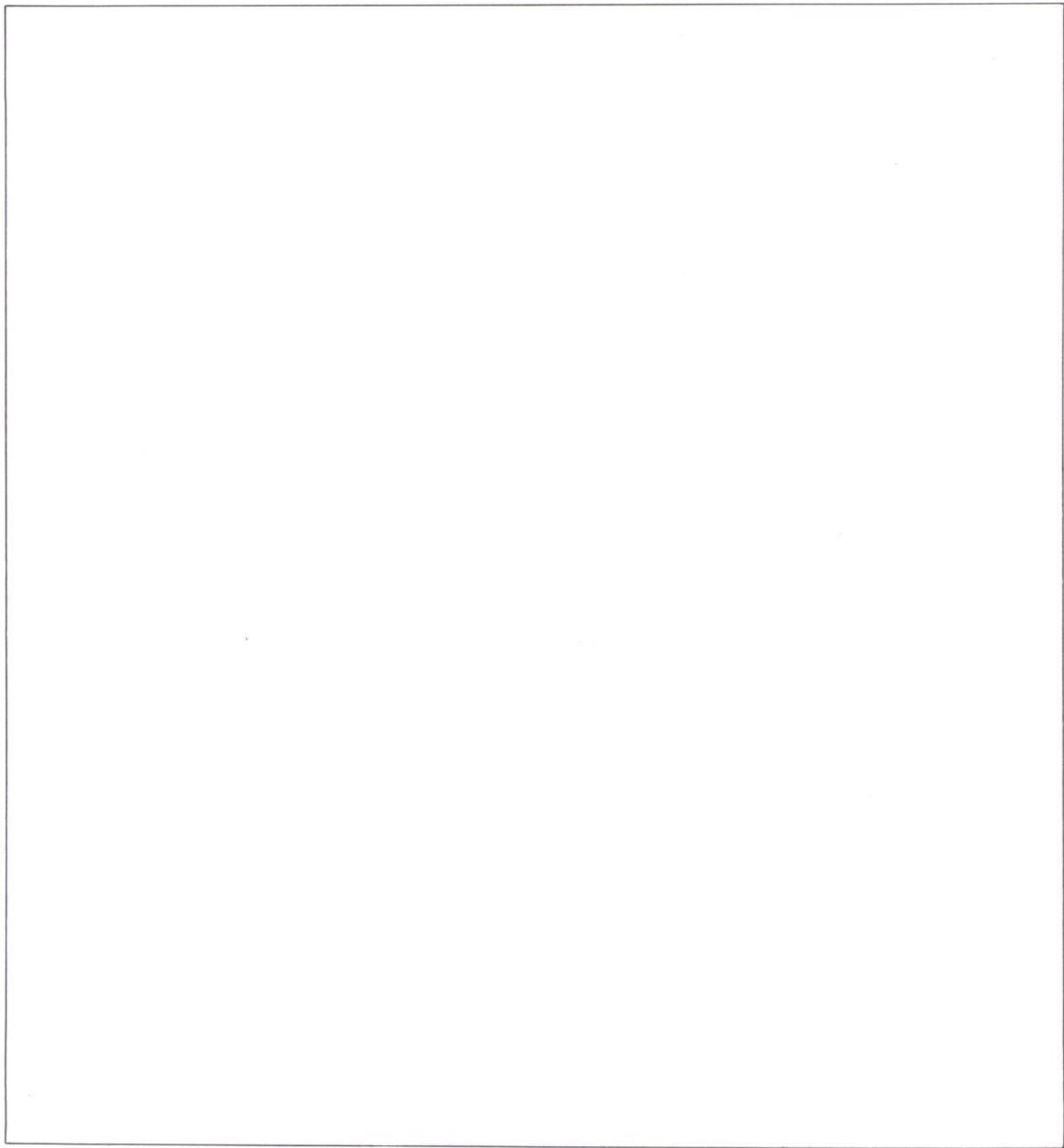


MAGUIRE

TOWN
7/6
MEETING

Rich

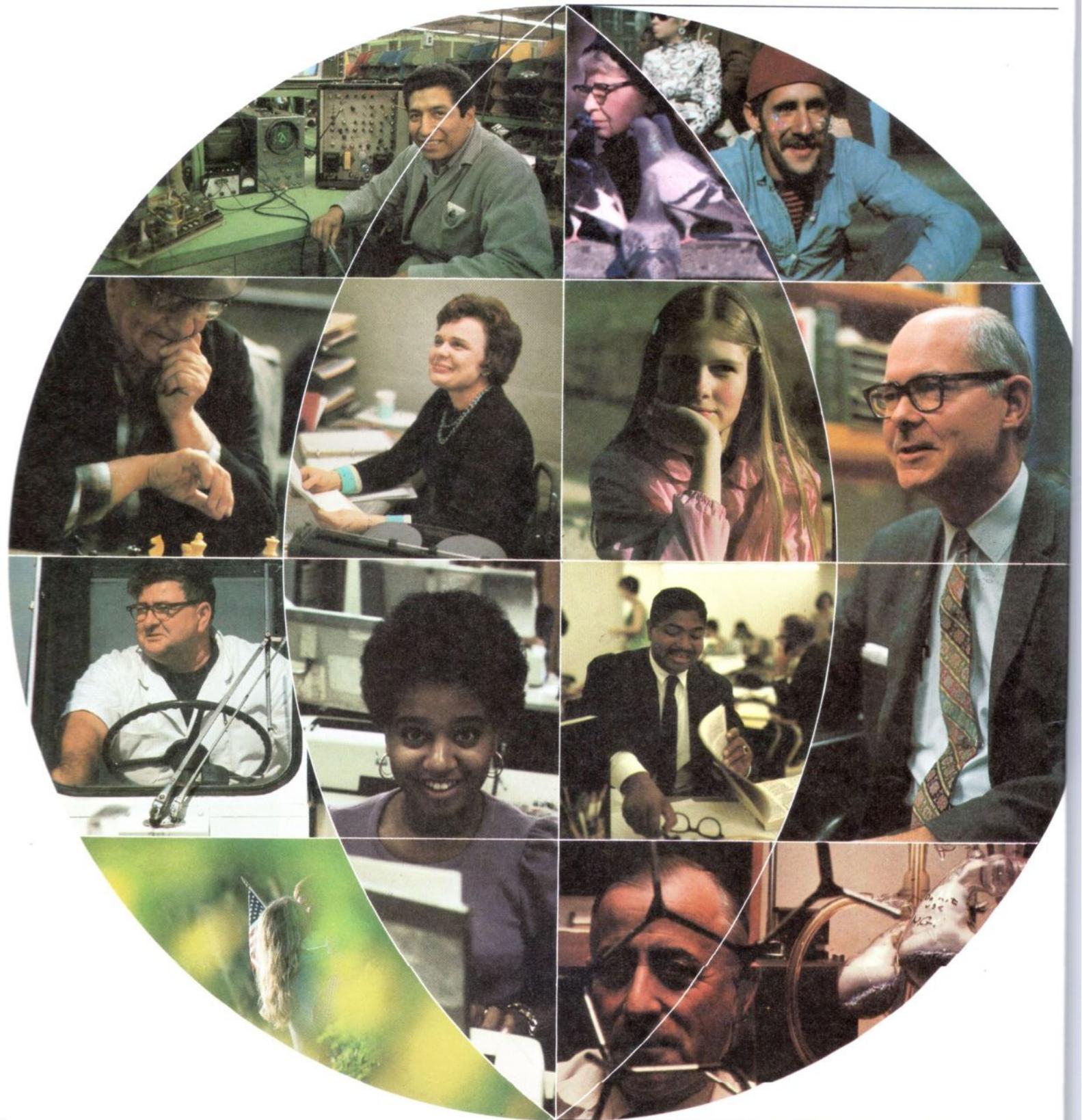




