shall, whom these men, as well as President Truman, revered at the
time and in memory.)

Where, among whiz-kids in the
Pentagon, the funded researchers in
universities and in the demoralized
hallways of the State Department,
are the budding Bohlens and Ken-
nans of today? Computers lack
hearts, and skilled technicians fre-
quently lack the education, as well
as the precious gift of a sense of
humor. The need for a new genera-
tion of devoted public servants of
the kind that Bohlen writes about
with modesty, tact and candor is all
the greater in a time when the Ex-
ecutive Branch has lost credibility
while the Congress reasserts its pre-
rogatives but fails to demonstrate
that it can now, any more than in
the past, offer foreign policy guid-
ance. The greater honor to the Boh-
rens and Kennans would be to revive
the systematic selection and human-
ized training of men and women
who will emulate them in the years
ahead.

Building a New Japan: A Plan for Remodeling
the Japanese Archipelago
by Kakuei Tanaka
(Simul Press [Tokyo]; 228 pp.; $12.50)

Koji Taira

By the time this review is published
it is at least possible that the author
of Building a New Japan may have
resigned from his post as Prime
Minister. A December, 1973, public
opinion poll showed that the propor-
tion of the Japanese public approving
his government had sunk to 20
per cent. Past prime ministers have
usually given up their governments
shortly after their popularity hit that
low mark.

Japan is suffering from an acute
oil shortage due to the Mideast crisis
and a runaway inflation at 20 per
cent per annum. Until the oil crisis
sobered them, the Japanese were liv-
ing in a dream world of permanent
economic growth at more than 10
per cent per annum, doubling the
GNP every six or seven years. Now
the Tanaka cabinet, reconstituted in
November, 1973, has suspended the
"Remodeling Plan" and reduced the
projection of the 1974-75 growth
rate to a mere 2.5 per cent. The
once seemingly invincible yen, which
stood at 285 yen to a U.S. dollar
only a few months ago, has since
considerably depreciated. When the
Bank of Japan withdrew its yen-
propping operations on January 7,
1974, the price of the dollar promptly
rose to 299 yen in Tokyo, sending
ripples of currency crises throughout
the world. Japan's "economic mira-
cle" has vanished.

Is the book then obsolete? Not
quite yet. To the extent that Build-
ing a New Japan relies heavily on
rapid economic growth, its credibil-
ity is seriously damaged by the cur-
cent difficulties. Nevertheless, the
vision of "remodeling" Japan itself
can still be considered basically
sound. And if this can be under-
taken independently of economic
growth, so much the better. The end
result will be revolutionary, a totally
different Japan—economically, socially,
politically, even culturally—from
the Japan of today.

That such far-reaching changes
are envisioned is clear from the ma-
jor arguments the book propounds.
First, Tanaka strongly condemns the
rapid growth and urbanization that
characterize present-day Japan. The
processes of economic growth in the
past hundred years have produced
there an appalling degree of con-
centration of output and people in
polluted, overcrowded urban centers
along a narrow stretch of land on
the Pacific seaboard and on the coast
of the Inland Sea. Other areas of
Japan have been left economically
retarded, culturally deprived and de-
populated. Second, Tanaka's sweep-
ing criticism of Japan's present sta-
tus is coupled with a determination
to reverse the historical forces and
tendencies in order that income,
power and privileges may be evenly
shared by all parts of Japan. This
vision represents a far-reaching egal-
itarian revolution on a scale unpre-
cedented in Japanese history.

Let us take a look at this "remod-
elled Japan." Its basic social unit is
a "new community," which is visual-
ized as a circular space. At the cen-
ter is a core city full of elegant
high-rise buildings, where commer-
cial, service, educational and cultural
facilities are concentrated. A few
satellite towns are developed prin-
cipally for residential purposes at
some distance from the core city.
Manufacturing plants are huddled
together in a couple of "industrial
parks" at both ends of a diameter
drawn across the community terri-
tory. Much of the community space
is filled with farms, hamlets, forests
and recreational areas. An intercom-
unity railroad and highway go through
the center of the community,
with an airport located farther
out toward the perimeter.

The new community, spatially
and economically structured in this
way, is expected to accommodate
some 250,000 people, more or less.
Serviced by a computerized network
of fast trains supplemented by motor
vehicles and airplanes, no commu-
nity is beyond one day's travel from
any other. The present Japanese po-
itical structure, which parcel ou	
the country into 47 prefectures, is
restructured with a small number of
intermediate governments between
prefectures and national government.

In order to move in the direction
outlined so far, a policy of industrial
relocation is proposed. The policy
expels major industries from the
present megalopolises—Tokyo, Osaka
and the few others—and slots them
into different locations by type of
activity. For example, the “resource-consuming” industries (iron and steel, petrochemicals, etc.) are relocated in the currently undeveloped Northeast and Southwest, where water for industrial use is a potentiality for developing deep-water harbors to dock supertankers. Skill-intensive sophisticated industries (machines, tools, electronics, etc.) are distributed over several inland centers. Agriculture is discouraged in colder regions and encouraged in warmer regions, reversing the historical trend and current situation. Facilities for higher education now concentrated in Tokyo are decentralized, so that there will be multiple centers of excellence in several spots. International seaports and airports are dispersed over the entire country, reducing the privileges of the established centers.

Read in this way, there is no question of the book’s highly revolutionary perspective. Its vision is anti-Tokyo, anti-Meiji, anti-elite, anti-pollution. Its emphasis is on equality and humaneness. Gaps of all kinds among men and women, or between them, are eliminated. Intergenerational peace is reestablished. The Japanese rediscover hometowns they can be proud of.

It is not difficult to point out technical shortcomings of the “plan.” Indeed, that word is a misnomer; “vision” or “perspective” would have been more appropriate. But the book has compensating qualities: its concern over the social cost of past economic growth, its faith in the basic values of a democracy, its commitment to peace at home and abroad, and its all too human aspiration for happiness. It will, I am sure, survive the author’s political crisis.

The Senses of Walden: An Exploration of Thoreau’s Masterpiece by Stanley Cavell
(Viking Press; 120 pp.; $5.95)

Stephen Thomas

Lovers of Walden will be drawn to this book which declares that “an essential portion of the teaching of Walden is a full account of its all but inevitable neglect.” Stanley Cavell writes for negligent lovers, among others, showing us that some of the reasons for our neglect are to be found in our readings: “barriers to the book are not tracings of its outworks but topics of its central soil.” This recovery of a masterpiece demonstrates that we have been cut off from more than not knowing what Walden is about. Thoreau’s book and Cavell’s are as strange to us as we are to ourselves.

Readers acquainted with the essays in Cavell’s book Must We Mean What We Say? will recognize in this one the continuation of themes introduced there. For example, that we do not understand, or have lost our grip on, the difference between philosophy and literature reappears here in suggestions about America, about writing as such in a country whose “best writers have offered one another the shock of recognition but not the faith of friendship, not daily belief.” Written in the din of religious and political prophecy, Walden addresses itself to a nation of the tongue-tied, to a people whose lives and language can only be redeemed together.

Thoreau’s is a modern book, as Cavell makes it out, about reading as well as writing, inducing in the reader feelings of nervousness and wretchedness that are among the demands of the modern. Carrying an