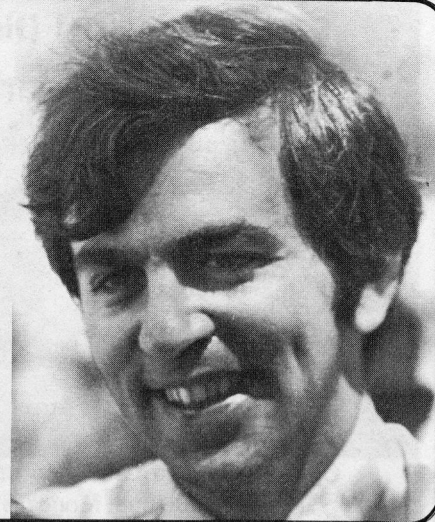
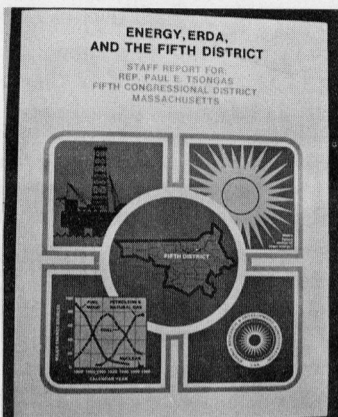


Congressman

Paul Tsongas Reports



Focusing on the Fifth District Economy



The "ERDA Book". From Cong. Tsongas and the Greater Lawrence and Lowell Chambers of Commerce.

The Fifth Congressional District's "Job Resources Section" (JRS) was created one year ago by Congressman Tsongas to respond to individual and business economic needs on both an emergency and long-term basis. Job Resource Assistants work in the Lawrence, Lowell, Lexington, and Washington Congressional Offices.

"The goal of the Job Resources Section," according to Congressman Tsongas, "is to help solve our district's serious economic problems. The JRS has become increasingly effective in dealing with immediate needs and emergency situations. Just as important, we are now developing the capacity to foresee future needs and respond accordingly." Tsongas states. "Examples of this capacity are the JRS study on the economic advantages of restoring older buildings, the leadership we have exerted in seeking the Solar Institute, and the publication of our energy manual."

The energy manual cited by the Congressman is "Energy, ERDA, and the Fifth District." This 247-page book was written to assist area companies doing business with the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), the complex new agency charged with solving America's energy problems. The book includes an analysis of the ERDA budget, a summary of federal energy jurisdictions, an organizational chart, a list of relevant energy

publications, and additional technical information. Joseph LeVangie of Lexington, on leave from the AVCO Corporation as part of the Chambers of Commerce Congressional intern program, authored the book.

In a January editorial, the Boston Herald American said of the energy manual, "It is the first time such a comprehensive compilation of information, and directions for gathering additional information, has been available anywhere."

During the last six months of 1975, the Job Resources Section has also been involved in:

- Reversing a government decision which would have caused the loss of over 1000 jobs at Lincoln Labs in Lexington and the Mitre Corporation in Bedford.
- Creating the Lowell Development and Financial Corporation to provide loans for downtown development and restoration.
- Conducting a conference in Lawrence to help city leaders formulate an economic development strategy.
- Obtaining the full \$150,000 from House and Senate Committees in order to fund the Lowell Urban Park Commission and study.
- Formulating the successful Tsongas Amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act establishing fuel efficiency testing centers to promote gasoline conservation.
- Resolving the dispute which threatened Computer Vision of Bedford from competing for a multi-million dollar contract.
- Helping the American Pace-maker Company to obtain an initial loan; the new firm now is expected to locate in the Fifth District.
- Assisting Telemetry Systems Engineering of Andover in obtaining a federal loan of \$250,000 which will result in an eventual expansion to between 200-300 employees.

Credit Rights for Women

Women across the nation now have a better chance to secure credit through the enactment of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. The implementation of this law follows an uphill struggle with the Federal Reserve System Board of Governors to make the regulations of the law consistent with the anti-discriminatory intent of the Act. Congressman Tsongas was vocal throughout the controversy, urging the Reserve Board Governors to comply with the intent of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act despite lobbying attempts by credit institutions.