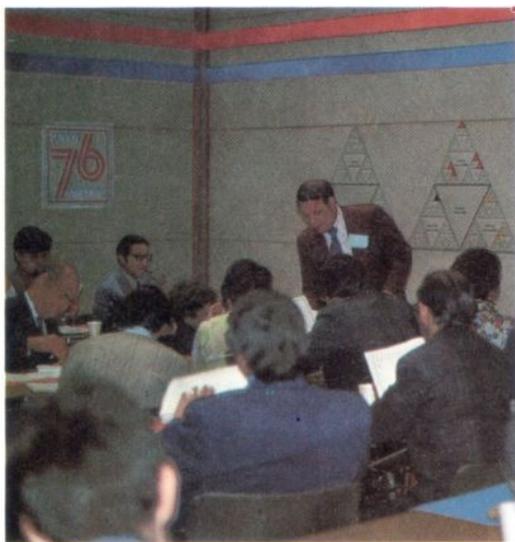
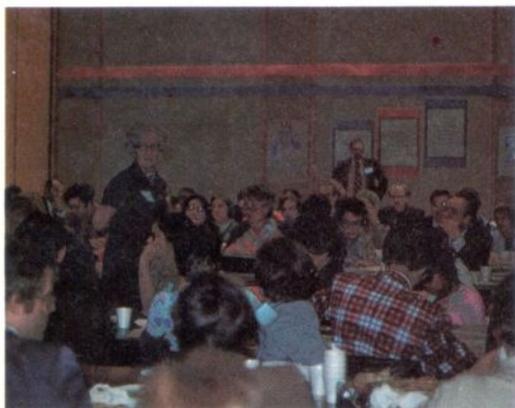
TOWN

