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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT - CENTRAL AND WESTERN MASS
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Gardner: The major thrust of my efforts over the last two weeks has been with the city on their two UDAG applications. This office has helped with the transfer of information, negotiation, and support. Though both projects will likely be announced by Cong. Boland, they are both products of long hard work by this office. For example, after PET called Dunnington of the First Safety Fund to urge his participation we arranged a meeting which satisfied a concern Dunnington had raised and allowed him to go ahead with 1/3 of the IRB.

Fitchburg: The UDAG for Chemex Corp. was awarded in the last round for central cities (\$625,000 to leverage \$3.2 M investment creating 72 new jobs). We played a very active role in this development, both with the developer/city and the UDAG staff in negotiations.

Pittsfield: The meeting with Mayor Smith, Bert Fisher (Developer) and Halcyon (city consultants) with PET gave us an opportunity to discuss the development in very open terms. PET promised to present an options memo to the very high levels of the First National Bank of Boston for consideration. We will be moving on this in the next few weeks.

Worcester: The meeting with the Chamber's Export Trading Company advisory group was a good opportunity to highlight PET's involvement in the issue. We will be using the experience in Worcester as a model for other areas of the state.

Holyoke: I attended the groundbreaking of the State Heritage Park and had a good discussion with John Hickey of Holyoke Gas and Electric (a part of N.E. Utilities).

Chicopee: The city is involved in a dispute of \$65,000 over Urban Systems Funds for the Market Square Project. The dispute centers around use of funds for the amenities in the downtown area. We have so far been remarkably unsuccessful with FHWA and the Mass DPW.

Meetings:

Most of my meetings in the last several weeks have been with PET or in preparation for his visit the week of Oct. 18.

In addition, I have met with John Simons of the U. Mass Labor Center, Attended the Annual Meeting of the Rural Devel. Comm. (10/28)