

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1225 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
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AGENDA

THE POSSIBLE SOCIETY: AN EXPLORATION OF PRACTICAL POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE DECADE AHEAD

The Tidewater Inn, Easton, Maryland
April 26-28, 1979

Thursday, April 26

10:00 - 12:00	Registration	
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch	Crystal Room
1:30 - 2:30	<u>The Possible Society</u>	Gold Room
	Jean Houston, President Association for Humanistic Psychology and Director, Foundation for Mind Research	
2:30 - 3:30	<u>Organizational Changes: The Wholistic Challenge</u>	Gold Room
	Donald N. Michael, Professor of Planning and Public Policy, Professor of Psychology, and Program Director, Center for Research on Utilization of Scientific Knowledge University of Michigan	
3:30 - 5:00	<u>Small Group Workshops</u>	
	Group 1 - Gold Room	Group 6 - Blue Room
	Group 2 - Gold Room	Group 7 - Blue Room
	Group 3 - Gold Room	Group 8 - Garden Room
	Group 4 - Gold Room	Group 9 - Room 348
	Group 5 - Reception Room	

Discussion Questions:

1. Where are we in time and history?
2. Do current levels of breakdown presage new possibilities for breakthrough and, if so, how and in what manner?
3. What are some of the potentials of human beings that are not being used? How could they be evoked in the settings in which you work?
4. How can we empower each other to make better use of our talents and responsibilities?

Discussion Questions (continued):

5. How can we move beyond fragmentation toward a greater sense of the common weal?
6. Do you see a way out of the mess we're in without a major change in perspective?
7. Do you agree or disagree that systemic problems require systemic solutions?
8. What do you see happening to the processes of governance over the next decade? Then what? Over the next two decades? Then what? What will become of you? So, what are the risks and options that you now need to consider?
9. If we don't acknowledge uncertainty and embrace error, how are we going to be able to deal with increasing disorder in our activities?

5:00 - 6:00	<u>Social Hour</u> (Cash Bar)	Blue Room
6:00 - 7:00	Dinner	Gold Room
7:00 - 8:00	<u>Humanistic Views of the Political Scene</u>	Gold Room

Walter Anderson, Contributing Editor
Human Behavior magazine

~~8:00~~³ - ~~9:00~~³

Small Group Workshops

Group 1 - Gold Room	Group 6 - Blue Room
Group 2 - Gold Room	Group 7 - Blue Room
Group 3 - Gold Room	Group 8 - Garden Room
Group 4 - Gold Room	Group 9 - Room 348
Group 5 - Reception Room	

Discussion Questions:

1. How might a humanistic perspective on a major public policy issue, such as welfare, differ from a psycho-analytical or behavioral one?
2. What might the various perspectives (psychoanalytical, behavioral, humanistic) have to say about the best way to organize and run a federal agency?
3. What, if any, is the political significance of the human potential movement? How might it be socially productive? How might it be dangerous or unproductive?

Discussion Questions (continued):

4. Is American civilization undergoing a major change? What are the clearest indicators of it? What kinds of political-social issues are likely to surface in the near future?

9:00 - 10:00 Reports on Small Group Workshops Gold Room

Plenary Session.

Friday, April 27

7:00 - 8:00 Exercises (Optional) Gold Room

8:00 - 8:45 Breakfast Dining Room

8:45 - 9:30 Applications to Education: A Case Study Gold Room

Jerry L. Fletcher, Senior Policy Analyst
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Education
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

9:30 - 10:15 The Social and Political Implications of Wholistic Health Gold Room

George Leonard, President-Elect
Association for Humanistic Psychology

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some additional ways our society is using "Fast Temporary Relief of Symptoms" in dealing with major problems?
2. What are some additional ways in which our society is using "Linear Intervention" in dealing with major problems?
3. To what degree do the service delivery institutions of our society create dependency in their clients, rather than independence? What data would be relevant to an examination of this question?
4. Suggest wholistic alternatives to the above.

10:15 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:45 Alternative Futures: A View Beyond Gold Room
Economics

Hazel Henderson, Member of the Advisory
Council, Office of Technology Assessment

Discussion Questions:

1. How shall we deal with the paradox that we may have to use centralized institutions and their power and machinery in order to decentralize?
2. How are we to face and manage the decline of obsolete institutions?
3. What would constitute the best definition of personal flexibility in a time of transition? How would we inventory our own personal and community resources?

11:45 - 1:30 Luncheon Workshops Crystal Room

Discussion Questions:

1. What activities need initiation in your setting to begin or to facilitate a move toward systemic planning (at the level of self, group, organization?)
2. How would you think through a transition scenario for your institution?
3. How are we to recycle our own roles and ourselves as we help our institutions to recycle?
4. How can we build networks for alternatives, change, and interpersonal support and sharing?

1:30 - 3:00 Action Agenda Setting Gold Room

3:00 - 4:00 Symposium Summary Gold Room

Plenary Session

4:00 - 5:00 Free Time

5:00 - 6:00 Social Hour (Cash Bar) Room 348

6:00 - 7:30 Buffet Dinner Dining Room

7:30 - 8:30 Specific Applications To Be Announced

8:30 - 9:30 Theory and Practice of Developing Human
Capacities To Be Announced

Saturday, April 28

7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 - 12:00	<u>Implementing a Continuing Network</u>	Colonial Room
	Plenary Session	
12:00	Adjourn	

ATTENDEES

SYMPOSIUM ON: THE POSSIBLE SOCIETY

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