76

MEETING



Welcome to **TOWN MEETING '76**. At this Town Meeting, we will be discussing the challenges facing our community and our nation, and will be creating proposals to meet those challenges effectively. Through this meeting, we hope to recapture something of the spirit of those early town meetings which played such an important role in building the nation. This Town Meeting is one of 5,000 scheduled in communities in the United States as part of the Bicentennial era. The final work of the 5,000 Town Meetings will be compiled and merged to create a new practical vision for the country's next two hundred years.



At these meetings, even the lowest mechanics discuss upon the most important points of government, with the utmost freedom.

Anonymous Tory description of town meetings. 1768



WELCOMING

Meet your friends and neighbors at 9:00 a.m. over coffee and doughnuts. The Welcoming begins the day's activities with a brief presentation on The New World of America's third century.

CHALLENGES

Join one of the morning workshops and help identify the basic challenges to your community's future. You begin by analyzing the economic, political and cultural issues in your community, using your Town Meeting Workbook.

INTERLUDE

Gather for a festive luncheon interlude featuring local entertainment, group singing and special guests. The afternoon begins with a brief presentation on The New Human, his opportunities and responsibilities.

PROPOSALS

Plunge into an exciting afternoon workshop developing practical proposals for meeting the challenges in your community. Or help a group create a new story, song and symbol of our heritage and destiny.

PLENARY

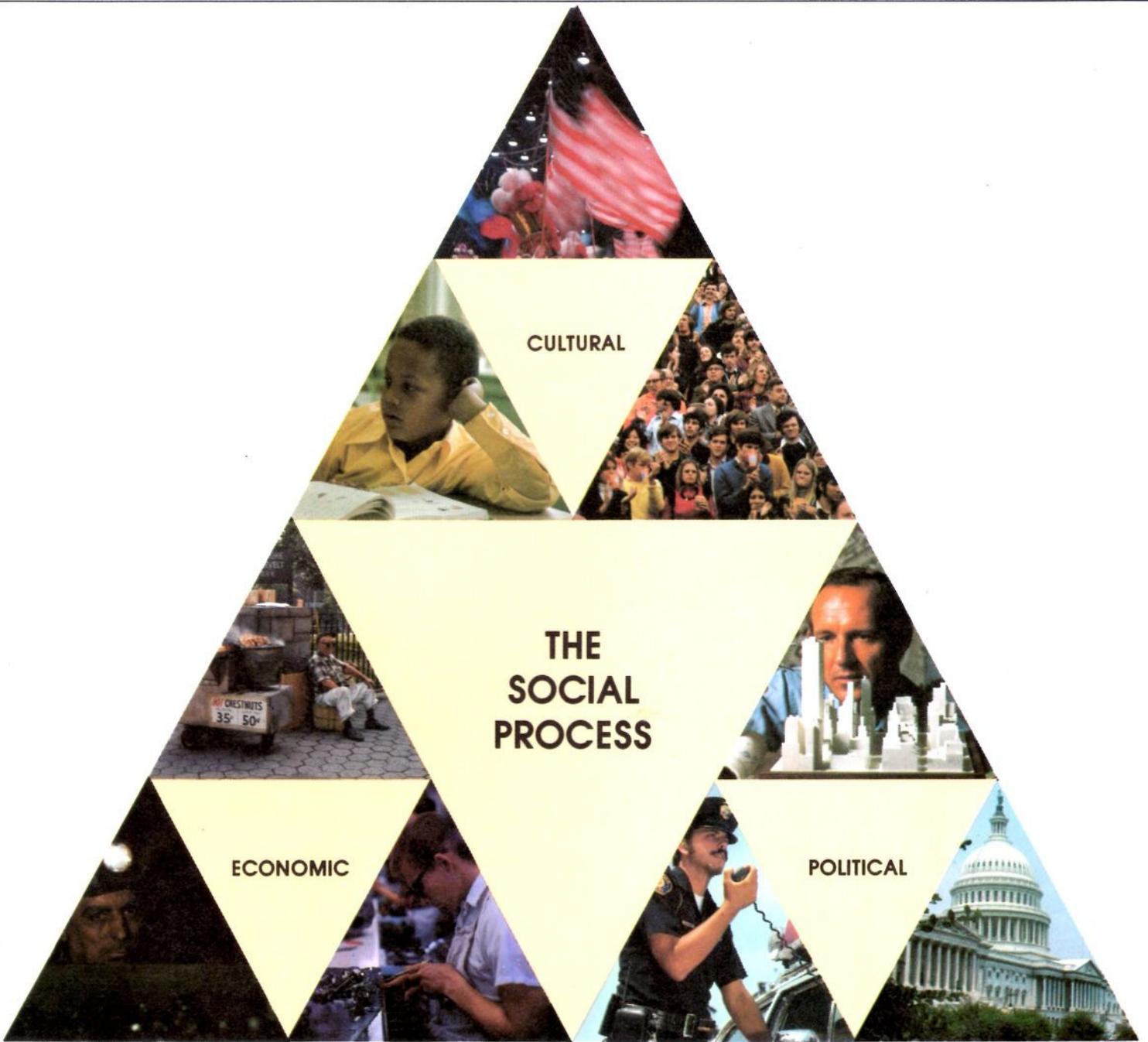
Come to the Plenary session and hear the workshop reports. Celebrate the day's accomplishments by singing your new song. At 5:00 p.m. take home your copy of the Town Meeting Report, containing your community's challenges, proposals, story, song and symbol. Leave with a renewed sense of the American revolutionary spirit.



