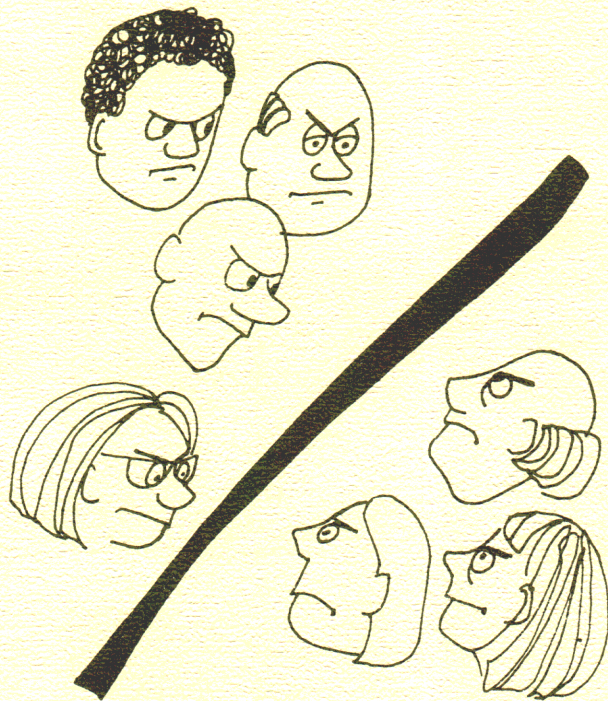
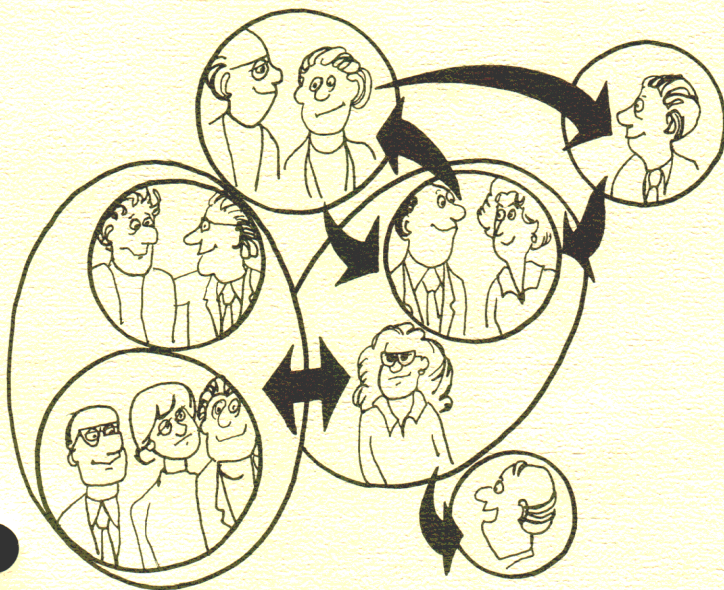


- **Competitive Structure** power structures — consisting of one or more factions which come together to vie for power against another coalition.



- **Fragmented Structure** power structures — comprised of many **cliques** forming temporary coalitions, with competition, conflict, and stresses between them. This situation, he found, characterized most large urban communities.



Some Characteristics of Power Structures

- Power structures **evolve** over time as the community changes. Generally they change from **simple** to **complex**, as communities grow and become more urbanized.
- There are **differences** between **rural** and **urban** communities. Power structures are generally simpler in rural or traditional communities, and more complex in urban areas.
- A community's power structure is **not autonomous**; it is susceptible to the influence of outside power actors and power structures.
- Power structures, despite the static implications of the word "structure," are actually **dynamic**. Membership can change drastically, even in a short period of time, and coalitions vary in duration and composition. There are changes in complexity and in internal dynamics over time.
- Not all power actors are involved in all the issues and decisions; they **participate selectively**, depending on their competencies. The more complex the power structure, the more specialized the power actors.
- Power actors do not always hold positions of visible leadership; hence, they are often **difficult to identify**. Identifying the kind of power structure that operates within a community — particularly a complex, urban community — can be a problem.

Summary

POWER STRUCTURES are networks of power actors which, despite the various types, all share common characteristics: They evolve from simple to complex; they are not autonomous; they are dynamic and change over time; members participate selectively. Discerning power structures and identifying power actors is often difficult.