



Regional Plan Association

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

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Childs Lecture at the City Club

JOHN P. KEITH PREDICTS NEW WAVE OF CIVIC ACTIVISM TO DEAL WITH CHANGING ISSUES FACING THE TRI-STATE REGION

John P. Keith, President of Regional Plan Association, delivered the annual Richard S. Childs lecture at the City Club this afternoon. He predicted a renewed wave of civic activism to deal with the problems and opportunities arising in the metropolitan Region as a result of its new role as the central "brain" of the global economic system.

The reinvigoration of the Region's civic community can be achieved with extensive public participation, according to Dr. Keith. Based on RPA's experiments in that field, he suggested several key ingredients of a successful public participation process, including strong leadership from the private sector and the development of an ongoing constituency. Certain facts should be agreed upon in advance, according to Keith, but value questions should be left to the participants.

He emphasized the importance of involving everyone who is in any way affected by an issue, not just those most directly involved.

The Childs Lecture has been an annual event at the City Club since 1979. Every year, the City Club selects an important contributor to urban affairs to present ideas for the betterment of urban life. Past winners include Luther Gulick, Henry Cisneros, E.S. Savas, Raymond Horton and Michael Sviridoff.

The full text of Dr. Keith's remarks are attached.

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