THE NEW WORLD

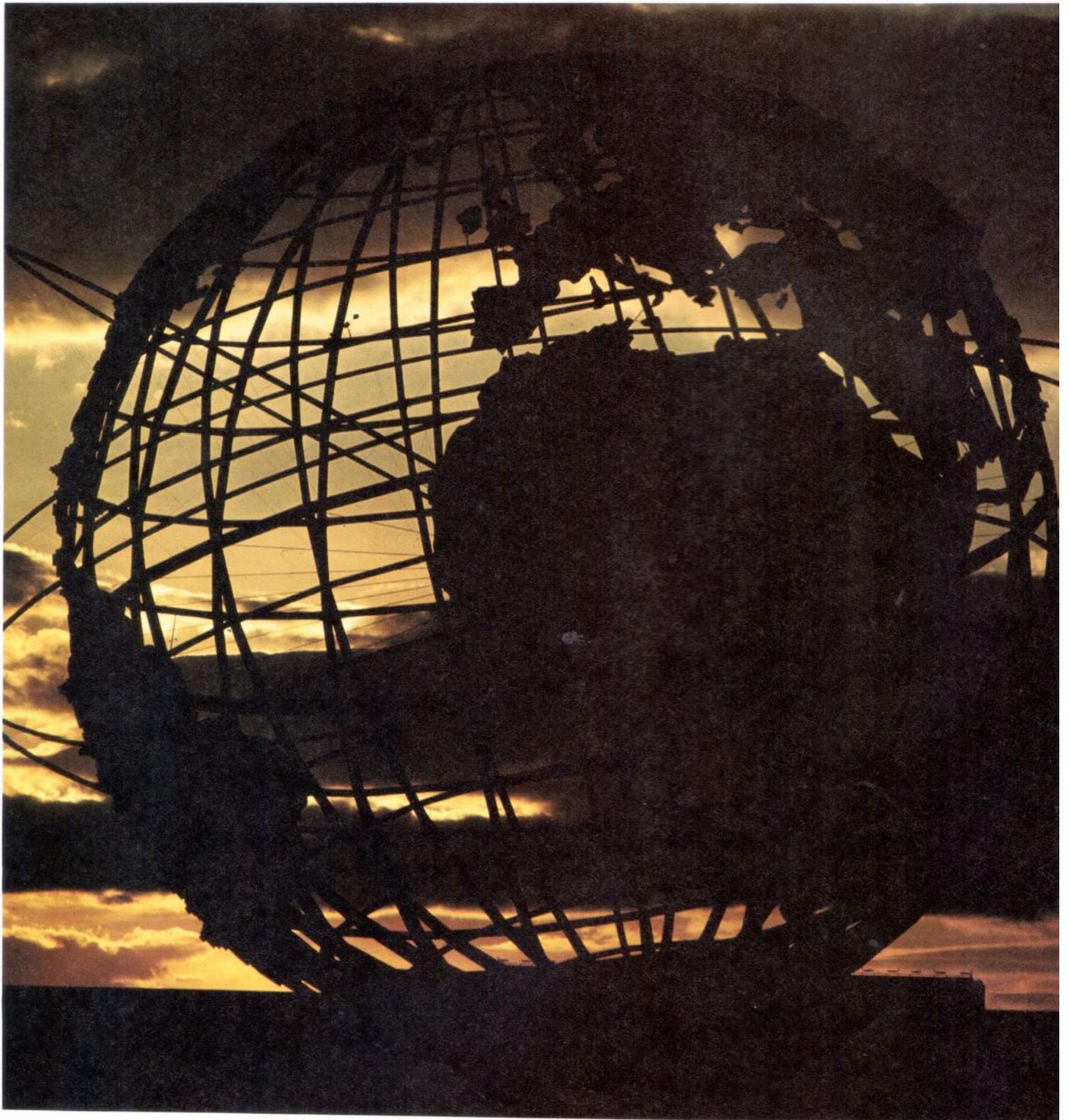
The Profound Times	The New Settlement	The Great Resurgence	The Town Meeting
Transition Era	Emerging Community	Nation's Rebirth	Historical Reality
Dynamic Sociality	Post-Modern Wilderness	Practical Vision	Human Dynamic
Unexpected Vista	Social Pioneer	Grassroots Awakening	Interdependence Declaration
Global Phenomenon	Reconstructed Earth	Local Initiative	Singular Happening

