

# Large-Scale Buckpassing

Politics and postponements seem the ritual game of the Board of Estimate this month. Lindsay-sponsored programs are being deliberately held up in the transfer of power to a new administration.

There is no reason why the new administration should not reappraise many items if it wants to. But when a project such as Manhattan Landing, the large-scale commercial and residential complex for Lower Manhattan that has been brought through lengthy and complex design stages over a seven-year planning period, is delayed now for no real purpose, the Board's inaction can only be called irresponsible.

It is irresponsible because the present Board of Estimate, familiar with the intricate history and details of such a project, is unnecessarily handing over a massive education problem to new members which can only result in further delays. At the same time, it is failing to carry out critical unfinished business. It is not doing its job.

This is also true for Battery Park City, for which legislation will come up later this month. Both these pivotal projects could be killed by political buckpassing, and so could the downtown renaissance that has been so skillfully nurtured by the city's planners. The Madison Avenue zoning district is another item the Board has finessed, although it has already passed similar, successful special district legislation for other parts of the city.

There is no reason to hand on indecision and the need for elaborate new briefings in a renewed and time-wasting reshuffling of votes for these and similar planning issues. The Board of Estimate has the obligation to vote on the merits of the proposals promptly. It is now indulging in political procrastination.