

ON PUBLIC WORKS BILL

This afternoon the House of Representatives passed legislation which could provide \$742,900 to Lowell and \$641,200 to Lawrence in anti-recession money. This legislation, Title 2 of the Public Works Employment Act, passed the House by a vote of 328 to 83. The money provided in this bill is designed to assist state and local governments in maintaining basic municipal services during periods of high unemployment.

I am disappointed that the funding in this bill is less than the counter-cyclical assistance provided in the original Public Works bill vetoed by President Ford. In the first Public Works bill, Lowell would have received \$1,012,000 and Lawrence would have received \$742,200. However, I am pleased that anti-recession assistance was retained in the second Public Works Bill since this money is crucial to cities like Lowell and Lawrence.

The Public Works Employment Act now goes to the President's desk. I am hopeful that President Ford will consider the plight of cities and towns across the nation which have been hard hit by unemployment and sign this bill into law.