Notes



To see it in our power to make a world happy—to teach mankind the art of being so—to exhibit, on the theatre of the universe, a character hitherto unknown—and to have, as it were, a new creation entrusted to our hands, are honors that command reflection, and can neither be too highly estimated, nor too gratefully received.

Thomas Paine, 1783



the present challenges

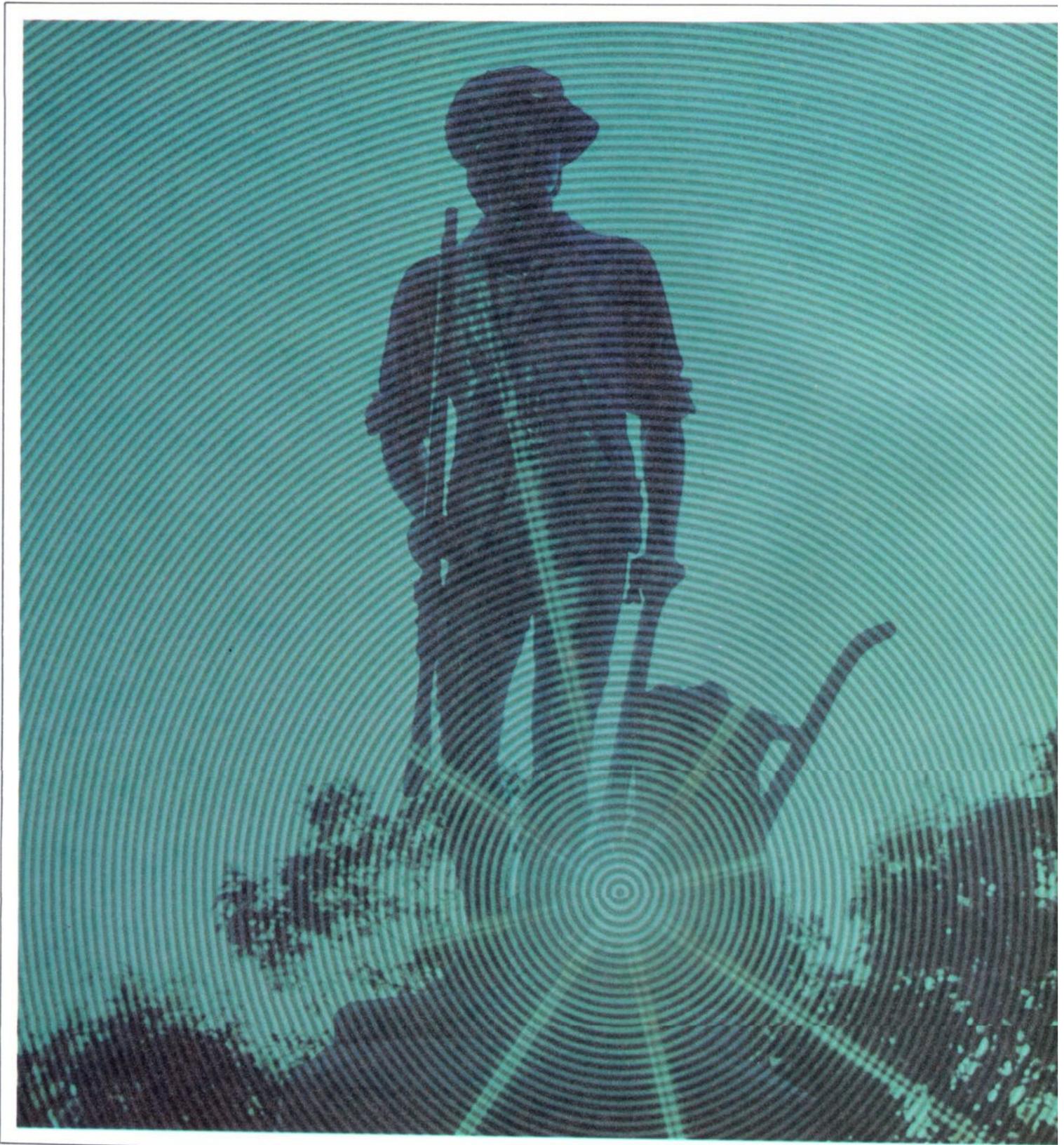
If there is any period one would desire to be born in, is it not the age of revolution; when the old and the new stand side by side, and admit to being compared; when the energies of all men are searched by fear and by hope; when the historic glories of the old, can be compensated by the rich possibilities of the new era? This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.

