

ECONOMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT

The Fifth Congressional District has a history of chronic economic problems. The old one industry mill towns, Lowell and Lawrence, are fighting to recover their confidence and rebuild their economies. Route 128 area electronics firms have been adversely affected by reduced defense contracts and the sagging economy.

The Job Resources Section of the Congressional office was created in January of 1975. It is staffed by full time Job Resources Assistants in Lowell, Lawrence, Lexington, and Washington. The JRS responds to individual and business needs on both an emergency and long-term basis.

After conducting about one hundred interviews with representatives of business and municipalities early last year, a JRS plan of assistance was formulated. It appeared that the older cities needed diversified businesses and a good deal of self confidence. Therefore, studies on economic redevelopment were undertaken. In Lowell, an economic development conference was held to convince the community to back the Urban Park concept and the restoration of the downtown along a historic preservation theme. In Lawrence, where downtown revitalization had been undertaken by city and business leaders, full cooperation was provided. In addition, a meeting was conducted with these community leaders to assist in the formulation of an economic game plan for Lawrence. For the Southern portion of the District it was determined that defense contracts could be replaced with available energy research. A 247-page energy manual was published to help all District firms tap the multi-billion dollar federal energy budget. In an editorial, the Boston Herald American called "Energy, ERDA,

Royal STEAK Hse - SBA LOAN
AMERICAN MASON Disbursed.

and the Fifth District"...a "textbook for energy students", and "a valuable supplement to the body of knowledge essential to confronting the crisis, and proceeding beyond it to a revolution in the world of energy." In addition, efforts in Washington resulted in the New England Congressional Delegation endorsing a Tsongas-(Sen.) Kennedy plan to bring the Solar Energy Research Institute to the region. The Congressional office has served as an energy information clearinghouse for many individuals and companies interested in energy research and development.

It must also be made clear that a Congressman plays a limited economic role. He cannot single-handedly restore economic health to his District. He cannot convince tens of giant industries to move into his District. No Congressman or his office can claim credit for securing daily multi-million dollar contracts. It has been the office's policy only to announce or comment on economic activities that it was directly and substantively involved in. This will continue to be the policy and is adhered to in the following list of accomplishments:

GENERAL

LOWELL URBAN PARK. Secured \$150,000 appropriation from House and Senate Committees. (December 1975) After coordinating the formation of the federal panel authorized under Public Law 93-645, the Office of Management and Budget refused to provide funding. Months of intervention and lobbying finally resulted in the authorization and allowed federal urban park plans to proceed for Lowell. Additional assistance from Congressman O'Neill and Senator Brooke.

MITRE-LINCOLN LABS. Halted planned 40% reduction of personnel and funding of the federally supported research at the Mitre Corporation in Bedford and Lincoln Laboratories in Lexington. Over 1000 jobs would have been affected. Lobbied the House Armed Services and Military Appropriations Subcommittee to allow for an additional year's study time for these Federal Contract Research Centers. It now appears that neither facility will lose jobs. Additional assistance from Congressman O'Neill and heads of Mitre and Lincoln Labs.

*Update
Sched. Mtgs
in Sept.
Wong
T.A.*

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORIES. Worked with Cambridge Research Laboratories (CRL) employees and sought assistance from the two Massachusetts Senators to stop the transfer of the 600-plus employee research facility. Millions of direct and spin-off contract dollars involved. Two Air Force Blue Ribbon panels eventually appointed. Tremendous research coordinated between CRL and Washington office. Result was reversal of plan to transfer to New Mexico. 200 reductions in force were later made at CRL. Additional assistance was provided to affected employees. Efforts were unsuccessful to stop this cut. (1975,76)

FORT DEVENS. Helped to organize two meetings with Army Secretary Hoffman to protest rumors of Devens closing. (February 1976-). Set up Presidential candidates forum at Devens to seek commitments on keeping the base open. Udall, Shapp, Bayh, Jackson, Shriver, and Wallace stated that they supported continued operations. Organized large protest with Ayer Selectmen at Fort Devens. Further cooperation with State task force (Cong. Tsongas a member) assessing economic value of Devens.

