

CONGRESSMAN TSONGAS REPORTS

The last weeks of the year find Congress working overtime on budgetary matters and remaining major legislation. During this time there has been predominantly good news for the Fifth District.

At LINCOLN LABORATORIES in Lexington and the MITRE CORPORATION in Bedford, a majority of 1300 threatened jobs are safe. Government civilian research efforts at nine Federal Contract Research Centers were jeopardized by a \$26 million Senate budget cut. Because the reductions would have been ordered for the last quarter of the fiscal year, 40% of the nearly 3000 jobs at Lincoln and Mitre were endangered. This would have meant economic disaster for the individuals involved, for the Fifth District, and for Massachusetts. Immediately after learning of these cuts, I notified the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and Senators. Lincoln Director Dr. Gerald P. Dinneen, Mitre President Robert R. Everett, and employees of both facilities were invaluable in helping us to work against these cuts. Finally, with the assistance of Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., individual members of a House-Senate Conference Committee responsible for a final defense budget were contacted and provided a report on the effects of the proposed research cutbacks. Our efforts were successful. The Conference Committee reduced, by one-half, the planned cuts and directed that the Air Force give priority to research centers that concentrate on engineering and systems work, such as Lincoln and Mitre. Though there will be cutbacks next year, it appears that the potential job loss has been significantly reduced.

The exception to the success of the past few weeks has been new difficulties at Hanscom Air Force Base's CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORIES (CRL). The role of Air Force civilian research is also at the heart of a 200 position reduction at CRL. This will result in from 70 to 112 persons losing their jobs at Hanscom. Despite a number of meetings with high-ranking Air Force officials, attempts to keep these cuts from taking place have been unsuccessful. The merits of CRL research work, a prime factor in the reversal of plans to transfer the facility to New Mexico, did not prevent the Air Force from making these latest cuts. The next step is to examine Defense Department civilian research decision-making so to be able to ascertain whether these reductions are equivalent to other cutbacks, or are politically motivated. Therefore, I have asked the Armed Services Committee to conduct hearings on this issue.

There will be a plan for a LOWELL URBAN NATIONAL PARK. After a good deal of hard work against some long odds, the House and Senate agreed to fund the Federal Commission charged with preparing a park plan. The \$150,000 appropriation came after the Administration had refused to include funds in the budget for the Commission. The Lowell plan includes comprehensive rehabilitation of mills, canals, and riverfront land. The recommendations by the Commission to Congress are expected to influence urban planning in older cities across America.

Finally, the LOWELL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL CORPORATION Bill is now awaiting the signature of Governor Dukakis. State Representative Phillip Shea of Lowell and State Senator B. Joseph Tully of Dracut were primarily responsible for the passage of the Massachusetts legislation. I hope that the development fund will serve as a prototype and result in investment capital being made available for downtown development. Funds would come from participating banks, from municipal, state, and federal agencies, and through the sale of shares to local stockholders.

Since this is my last report of 1975, I want to thank those who have taken the time to read these columns and those who have made suggestions for topics throughout the year. Once again, I encourage you to write to me or contact our district offices if we can be of any assistance. I extend my wishes for a happy holiday season.