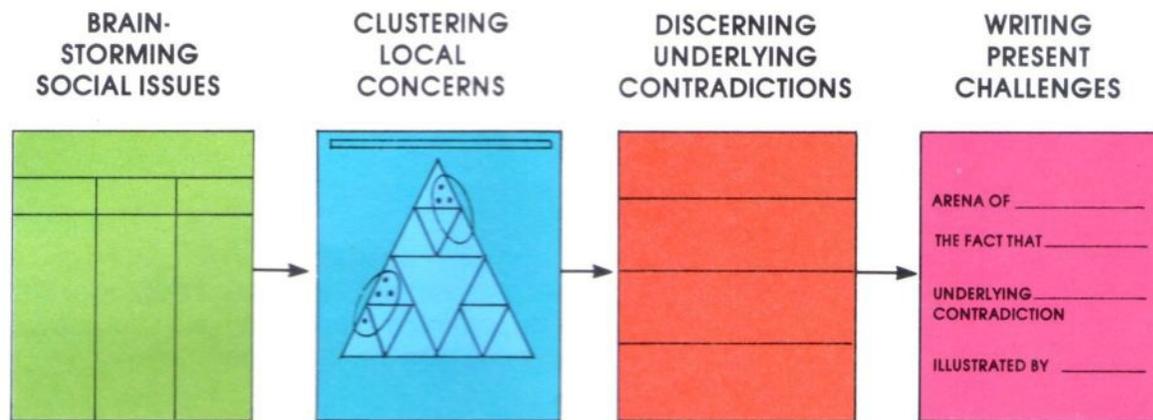
Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1837

What appears to be a breaking down of civilization may well be simply the breaking up of old forms by life itself.

Joyce Carol Oates

the present challenges workshop





In the morning session, the Town Meeting focuses on the basic economic, political and cultural issues of the local community as part of America and the world today. Meeting in four workshop guilds, the groups begin by examining the community's vision of its future—its hopes and dreams. Then the guilds look at the social issues which get in the way of these dreams and desires. The next step is to analyze these issues and group them into clusters. Then, in the following step, the guilds look at the contradictions underlying the blocks which prevent the successful resolution of these issues. The group next discerns beneath these contradictions the single underlying contradiction that is the key to dealing effectively with all the issues in the cluster. Finally, these insights are written into sentences on the present challenges which confront the community. These are the fundamental concerns the community must address in order to move creatively toward its own vision of the future.

Brainstorming the Social Issues



In the first part of the workshop each guild compiles a list of the economic, political and cultural issues confronting this local community. Working individually and then as a guild, each person contributes insights about the community's operating vision and its current social issues.

1. To begin with, discuss briefly as a group the community's hopes and dreams for its future. These hopes and dreams are the community's operating vision. You may wish to take notes on the next page.
2. After this conversation on hopes and dreams, individually write down in short phrases the social issues blocking realization of the community's vision. To do this, list three economic issues, three political issues and three cultural issues in the chart on the next page.
3. Next, star one issue in each column which you consider to be the most critical issue in this community. These issues will be your three most important concerns
4. Now use the rest of the page to record the items each person starred as they are read aloud and written on the wall chart. If any critical issues have been overlooked, add them to the guild's list.

