



REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

230 West 41st Street, New York 36, N.Y.

(Area Code 212) LOngacre 5-1714

NEWS RELEASE

No. 1029
June 26, 1967

For information call Sheldon Pollack
LOngacre 5-1714 or PLaza 1-5748 (home)

FOR RELEASE: 9 a.m., Tuesday
June 27, 1967

OFFICE JOB PROJECTIONS, EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES BUTTRESS
PROPOSAL FOR MITCHEL FIELD "DOWNTOWN," REGIONAL PLAN EXECUTIVE SAYS

Regional Plan Association's latest job projections--showing a probable doubling of office jobs in the New York Metropolitan Region by the turn of the century but very little increase in factory jobs--strengthens the probability of success for Nassau County's plan for a new type of suburban "downtown" in Mitchel Field, Regional Plan Association's Executive Vice President, John P. Keith, told the Long Island Association's Executives Breakfast, today.

"While most new factories have to be spread on large tracts, offices can efficiently be concentrated in centers," Keith explained. "In fact, many office jobs have links to the other activities already coming together in and around Mitchel Field--department and specialty stores, government agencies, major health services, higher education, and the arts. This makes the clustering of offices at Mitchel Field advantageous to those seeking office space.

"Concentrating offices there also will benefit the residents of the County by cutting down on the local traffic jams and the clutter of the countryside which the scatter of offices probably would cause," Keith

continued. "The first offices arriving probably seem good wherever they go. But if Nassau County triples its present office space-- a real possibility by 2000--it may not seem as satisfactory.

"Experience in other large metropolitan areas of the world also supports the idea of large suburban-residential-employment-cultural centers," Keith observed.

"Planners of London, Paris, and Stockholm, for example, started with the same set of problems faced by Long Island. They all are tending toward the same program: channel population growth along major transportation routes and cluster employment, especially new office growth, retailing and the arts in large centers serving wide market areas," Keith reported.

"They are doing this to save the countryside and provide high-quality urban services, good public transportation, and wide job choice," Keith explained.

"This pattern would suit Nassau County particularly well," Keith observed. "Unless plans are made here now to accommodate the kind of growth we project for this Region, the residential environment of Nassau-Suffolk will be despoiled by the jobs we now seek. In twenty years, we may look back and see that we took a Trojan Horse into the suburbs without recognizing it," Keith concluded.