ENERGY, ERDA, AND THE FIFTH DISTRICT. Published energy manual on how to get federal energy money. Distributed without cost to every energy related industry in the Fifth District. With the cooperation and through the internship program of the Greater Lowell and Lawrence Chambers of Commerce.

ENERGY WORKSHOP. Will jointly sponsor New England Energy Exposition and Technical Workshop in Woburn, May 20-23, with the New England Council. Planned with assistance from ERDA (Energy Research and Development Administration). The workshop will help area firms make ERDA contacts and display New England industry work in the solar and conservation energy fields.

SERI. Offered original plan (Sept. 1975) with Senator Kennedy that resulted in a serious New England effort for the Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI). The plan was endorsed by the New England Congressional and Senatorial Delegation. It resulted in Edward King and the New England Council appointing a task force and project manager to compete for the \$50 million facility. Suggested two Fifth District sites for the facility. Have acted as mediator between New England Council, New England Governors (NERCOMM) and assisted in settling dispute over NERCOMM funding of SERI effort. Have acted as information gatherer for SERI New England Project Director.

ENERGY CLEARINGHOUSE. Have assisted many individuals and firms in obtaining appointments, necessary information, sending out bidding opportunity forms in acting as Energy Clearinghouse.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION. After the cities of Lowell and Lawrence lost expected \$500,000 EDA grants, Congressman Tsongas arranged two days of meetings with Regional (Phila.) EDA Director John Corrigan. The EDA pledged funding for Lowell and Lawrence. (Now being pursued actively in Lawrence for public employment funds)

FEA PROTEST. Organized 64 members of Congress to protest major oil company pressures on service station dealers. This included termination of leases, pressure to open to longer hours, and threats due to lower profit margins. FEA Administrator Frank Zarb wrote a letter to oil companies cautioning them against these activities. A number of Fifth District dealers were affected by major oil company actions. (Mar. 75)

CONSUMER NEWSLETTER. The final first term newsletter will deal solely with consumer information. Entitled, "Consumer Survival '76" it is intended to inform people how to get by for less in 1976.

SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE

AVCO WATER DESALINIZATION. Obtained \$400,000 for fiscal years 1976 and 1977 (\$800,000 total) by placing Avco experimental desalinization project in Interior budget, through Interior and Appropriation Committees. This project also is important in anti-pollution technology development. Without funding last year, the project would have been discontinued. It now appears that the Interior Department may commit itself to seeing through this unique freezing desalinization process. This means additional funding and a large potential future market. Avco, Wilmington. (With assistance in the Senate from Sen. Kennedy) 1975-76

AVCO MOTOR VEHICLE AND INFORMATION COST SAVING ACT AMENDMENT. Congressman Tsongas submitted a successful amendment to provide diagnostic centers to test car efficiency as part of a demonstration program. Avco, Wilmington and other facilities manufacture diagnostic equipment. \$6.4 million would be available for the national program. January 1976.

AVCO COAL TO ACETYLENE PROCESS. Probable funding for ERDA grant to AVCO for coal to acetylene conversion process. February-March 1976. *#1 M pass 6m/3yr*

LOWELL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL CORPORATION. Authored legislation (State Legislature) that would allow the formation of a Lowell Corporation to provide low cost loans for downtown development. Funds would come from bank donations (based on yet-to-be determined percentage of savings deposits) and from public sales of shares. *update*

LOWELL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE. Invited Lowell business leaders and public officials to view slide show, listen to remarks by historical preservation developers, and present STUDY ON PRESERVATION ECONOMICS. The study concluded after surveying nine other cities that historic preservation is not only cost effective (compared to new construction) but resulted in large increases of business and tax revenue over similar new developments. Summer, Fall 1975 *- SLIDE TARE SHOW update*

GREATER LOWELL RAIL ACTION COMMITTEE. After ConRail refused to include Lowell to Concord line for federal takeover, worked with State and B&M railroad to assure freight service for industry on the rail line. Still in progress. Mid-1975- to present

*BTM in Lowell
ConRail service - to remainder of line*

GOVERNOR'S REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE. Arranged first Dukakis economic conference in Lowell with Congressman Tsongas. Resulted in Lowell transportation projects being classified priority one by State. Late 1975.