The fate of liberty and democracy are finally entrusted to the hands of the American people.

George Washington, 1791

1

OPERATING VISION - NOTES

*Neighbors must help each other
Care for each other
Everyone working*

2-3 ECONOMIC ISSUES

- 1 Spend on our community rather than our self
- 2 Vacant lots destroyed
- 3 Set up programs for young people

POLITICAL ISSUES

- 1 Keep people informed
- 2 Know what to do to get something done
- 3 Community unity

CULTURAL ISSUES

- 1 Community solidarity
- 2 Diversity of culture
- 3 Bad image

4

- E-1
- E-2
- E-3
- E-4
- E-5
- E-6
- E-7
- E-8
- E-9
- E-10
- E-11
- E-12
- E-13
- E-14
- E-15
- E-16
- E-17
- E-18
- E-19
- E-20

- P-1
- P-2
- P-3
- P-4
- P-5
- P-6
- P-7
- P-8
- P-9
- P-10
- P-11
- P-12
- P-13
- P-14
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- P-16
- P-17
- P-18
- P-19
- P-20

- C-1
- C-2
- C-3
- C-4
- C-5
- C-6
- C-7
- C-8
- C-9
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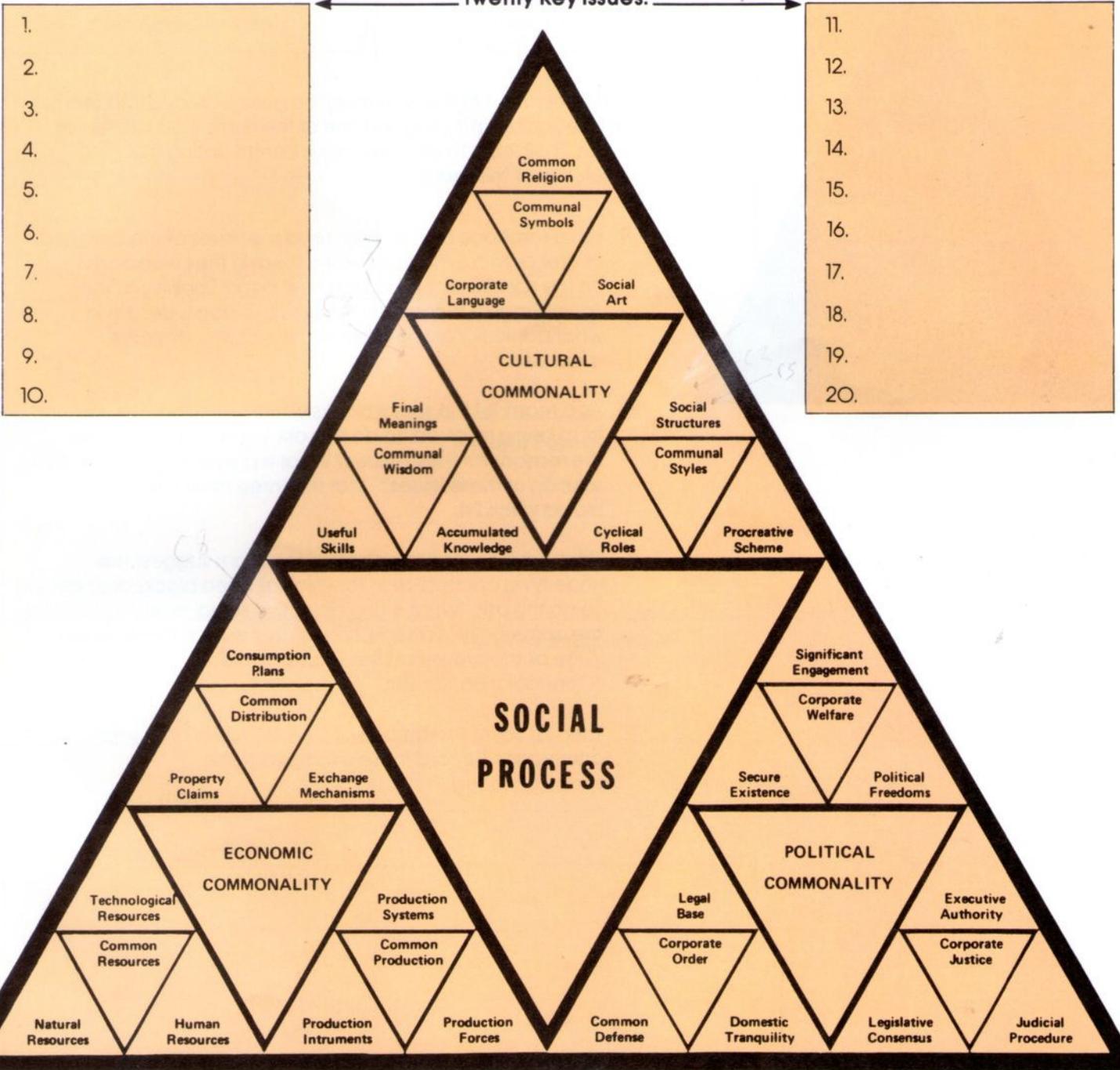