The Board of Governors issued trial regulations in September which failed to deal adequately with the problem of credit discrimination against women. Tsongas at that time suggested ten changes in the proposed regulations which would more aggressively carry out the purpose of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. The

suggestions included:

- stringent regulation of the October 28, 1975 deadline for enactment of the law
- elimination of credit inquiries concerning child bearing intentions, and irrelevant inquiries about child support or alimony payments
- deletion of regulations which penalize married women not listed on property titles, telephone directories, and other similar situations

As a result of the protests of legislators and women's groups, the Federal Reserve Board has issued final regulations which respond to many of the points which Congressman Tsongas cited. The new regulations forbid the use of sex or marital status in credit scoring systems, provide that upon request credit and banking institutions must give written explanation of why credit is denied, and require creditors to keep separate credit records of accounts maintained by both spouses.

Telling it to Your Congressman

A second year of "open meetings" has begun in the 24 Fifth District cities and towns. During the last three months, "Tell It To Your Congressman Sessions" have been held in Dunstable, Concord, Methuen, Wilmington, Ashby, Townsend, Andover, Tewksbury, Pepperell, and Groton.

The forums consist of a question and answer session between the Congressman and those attending. Informality and straight answers are guaranteed.

Upcoming "open meetings" include:

Carlisle, Friday, March 19 Spalding School School Street	8:00 p.m.
Westford, Saturday, March 20 Westford Town Hall 55 Main Street	10:00 a.m.
North Reading, Saturday, March 20 Building on the Common Park Street	1:00 p.m.
BillERICA, Saturday, March 27 Marshall Middle School Floyd Street	10:00 a.m.
Lowell, Saturday, April 21 First United Baptist Church 99 Church Street (Zayre-Stop & Shop Plaza)	8:00 p.m.
Lawrence, Thursday, April 22 Lawrence Public Library 51 Lawrence Street	8:00 p.m.
Chelmsford, Friday, April 23 McCarthy Junior High School 250 North Road	8:00 p.m.
Tyngsboro, Saturday, April 24 Tyngsboro Junior-Senior High School Norris Road	10:00 a.m.
Dracut, Saturday, April 24 Middle School 1580 Lakeview Avenue	1:00 p.m.

Congressional District Office Hours

- Lowell: 50 Kearney Square, Room 216
459-0101
Open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekdays.
- Lawrence: 469 Essex Street
683-5313
Open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekdays.
- Lexington: 185 Bedford Street
862-1847
Open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays,
Open to 8:00 p.m. Mondays

Results of September Questionnaire

Here are the results of the questionnaire that appeared in the September newsletter. Some 7,500 of you took the time to respond. Thank you.

This month's questionnaire appears on the next page. Please take a few minutes to fill it out.

- | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|
| 1. Should Congress enact a program of comprehensive national health insurance for all Americans? | YES
62% | NO
37% |
| 2. Do you feel that Social Security benefits adequately cover the cost of living? | YES
18% | NO
78% |
| 3. Should the government sponsor a public works program to create jobs for the unemployed? | YES
57% | NO
39% |
| 4. Do you favor legislation (check one) | | |
| a. banning the sale or possession of handguns? . . . | | 31% |
| b. banning the sale or possession of all firearms? . . | | 17% |
| c. requiring the registration of firearms? | | 30% |
| d. None of the above — the sale and possession of firearms should not be restricted | | 22% |
| 5. Which form of energy should the government give the highest priority to developing? (check one) | | |
| a. nuclear energy | | 20% |
| b. solar energy | | 50% |
| c. oil and coal resources including searching for additional reserves | | 28% |
| 6. How should oil and gas reserves on public lands be developed? | | |
| a. Development should be left to private oil companies. | | 40% |
| b. A federal oil and gas company should be created to develop these resources. | | 55% |
| 7. Do you favor strict environmental controls on strip mining? | YES
70% | NO
24% |
| 8. Should Congress restrict CIA activities which interfere with the internal affairs of foreign countries? | YES
62% | NO
37% |
| 9. Should the United States renew diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba? | YES
72% | NO
23% |
| 10. Which of the following areas is most in need of government regulation to protect consumers? (check one) | | |
| a. Automobile repair | | 44% |
| b. Household appliance repair | | 5% |
| c. Radio and television repair | | 6% |
| d. other | | 15% |
| e. none | | 25% |
| 11. Should Congress pass legislation which would effectively reduce corporate taxes and encourage capital formation? | YES
42% | NO
48% |
| 12. Do you feel that defense spending is | | |
| a. Too great | | 51% |
| b. Too Little | | 18% |
| c. About right | | 31% |
| 13. Should Congress pass legislation permitting voter registration by postcard? | YES
21% | NO
28% |
| 14. Do you favor public financing of Congressional election campaigns? | YES
51% | NO
48% |
| 15. What issues do you think Congress should be paying most attention to?
(When asked to list three issues, most frequently mentioned) | | |
| economy | | } 61% |
| unemployment | | |
| inflation | | } 42% |
| energy | | |
| tax reform | | 14% |
| social services | | 13% |
| cut federal spending | | 11% |
| less government regulation | | 9% |
| environment | | 9% |
| reduce defense budget | | 9% |
| mass transportation | | 7% |
| international affairs | | 6% |
| welfare reform | | 6% |
| national health insurance | | 5% |
| busing | | 3% |

