-tower power lines, which was the proposed use of the enlarged easement. It was, in my opinion, one of the choicest areas in the world, having exceptional natural beauty and being next to the fascinating city of San Francisco.

P.G. & E. claimed that the line must be built almost immediately or San Francisco would be subject to brownouts, and that there was no other practical way to bring the needed power to the city. My first impulse was to hire an electrical power transmission engineer to analyze the situation for the County. None could be found who would take the job. P.G. & E. is the largest private utility in the world. So, I learned how to make the necessary calculations myself. There were power lines running all over the place already, and my calculations showed that it would be at least two years before the City would run out of power. There was time to do a thorough study to see if there was another, less damaging method to get more power to San Francisco.

To make a long story short, I helped to hold the proponents at bay for two Planning Commission hearings, but not the third. Shortly before the third hearing, a majority of the Planning Commission members, including two who had obvious conflicts of interest, called me into a secret meeting and one of them said, "Take it easy Hopkins. This is just window dressing." Nevertheless, I made the best presentation that I could. My boss was the Planning Director, not the commission.

ALASKA AT LAST

Not long after that fateful third meeting, I was offered the position of Director of Planning and Research at the Alaska State Department of Economic Development and Planning. I went to work in Juneau in January, 1963, and stayed in that job for two and a half years. It added substantially to my education in "politics."

I accepted the position believing that much of work would be to help prepare a general development plan for the State. The job was doubly good because, in addition to being able to work on a statewide plan, the plan was going to be for Alaska—one of two states I had most wanted to visit since boyhood.

I found an inexpensive apartment on South Franklin Street and started to work. My family would join me in June, when school was out.

The first rude awakening came soon, when I learned that the Governor, William Egan, and my boss, the Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning, were practically not speaking to each other. There was no working relationship. The reason for their falling out I never learned, but my boss was an ambitious man and wanted to do a good job. The Governor had recently fired another commissioner, over which there had

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I believe that the principal qualifications of persons who fill these positions (and of the Governor, too) should be, in order of importance: 1) honest, 2) technically able, 3) hard worker, 4) loves Alaska, 5) concerned about the future of the United States, and 6) recognizes the interdependence of all people and their resources.

ENERGY

resources of Alaska are huge. They can be used as the foundation upon which to build a superior Alaskan civilization, or they can be used to support other civilizations, or both.

Laws governing the use of energy resources, I believe, are aimed mainly at maximizing dollar income, or at restricting use.

I favor a complete examination of the energy related laws and energy resource information to learn how the resources can be used best. This effort should be part of a larger program by all Alaskans to plan for their futures.

UNEMPLOYMENT

is unnecessary. Of course, a person should not be required to work if he chooses to live on other private income, and persons unable to work should be aided; but, employment should and can be available to all able persons who want to work.

Alaska's government can help by (1) learning and projecting Alaskan employment opportunities, (2) providing free education to prepare for those opportunities, (3) maintaining an open, competitive economy, (4) assisting people who want to start their own businesses, and (5) offering public employment, at substantially reduced rates of pay, to persons without private employment.

With such a program I think we can reduce welfare costs, provide useful public services and greatly increase our standard of living.

CRIME

can be nearly eliminated, I believe, by relying more on individual initiative and less on police action.

I favor the following changes in our crime prevention program:

(1) define crime to include only those acts which directly and significantly damage another person or property, (2) release all persons currently serving sentences for crimes which are not included within the new definition, (3) give amnesty to persons who have committed crimes (other than the most serious) prior to a specified date, if they declare their crimes and make restitution where possible, (4) ensure that the new criminal laws are fair to all persons, (5) provide, after the amnesty, for much more diligent pursuit and punishment of criminals, (6) provide free educational and cultural activities for self-improvement, and (7) eliminate unemployment.

I think it is possible for a society to be nearly free of crime if it is willing to take strong preventive action.

SECRECY

in government is a "license to steal" because the secrets are kept only from the general public. Officials and employees on the inside know and they can tell their family and friends.

When government agencies make new regulations or new expenditures for public works or proposals for new laws, there is usually some way for a few private citizens (or officials or employees) to take advantage of the changes when the know about them before the general public is told. Only by keeping the public's business public can we be assured of honest government.

I believe there should be no secret files or secret "in house" reports or secret proposals in government offices, including the Governor's Office. In addition, there should be no secret requests for government action by citizens, firms or other governments. All requests should be in writing and open to public examination.

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