Clustering the Local Concerns

In the second part of the workshop the guild determines the most critical issues facing the total community. Working together, the guild selects 20 issues from the list and locates each of them on the Social Process triangle. These issues are then grouped into clusters of related concerns and prioritized.

5. Individually review the guild's list on page 13. As you do this, place a check (✓) beside the five issues that seem most significant in the community. Now, as a guild, select the 20 most important issues for the community's future and place them in the blanks beside the triangle on the next page.
6. As a guild, look at the triangle on the wall like the one on your next page. Find the smallest triangle that most closely relates to each issue, and place a dot with the number of the issue in that triangle. Plot all 20 issues on the triangles.
7. Now look just at the dots on the triangles. Notice which ones cluster together. As a guild, draw a circle around each of four or five of these clusters of dots.
8. Next, number each of the clusters, giving first priority to the one with the most dots. These clusters disclose the group's mind about the crucial issues facing the community.

Twenty Key Issues:



This diagram is a way to represent the complex interrelationships of society. It is a useful instrument for organizing data and analyzing social issues.



Discerning the Underlying Contradictions

In the third part of the workshop the guild is divided into teams. Then each team is assigned one of the numbered clusters of issues. Their job is to discern what is contradicting the resolution of the issues.

9. Have someone on the team read the issues of the assigned cluster as team members copy them in their workbooks on the specified chart on the next page. Looking at the Social Process triangle on the previous page, decide in what particular arena of society this cluster of issues is located.
10. As a team, list the social blocks which keep these issues from being resolved. To do this, ask yourselves "What are the reasons for these issues? What is preventing the creative solution of these issues?" Star the three most important blocks in this list.
11. Next, have several members of the team suggest the underlying contradiction to which all three blocks are pointing. To do this ask, "What is one objective social reality confronting the community in attempting to deal with all these issues?" Write all the answers in the space marked "Contradiction Names."
12. Then list several examples of this contradiction in your community. Record these examples in the space provided.



Writing the Present Challenges

In the fourth part of the workshop, the guild, working in teams and units, writes up the discussion of underlying contradictions for use in the afternoon session. Each team writes a sentence for its assigned cluster which states the present challenge to the community in creating its future.

13. Now the team will divide into units of at least three people each. Review your notes on page 17 with the other members of your unit. Then summarize the team discussion in three short phrases on the next page. In these you will be describing the social blocks, the underlying contradiction, and the local illustrations.
14. Next, as units, write a short sentence on the next page describing each of these three elements. Each sentence should be 10 to 25 words long. One sentence will describe the social blocks, another sentence the underlying contradiction, and a third the local illustrations of that contradiction.
15. Gather as a team and read the sentences aloud. Note their points of similarity and difference and select the best phrases for each of the three parts of the final challenge statement. Create a title by using a three word phrase describing the contradiction. Write it in the box on the next page.
16. Then appoint three team members to write the final one-sentence statement. To do this put the phrases selected in Step 15 into the challenge statement form. Then read the statement as a team for final corrections. Copy it on the wall chart and on the document production form.

A people is traveling fast to destruction when individuals consider their interests as distinct from those of the public.

John Dickinson, 1768

	Social Blocks	Underlying Contradiction	Local Illustrations
13	Short Phrase	Short Phrase	Short Phrase
14	Descriptive Sentence	Descriptive Sentence	Descriptive Sentence
15	Best Phrases	Best Phrases	Best Phrases

15

Contradiction Title _____

16

Economic-Political-Cultural

CHALLENGE STATEMENT

In the arena of _____
arena of society

the fact that _____
social blocks

indicates that the underlying contradiction is _____
underlying contradiction

This contradiction is illustrated by _____
local illustrations

