

The industries that typically flourish here and may survive the city's difficulties are similarly resistant to external discipline, self-governing, impulsive, polyglot, mysterious: the diamond market, the fashion and cosmetic trades, the restaurants, the investment banks themselves, the publishers, the port. New technologies, cheap labor, the myriad inconveniences of the city are not likely to make them abandon New York's tolerant and complex environment. That so many corporate headquarters have left could have been predicted. New York is less amenable than most other places to corporate rationality, cost effectiveness, and the people who value such things, especially if they don't need what the city can offer by way of specialized services and supplies, middlemen, craftsmen, or people with a talent for anticipating fashion.

NYR 2/19/76, p. 22.

Jason Epstein on New York