(Because some respondents did not answer every question, all percentages do not add up to 100%.)

The Fight for a Solar Institute

New England is in the running for the \$50 million Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI).

Congressman Tsongas, who along with Senator Edward Kennedy, helped push the SERI project off dead center, says there were some initial problems such as "an absence of technical and scientific leadership, New England's late start, and a lack of money." Six months later, New England has a task force, a well qualified full time project director and staff, and a good deal of the funding necessary to formulate a proposal.

"The benefits of locating SERI in our area would be immense," according to Tsongas. "More than 1000 jobs at the Institute alone would be created. Additional jobs and millions of dollars in private sector research and development would also result. Perhaps most importantly," the Freshman Congressman stated, "the development of this potentially inexhaustible, environmentally sound, and reasonably priced resource would help New England and the nation move towards energy independence." Tsongas believes that New England can "shed its image of a non-producer and over-consumer of energy" if it is given the opportunity to "put our world-renowned scientists and engineers to work in the solar energy field."

The SERI effort was placed "back on the track", as Tsongas terms it, when the Fifth District Representative and Senator Kennedy suggested a plan to insure the formulation of a Solar Institute proposal. At a New England Congressional Delegation meeting last September, regional members of Congress and the Senate agreed to support a Tsongas-Kennedy plan calling for the New England Council to set up an "Energy Task Force" to coordinate the SERI effort.

One month later, a twenty-three member "Energy Task Force", was formed with the assistance of New England Council President Edward J. King. Meanwhile, under the leadership of Governor Dukakis and Lt. Governor O'Neill, the New England Governors endorsed the Tsongas-Kennedy plan and established their own task force to provide technical assistance and New England Regional Commission funds.

The New England Delegation met with the head of the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), Robert Seamans and outlined the region's unified efforts for the location of SERI. ERDA will determine the site of the Solar Institute during mid-1976 and would be responsible for organizing and funding SERI. Seamans was also asked about the minimal investment that ERDA had made in New England despite its obvious technological capabilities. The energy agency administrator revealed that he would soon be proposing a regional ERDA headquarters in New England and said that a federal energy conservation research center would make good sense for the Greater Boston area.

Congressman Tsongas was asked to act as a liaison between the New England task forces and has designated two members of his staff to work with the proposal teams and to monitor the ERDA selection process.

On the subject of the specific location of the Institute, Tsongas says that while he would like Fifth District sites to be considered and has "indicated to the appropriate persons that both Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford and a site in Lowell should be considered," the present priority is to work on behalf of a coordinated New England effort.



At a Boston Congressional hearing on the future of nuclear energy, Rep. Tsongas listens to testimony along with Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Morris Udall (D-Ariz.). The November 14 session at Faneuil Hall was the second in a series of comprehensive hearings on the viability and potential safety hazards related to nuclear energy.

