

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

for city council
1/17/76

MR. MAYOR:

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE MOTION NOW BEFORE YOU TO RATIFY THE LOWELL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL CORPORATION. I AM SORRY THAT I CANNOT ADDRESS YOU IN PERSON THIS EVENING.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, I HAVE BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF THE ~~LOWELL-DEVELOPMENT-AND-FINANCIAL-CORPORATION~~. THE DOCUMENT WHICH YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU IS THE CULMINATION OF MONTHS OF DISCUSSION WITH STATE LEGISLATORS, BANKERS, BUSINESSMEN, CITY PLANNERS, LAWYERS AND YOUR OWN DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATION IS TO ASSURE A SIZEABLE AND VISIBLE PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENT TO THE REVITALIZATION OF DOWNTOWN LOWELL. I WILL NOT ENUMERATE THE LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS TO THE RESTORATION OF LOWELL BECAUSE YOU ARE ALL WELL AWARE OF THEM. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THE MOMENTUM OF THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. FIVE, EVEN THREE YEARS AGO, SUCH COMMITMENTS WERE LITTLE MORE THAN A DREAM, NOW THEY ARE BECOMING A REALITY.

WHILE A NUMBER OF PRIVATE RESTORATIONS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN DURING THAT TIME, THEY HAVE BEEN SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE DOWNTOWN AND HAVE NOT CONVEYED THE SENSE OF A MASSIVE UNDERTAKING TO REHABILITATE THE CITY. I BELIEVE THAT THE CORPORATION'S PROPOSED FIVE YEAR RESTRICTION TO THE MIDDLE STREET AREA WILL ACHIEVE THAT IMPACT.

I AM FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT LOWELL STANDS AT A CROSSROADS IN ITS HISTORY. IF WE NOW FIRMLY COMMIT OURSELVES TO REBUILDING THE CITY WE CAN BE THE BENEFICIARIES OF A GENUINE URBAN RENAISSANCE. I BELIEVE THAT THE LOWELL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL CORPORATION IS THE FINAL PIECE WHICH NEEDS TO BE PUT INTO PLACE TO BEGIN THAT RENAISSANCE. BUT WE MUST BEGIN TODAY. ~~TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE.~~

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