MR. CITIZEN

. . . His views on issues of the day

Subdivision chicanery

To the New Mexico House:

The support you have given to weaken by amendment the effectiveness of a land development bill designed to regulate the operations of subdividers and real estate promoters was a disservice to both the present and future citizens of New Mexico.

You chose to ignore the advice of competent specialists in such diverse fields of scientific and engineering knowledge as geological survey, hydrology, ecology, and community planning, that the deficient water resources of New Mexico required the most meticulous conservation to assure their equitable distribution to all legitimate users. The profligate exploitation of these water resources for promotional purposes, intended to mislead prospective clients as to the availability of water, by developers seeking quick profits will lead inevitably to economic and social impoverishment for those who are committed to living on the land.

Your sabotage of the original bill is difficult to understand on the basis of a conscientiously motivated concern for public responsibility. Either you rate free enterprise solely in terms of profit, regardless of the way in which it is conducted, whether or not in the public interest, or whether with deceitful intent or scrupulous honesty; or your personal interest in land development has subverted your integrity.

What you have done on the one hand and failed to do on the other will not restrain deceptive sales practices by subdividers, but on the contrary will encourage wasteful exploitation of already inadequate water supplies, leading to irreversible exhaustion. You have set the stage for a course of events which include erosion of denuded land, air pollution by dust from over-settled areas, sewage contamination of the last water sources, and ultimately decline of the entire community.

This is what your constituents will have to thank you for: for failing to heed these earnest warnings, for obdurate disregard of the voices of reason, for attending to the dollar interests of a small group of powerful self-serving exploiters, perhaps including yourselves, at the expense of the politically and economically less potent majority.

You had the opportunity to perform a lasting service for your state, but through political incompetence and visionless preoccupation with legislative favoritism you threw it away. Next year it may be too late, but next year you may not be in the Legislature to remember your blunder.

—Eliot Porter
Rte 4, Box 33
Santa Fe, N.M.

FROM THE NEW MEXICAN
SANTA FE, FEB. 9, 1972

To the New Mexico Senate:

Since you have failed to provide a satisfactory bill to regulate subdivisions, these remarks to the Representatives are also addressed to you.

E. P.