Senior Citizen Intern Program

As announced in the last year's newsletter, a Senior Citizen Intern Program has been established in Fifth District Congressional offices. The program has been most effective and has provided a unique learning experience for Senior Citizens and staff members alike.

Here are profiles on seven senior interns:

Mrs. Mary Leahy of Billerica is a retired State Office worker and most recently was employed in the Billerica assessor's office. She has long experience in Massachusetts government. Mrs. Leahy has been contacting regional and local Senior Citizens organizations and keeping Congressman Tsongas abreast of their activities.

Mrs. Alyce Harrington of Lowell was an employee of the Social Security Administration and is well versed in all aspects of the agency. She acts as "troubleshooter" for solving constituents' social security problems.

Mr. Joseph Morache of Dracut worked for Raytheon prior to his retirement. He is presently a real estate agent, and also sells antiques in his "spare time." Joe has been compiling a mailing list of Senior Citizens in the district, along with Mrs. Leahy, in order to keep them informed of federal assistance programs. Mr. Morache also does casework and research.

Mrs. Gertrude Vail, a lifelong resident of Lowell, has been contacting the area Councils on Aging and will represent Congressman Tsongas at a number of these meetings. She assists with casework as well as general office work.

Mr. Cliff Choquette of Chelmsford retired in 1974 from the Director's Office at the Bedford Veterans Administration Hospital. His invaluable experience is a great aid to local veterans and he follows up on constituents' problems by making personal home visits. Cliff is conducting research projects as well.

Mr. John Gannon of Dracut is interested in solar energy and holds a nuclear power plant operator's license. John has been working on research projects.

Margaret Carr Phythian, a native of Lowell, has recently returned from living in Florida. She is a retired federal office worker and has been a great help in providing much needed clerical assistance.

All of these hard working 'Seniors' are ready to help you with any problems you may be having. If you would be interested in joining the Senior Intern Program, please call Program Coordinator Chris Briand, at 459-0101.



SENIOR CITIZEN INTERN PROGRAM

Seated, left to right - Gertrude Vail, Congressman Tsongas, Alyce Harrington. Standing, left to right - Joseph Morache, Chris Briand (co-ordinator), Cliff Choquette, Margaret Carr Phythian, John Gannon.

Youth Employment Office Proposed

In response to the high rate of unemployment prevalent throughout Massachusetts and the Fifth District, Congressman Tsongas has drafted legislation to establish a Youth Employment Office in the Department of Labor to administer youth programs under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973.

The legislation provides for the counseling of young persons entering the labor force with regard to the availability of jobs and the utilization of their particular vocational training. Tsongas believes that the problem of unemployment can, to some extent, be met through job counseling and training at an early age.

"The Youth Employment Office would have the potential to insure that future generations will be trained in those skills which can secure for them productive and meaningful employment," Tsongas has stated.

The legislation would have the greatest impact in depressed urban areas. The function of the Youth Employment Office includes the creation of meaningful summer jobs and job-training programs and the establishment of in-school employment counseling centers.

Economy Questionnaire

The questionnaire in the last newsletter was helpful in indicating Fifth District opinions on a wide range of issues.

This questionnaire is keyed almost exclusively to the economy. This was the issue that the vast majority of respondents expressed the most concern about in the last questionnaire, and it clearly deserves far more attention than it is getting from both the President and the Congress.

Please take a few minutes to fill out this form. There's room for 2 sets of answers for each household. When you've completed

the form, refold the newsletter so that the return mailer is on the outside, staple or tape the bottom edge, and drop it in the mail with a first class stamp.

Many of you wrote your names on the last questionnaire. Because of the thousands of returns that are received, it is not possible to respond to each one personally. However, the results of this poll will be released to the press when it has been tabulated, and you'll find a complete breakdown of the results in the next issue of the newsletter.

