

To: Paul Tsongas  
From: Doug McGarrah  
Oct. 19, 1979

Notes for A.P. Broadcaster's Dinner

Water

Many communities in Western Mass suffer from water contamination (from toxic waste as in Belchertown to salt or bacteria as in Pittsfield), and supply difficulties (eg. Amherst). Massive amounts of assistance will be necessary to pay for long overdue maintenance and rehab of urban water distribution systems. State and federal legislation is now pending that would address this need (the Domenici/Moynihan bill S.1241 is held up in Sen. Gravel's subcommittee on Water REsources. The key issue here is a cost sharing provision -- western states want to make sure they don't lose their current level of assistance on water projects by allowing monies for urban water rehab.).

*Issue*  
The Diversion of the Ct. River is an issue on which you came out very strongly in a speech delivered in Northampton June 22, 1979. The key to this issue: the Quabbin is supplying the MDC beyond its "safe yield" already; before we consider diversion we must have: water conservation; ground water development in MDC communities; and distribution system rehab -- Boston cannot account for up to 70 million gallons per day.

Housing

Franklin County has an excellent Regional Housing Authority which has been successful with both state and federal programs and answers rural housing needs for communities too small to have housing authorities of their own. A Hampshire County Authority has also been established. These are the only two regional authorities in the state.

Transportation

The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA) has a very successful operation. The Franklin County RTA is still involved in a turf battle with the Greenfield/Montague T.A.

Energy

*Hilltown  
Adm  
P.*  
You recently cited Franklin County in the Cong. Record for their work in Energy conservation. The Hilltown Project (you are in a "Hilltown" ) will "cut the ribbon" on a solar town garage in Chesterfield tomorrow. Bob Bergland spoke at U. Mass Tuesday and announced a \$1.5m "wood for fuel" program in the region. Wood burning is very big out here.