

To: Steve, Missy, Dennis  
From: Doug M.  
Jan. 12, 1981

Re: Economic Development Report

The product value from the farm in Massachusetts is roughly \$250 million a year. Bob Pratt (newly named asst. state director of FmHA) has looked at the available financing in the state and he estimates that a loan pool of \$10 million with a 90% FmHA guarantee would double the present volume of Farm loans. A proposal should be in final draft form on this by weeks end.

I met Pat Canavan from MURAG at a reception at CEDAC who had looked at investment/loan practices of the financial community in the Springfield area for the city of Chicopee. Her feeling was that Chicopee should expect much more than they are now receiving. She will be here to meet on this and other matters (including the Farm investment pool idea) today (1/12/81).

The consultant for the reuse of Northampton State Hosp. has been selected and I have a meeting with them today to discuss strategy and possible funding sources for energy research.

There has been some confusion in Greenfield over the reuse of the Millers Falls buildings and a proposal from State Street Devel. for subsidized housing. The town had hoped that some job generating development would occur but the marketing efforts to date have been fruitless. State Street would like an option by March 1 to submit an application to HUD for 140 units (70 of which would be family). The Town Meeting scheduled for Wednesday will decide whether to go with State Street or to stay with an industrial development effort. The town has lost their planner (for the second time!) and will be quick to fill the position for the administration of the 3rd year of their block grant. (P.S.-I met with State Street on this Wednesday

I convened a meeting of the consultants of Chicopee (three groups totalling roughly \$125,000) to discuss ways to tie their individual studies together. The need for an over-all strategy was clear and sharing information was very useful at this meeting.

I have set up a meeting with Don Binns of the Sprld. Chamber to discuss the establishment and operation of the SADC for the Franklin County Chamber. Don St. Pierre and two of his Chamber members will attend. The meeting is set for this Friday.

Huntington will proceed with contracting for a consultant for their hydro project on the Littleville dam. The opposition to a proposed family housing project is mounting (we have received a large volume of mail on the subject). We have been referring this comment to HUD.