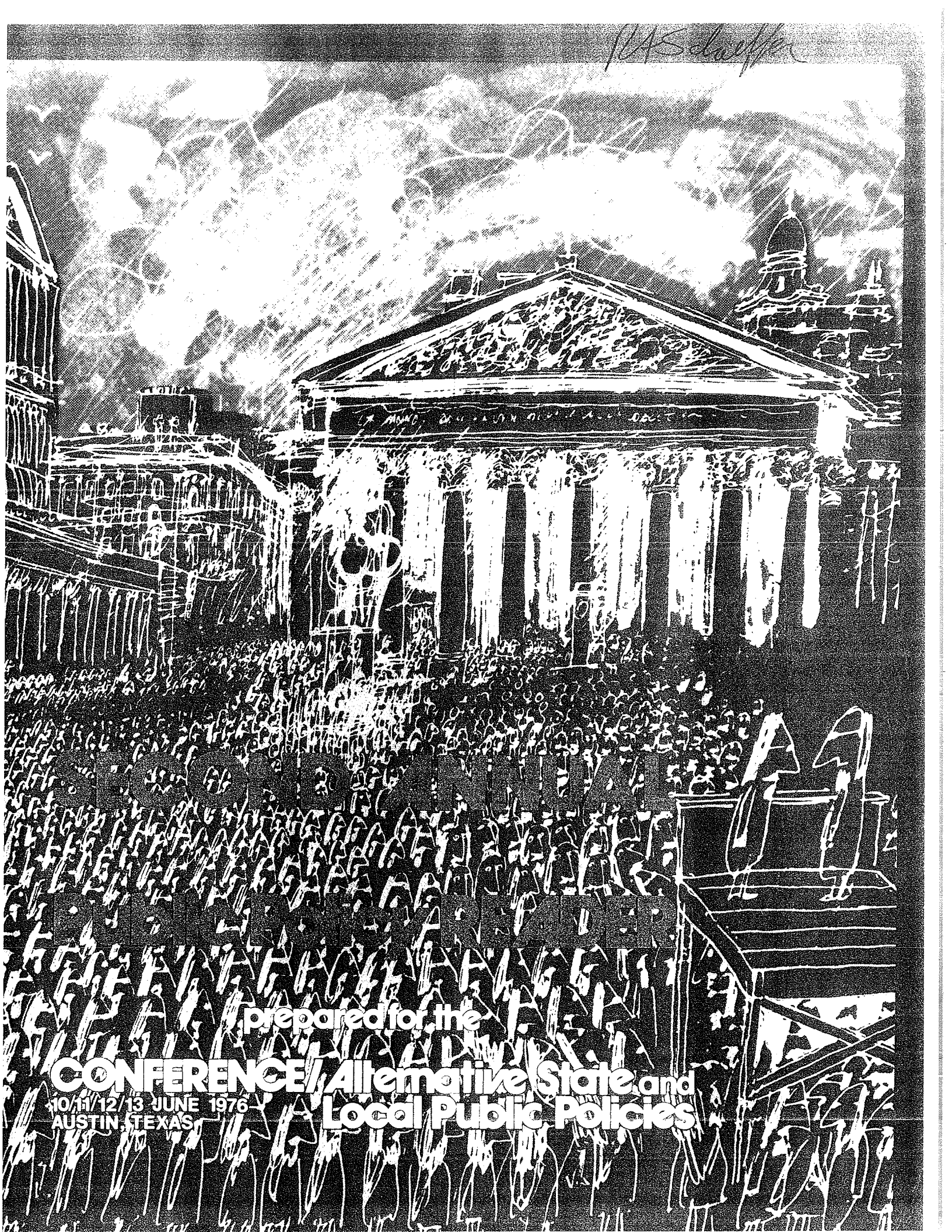


W. S. Schaffer



prepared for the

**CONFERENCE / Alternative State and  
Local Public Policies**

10/11/12/13 JUNE 1976  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

# Second Annual Public Policy READER

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For The Conference on Alternative State & Local Public Policies  
June 10/11/12/13 1976  
Austin, Texas

The National Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies was founded in Madison, Wisconsin, June 1975. It is a major meeting place and forum for elected and appointed officials, community organizations, political activists and technically trained experts interested in alternative politics and programs at the state and local level. Discussions and workshops within the National Conference include questions of political strategy. However, concentration is on the specific nuts and bolts of programmatic alternatives. Subjects considered include land use, tax reform, consumer protection, agricultural policy, minority employment, public power, community and state-owned enterprises, control of natural resources, women's issues, public employees, and many others.

The National Conference has its headquarters in Washington, D. C., at the Institute for Policy Studies. Besides holding regional and topical conferences, and an annual national conference in June, the national office maintains a Clearing House of Alternative Legislation. The National Conference publishes a quarterly newsletter, an Alternative Legislation Series, and a Public Policy Pamphlet Series. A Public Policy Reader is prepared for the annual national conference and is also available from the national office. Finally, the national office coordinates a series of task forces composed of local officials, planners and informed citizens who are drafting model legislation.

The National Conference was organized to be of service to state and local public officials, as well as others who are interested in alternative programs. Your communications can be of great help in furthering the work and extending the influence of the Conference. Please send information, new names, and suggestions to:

Barbara Bick, National Coordinator  
Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies  
1901 Q Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20009

## INTRODUCTION

This public policy reader has been compiled and edited for the second annual Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies, to be held in Austin, Texas, June 10-13, 1976. It is composed of entirely new material.

The first public policy reader was published for last year's conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The entire printing of 1,000 copies was sold out by spring. We expect that this year's reader will do even better.

Our purpose in compiling the reader is to disseminate information about the most innovative bills, ordinances, and programs that we have been able to discover in state and local governments around the country. No doubt we have missed some important ideas and legislation. You will be able to help us improve succeeding readers by sending in material to the National Conference Center at the Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, D. C.

The basic theme discernible throughout the reader is that power, particularly economic power, should be more widely distributed. Concentrated power, whether in the hands of government or business, is undemocratic, particularly when it is unaccountable and not open to citizen participation. New strategies and programs are vitally needed in order to build toward a new democracy. Simply voting every few years for media-packaged candidates is inadequate. A new democratic ethic must be built into all the institutions of our society.

We believe that the ideas in this reader can contribute to the movement for a new democracy. Their real value will be realized when the ideas are put into practice by activists who read this volume and share it with others in their localities.

1976 is the Bicentennial -- an appropriate year for reaffirming democratic principles. It is also a presidential election year. Our commitment to political change at the state and local level is a clear statement that real, far-reaching reform at the national level is unlikely without a strong reform movement in the cities and states. Without the base, federal action will most certainly be coopted and controlled by existing power elites. If there is to be a New Deal, it must be built from the bottom up, as well as from Washington, D. C.

We welcome your interest in state and local public policy and urge you to join us in the activities of the network of state and local activists that makes up the Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies.

Derek Shearer  
Lee Webb

April, 1976

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