~~TRANS.~~
~~TERMINAL.~~

LOWELL TRANSPORTATION. Expedited applications and multi-million dollar commitment from Sec. Transportation Salvucci. Planning third meeting between Salvucci and Tsongas to check latest progress. 1975-76

MOVING AWAY
AND SHOULD
IMPLEMENTED
update.
BOT
reimbursement

LOWELL STATE HERITAGE PARK. Have pushed for State action and follow through on monetary commitment. Congressman Tsongas intervened after hearing rumors that State funds might be delayed. Was assured by Governor Dukakis that 4.5 million dollars would be available ^{from} State. Have worked with State Planning Director Frank Keefe, Environmental Affairs Secretary Evelyn Murphy and Environmental Management Secretary Betty Woodie to expedite Lowell projects. 1975-76

LOWELL DUCK ISLAND SEWAGE TREATMENT PROJECT. Helped to expedite contract for waste sewage treatment plan. Construction, as a result, began last Summer, as opposed to this Spring. City, EPA, State able to agree on project and expedite contractor payment. 1975.

LOWELL HONEYWELL SHUTDOWN. Sought transfers for Lowell workers to Billerica and Lawrence plants (rather than Brighton). Helped extend free busing for workers affected by Lowell closing. Jan.-May 1975

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES \$100,000 SBA LOAN. Assisted Goodwill to receive SBA loan after being told that no existing funds were available. Goodwill was assisted in applying during appropriate funding period and received loan. Lowell: Sept. 1975

~~DROP~~
TALK TO
LARRY
ABOUT

IDEAL TAPE. Lowell firm employing 75 persons was threatened with State shutdown for failing to meet disputed pollution standards. The State action came after Ideal had made a major anti-pollution investment. A planned move to New Hampshire was averted after the Congressman contacted appropriate State officials and explained situation. Early 1975.

SYNTHETIC LABORATORIES. Dracut firm was threatened with large loss due to two products awaiting EPA, Dept. of Agriculture approval. After one-half year, Synthetic contacted JRS and the approval was granted two months later. March 1976.

WESTFORD SELECTMEN/CONTROL OF DUMP FIRE. A land-fill dump fire was finally extinguished after JRS intervention resulted in assistance from engineers at Fort Devens. Westford Selectmen requested the assistance.

WESTFORD POLICE-FIRE STATION GRANT OF \$41,500. Assisted the Town of Westford in receiving its final installment of a \$300,000 EDA grant after the payment had been held up for a number of months.



NEW KNIT MANUFACTURING. Lowell firm assisted when federal Products Safety Commission delayed approval of fireproofing certification.

CONTINENTAL WINGATE/MARKET STREET DEVELOPMENT, LOWELL. Assisted Continental Wingate in applying for and receiving \$3.5 million loan from the Massachusetts Finance and Housing Administration. The loan will finance a 96 unit elderly housing center and first floor commercial space in downtown Lowell. Cong. Tsongas role was contacting MFHA in support of plan and loan. Mid-1975- Late-1975.

LOWELL DISASTER RELIEF LOAN PROGRAM. Helped obtain disaster status and low cost loans for area of Lowell severely damaged by large explosion in September 1975.

CONTAINER SERVICES INC., LOWELL. A dispute with a federal pay officer was resolved with the intervention of the JRS allowing continuation of payments on \$250,000 contract for helicopter loading platform. Feb. 76.

TAYLOR WOODROW BITMAN. Assisting potential developer select Lowell site for major housing development.

