

projects of the last few years can do Paris nothing but good and it is a welcome sign that the new leadership may feel the same way. The officially sanctioned "redevelopment" of the Pompidou administration began to make big deals seem more attractive than splendid monuments and vistas. Paris has already produced, in the false name of profit and progress, some of the most appallingly bad new buildings and starkly ugly architecture to be found anywhere in the world.

Only a sense of history and of beauty and an awareness of vulnerability can set appropriate development patterns for a city that is also a work of art. The real test of priorities will come when investment money becomes available again and pressures for destruction accelerate. May Mr. Giscard d'Estaing hold the barricades.

## At the Barricades

Now that Paris's historic Les Halles has been replaced by two holes in the ground awaiting a subway and commercial complex, the President of France, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, has decreed a public garden for part of the site. With the additional announcement that plans for a Left Bank expressway are to be abandoned and that artists' housing and potential green space are to be saved from speculative development, a more civilized urban policy seems to be emerging for the City of Light.

The emphasis is now on "*la qualité de la vie*" rather than on investment opportunities. The quality of life, however, seems to have a lot to do with the quality of the franc. It is more than likely that the lack of available financing for the commercial center that was to have replaced Les Halles was as influential a factor in its demise as the desire for a civic amenity.

A few less of the gross commercial development