

NOTES

AN APPROACH TO PLANNING

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void—so God created a small committee. God carefully balanced the committee according to race, ethnic origin, and economic status in order to interface pluralism with the holistic concept of self-determinism on a basis of judicatory guidelines. Even God was impressed. And so ended the first day.

And God said, 'Let the committee draw up a mission statement.' And behold, the committee decided to prioritize and strategize. And God called the process 'empowerment.' And God thought it sounded pretty good. And evening and morning were the second day.

And God said, 'Let the committee determine goals and objectives and engage in long-range planning.' Unfortunately, a debate as to the semantic difference between 'goals' and 'objectives' pre-empted almost all the third day. Although the question was never satisfactorily resolved, God thought the process was constructive. And evening and morning were the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be a retreat in which the committee can envision functional organization and engage in planning by objectives.' The committee considered adjustment of priorities and consequent alternatives to program direction. And God saw that this was good. And God thought that it was even worth all the coffee and donuts he had to supply. And so ended the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the program be implemented consistent with long range planning and strategy.' The committee considered guideline and linkages and structural sensitivities and alternatives and implementational models. And God saw that this was very democratic. And so would have ended the fifth day except for the unintentional renewal of the debate about the difference between goals and objectives.

On the sixth day the committee agreed on criteria for judicatory assessment and evaluation. This wasn't the agenda God had in mind. So he had to miss the meeting in order to use the afternoon for creating day and night, heaven and earth, seas and plants and trees, seasons and years, the sun and moon, birds and fish and animals and human beings.

On the seventh day, God rested and the committee submitted its recommendations. It turned out that the recommended form for things was nearly identical to the way God had already created them. So the committee passed a resolution commending God for his implementation according to the guidelines. There was, however, some opinion that man should have been created in the committee's image.

And God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the committee. . . .

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