AMERICAN PACEMAKER. Helped secure SBA loan for division of Bedford pacemaker manufacturer considering move to California. This allowed new firm to remain in Fifth District. Late 1975-

ENDEAVOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT. JRS representative testified before Lowell City Council in favor of \$3.1 million housing rehab of Pilling Mill Building. Cong. Tsongas testified in favor of during Lowell Housing Authority hearings. Also sought and received reassurance for City that HUD turnkey funds would be available for this project. Late 1975.

GROTON SEECTMEN/CIVIL DEFENSE VEHICLE. Helped Groton Selectmen apply and receive \$8,200 for police civil defense ambulance through the Civil Defense Preparedness Agency.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR LOWELL HIGH-RCA TRAINING. Arranged bus transportation for Lowell High School students in RCA, Burlington training program through Community Teamwork Incorporated grant. 1975.

W.H. BOWMAN CONTRACTING, \$26,000 SBA LOAN. Assisted W.H. Bowman in receiving extension of SBA loan.

BEAVER BROOK/DRACUT. Assisting Town of Dracut and residents in solving raw sewage discharge problems in the Beaver Brook. Have mediated meeting with State, EPA, and Dracut Board of Health. Final plan now being worked on. 1975-

GREATER LAWRENCE SANITARY DISTRICT. Intervened in dispute between contractor and town of North Andover after a dispute threatened a construction shutdown and the loss of 100 construction jobs. Jan. 1975.

ACE FRUIT AND PRODUCE LAWRENCE. When the company's liscense for food shipping was threatened, JRS intervned with the Department of Agriculture and resolved shipment/payment problem. Jan.-Feb. 1975.



TOWN FABRICS
COC + city
OPPS.

WANNA LAN 47

ULTRA WOOD COMPANY, LAWRENCE. Worked successfully with company to obtain a \$75,000 SBA loan. Over 50 jobs are to be created. May 75-Feb.76

TELEMETRY SYSTEMS ENGINEERING. Worked successfully with company to obtain a \$250,000 SBA loan. The firm will be relocating in Andover and expanding. Between 200-300 additional jobs will result. July 75-Jan 76.

FEDERAL PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE. Worked with Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce to bring in representatives of federal agencies to discuss opportunities for Federal contracting. 30-35 area companies participated. Dec 75.

LAWRENCE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE. Brought together Lawrence public and business officials to focus attention on revitalization plans for city. March 1976.

CANAL STREET CONNECTOR. Cong. Tsongas set up and mediated meeting which resulted on a compromise on the question of a connector along Canal Street from Rt. 495 to downtown Lawrence. Fall 1975.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM. Assisted Lawrence Community Action Council in obtaining \$70,000 lead paint poison prevention program grant through contact with the Community Services Administration. Nov. 1975. 6 jobs.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM. Assisted Lawrence Community Action Council in obtaining \$67,800 grant for food service outreach program for poor. 6 jobs. Nov. 1975.

B&M LUNCHEONETTE, LAWRENCE. Assisted owner in receiving approval of a \$25,000 SBA loan. March 1976.

BICENTENNIAL GRANT FOR TOWN OF METHUEN. \$7000 for Bicentennial Park.

RECREATIONAL REHABILITATION GRANT OF \$29,000 FOR METHUEN. Assisted in preparing and supporting grant for park site improvements in Methuen.

FEA SUPPLIER CHANGE FOR ENGLISH CHEVROLET. Assisted company in receiving FEA supplier change in order to lower fuel prices. June 1975.

TRANSPORT LICENSE FOR GAS INCORPORATED OF LOWELL. Assisted company in attempting to receive a transport license for liquified natural gas. After waiting for one year without a final decision, JRS was able to assist the firm receive a license in January of 1976.

TRADE ACT SEMINAR WITH EDA. Organized seminar on the Federal Trade Act with the Greater Lowell and Lawrence Chambers of Commerce. This seminar featured speakers from the EDA. It was intended to help inform businesses and workers about available compensation for losses due to foreign competition. Feb. 76.

*Survival '76
Malden Mills*