		Respondent 1	Respondent 2
1. The Administration has stated that we are now on the way back to an economic recovery. Compared to a year ago, do you think the economy is now in: (check one)			
a. better shape		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. worse shape		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. about the same		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over the next year, do you think the economy is likely to: (check one)			
a. improve		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. grow worse		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. stay about the same		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There has been much debate about government spending and its relation to the economy. In the following areas of government spending do you feel we should be spending more, less, about the same?			
	More	Less	Same
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public works	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military spending	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crime prevention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food Stamps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. What one area of federal spending do you feel most needs to be reduced?			
Respondent 1	_____		
Respondent 2	_____		
4. What one area of federal spending do you feel most needs to be increased?			
Respondent 1	_____		
Respondent 2	_____		
	YES	NO	YES NO
5. Would you favor a federal jobs program in order to reach full employment even if it might be inflationary?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do you think that such a program would be inflationary?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you think the current U.S. tax structure is fair?			
If not, what one aspect of the present tax laws are most unfair?			
Respondent 1	_____		
Respondent 2	_____		

Paul C. Tsongas
M.C.

POSTAL PATRON – LOCAL
FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
MASSACHUSETTS



Lowell "Urban Park" Plans Move Ahead

An eight month study that will serve as the framework for legislation creating a Lowell National Urban Cultural Park is under way. The federal Lowell Historic Canal District Commission has selected a consultant/study team and efforts have been successful in obtaining full funding for the Commission.

Urban officials and planners from throughout the country view the Lowell effort as the first city-wide attempt to preserve a community's architectural and cultural heritage. This concept is becoming widely accepted as a way of making urban areas desirable places to live and work again.

Lowell, America's first planned industrial city, has the opportunity to establish a precedent with the development of a "living" urban national park. Many of Lowell's prime attributes have been ignored for years. The historic Merrimack and Concord

Rivers run through the heart of the city, a five and one-half mile canal network encircles the downtown, large mill complexes dominate the horizon, and the central business district is lined with 19th century commercial buildings. Lowell's rich history tells the story of this country's industrial revolution, the labor movement, and the great emigration to America.

The Lowell Urban Park plans will compliment the State's \$9 million Heritage Park and ongoing local efforts.

As a member of the National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over the creation of urban parks, Congressman Tsongas has made every effort to acquaint colleagues with the Lowell concept. He has also met twice with National Park Service Director Gary Everhardt to discuss urban park policies.

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

(Last September, a reporter for the Manchester Guardian, of Manchester, England accompanied Congressman Tsongas through the Fifth District. An article dealing with Lawrence and Lexington is excerpted here:)

Capitol's Young Turks

THE YOUNG Congressman for the fifth district of Massachusetts was apprehensive as he walked into the public library of the small town of Lawrence recently. He had arranged his first evening meeting with constituents some weeks before.

Now it clashed with a televised showing of the main talking point in the whole state: the final of the Baseball World Series for which the Boston Red Sox had unexpectedly qualified. Worse was to come. Two nights later a second political meeting, this time in Lexington, would clash with another match in the seven-game series.

But the turn-out for Paul Tsongas was relatively high, about 40 in Lawrence and 60 in Lexington, which is better than most Cabinet Ministers get at evening meetings at byelections in England.

One reason for the public interest was novelty. Few Congressmen bother to hold meetings except in the immediate run-up to an election. People wanted to see this strange breed of animal who had invited them to a question-and-answer session on what was going on down in Washington.

Tsongas gave no speech, took off his jacket, and started straight into informal questions. Both meet-

ings lasted for two hours. Only half a dozen people trickled away before the end.

Tsongas is one of a group of 75 Democratic "freshmen" who were celebrating the first anniversary of their elections to Congress. They came in on the floodtide of anti-Republican sentiment after Nixon's resignation. In many cases their victories were unexpected. . .

In the first flush of excitement, the freshmen were full of ambitious ideas about reforming Congress and Government policy. A year later some of that enthusiasm has gone, but the freshman caucus has solid achievements behind it already.

At the start of the session it ousted the four senior Southern Democrats from the chairmanships of the key committees, Ways and Means which deals with taxes, banking and currency, armed services and agriculture.

It pushed through a measure ensuring that the chairman of subcommittees be elected rather than have them appointed by the chairman of the parent committee. At a stroke the seniority system under which conservative Southerners had dominated the committees was broken.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Congressman Paul Tsongas
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515