

Nathan Glazer (Remarks given by Stephen Burbank)

I first met Martin and Margy Meyerson through David Riesman in the late 1940s. I was beginning to work with Riesman on the project that became in 1950 the book *The Lonely Crowd*, and he told me about these two young and attractive city planners, who were publishing a journal on planning and architecture, *Task*, and gave me a copy. City planning was then entering a period of optimism, intellectual excitement, even exuberance. There were cities to rebuild after wartime destruction, new cities to be built for capitals of new countries, cities to be expanded for rising populations, and Martin and Margy were in the center of all of it. Riesman had a place for them in our project, they responded, and we spent the summer in a cottage in the woods near Riesman's farm in Vermont working on the project. It created a friendship that never waned through the many phases of Martin's career.

City planning then meant physical form, design, but it soon expanded, and Martin became a figure of significance in this expansion. The idea of planning spread to take into account social problems, health, the needs of various groups, and most significantly the realities of politics and power as against planners' visions. Planning then ran head-on into the intractable problem of race in American society, and Martin played a key role in bringing that problem into the central place in the practice of city planning that it has held since, when he wrote, with Edward Banfield, *Politics, Planning, and the Public Interest*.

Martin went on to create the Joint Center for Urban Studies at Harvard and MIT, which plunged into the issues that were then afflicting American cities--racial rioting, urban renewal gone awry, crime, the decline of urban schools, all the issues that now dominated planning. When I began to work on the project that became the book *Beyond the Melting Pot*, a study of the ethnic groups of New York City, the Joint Center was the ideal place where the project could be housed and my work with Martin entered a new dimension.

In 1963, we both ended up, new arrivals, at the University of California in Berkeley, where Martin had come to head as Dean the school of architecture and planning. We were all almost immediately swept up in the turmoil of the Free Speech movement, which became the first explosion in a wave of student revolt that spread across the United States, and around the world. As Berkeley sought a new Chancellor--the old one driven out by the disorder--, we all turned to Martin. How can one detect in someone who has never been so tested the qualities that enable one to deal with turmoil and to still protect the essential qualities of a great institution? Many of us, from those who knew him to those at the University who had barely met the new dean of planning and architecture, turned to him at this moment, and Martin for the first time headed a great university. I believe he began to see in that role the right place for his enormous talents, his knowledge, his interests in so many fields.

When Martin was passed over for the permanent Chancellorship at Berkeley, he accepted the offer to head the expanding Buffalo campus of the State University of New York, a challenge to both his experience in planning, and his experience in heading a great

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