

To: John Quinn  
Missy Grealy

Fr: Doug McGarrah  
April 12, 1982

Re: Economic Development Report- Central and Western Mass.

✓ The Greenfield Garden Theatre is well along the way for Historic Register nomination. We sent a letter of support and I spoke with Pat Weslowski (Exec. Dir. of the Mass HPO) and she felt that there should be no problem with a quick nomination approval.

✓ The G.E. Pittsfield large transformer contract with the Army Corps of Engineers for the Libby Dam in Montana was awarded last week. The Corps had threatened to rebid the project due to the Congressional holdups but we were able to prevail with them to honor their original award to G.E.

The Springfield 503 Corp is moving ahead on closings for 3 loans but are not accepting any new applications pending the April 22 meeting.

EDA funding for the Crosstown Industrial Park in Springfield seems to be close. It is on a list of approved projects in Washington awaiting funding allocation.

Meetings:

Attended the reopening of the Bay State West Downtown Springfield Shopping center with a letter of congrats from PT (3/28).

✓ Visited a fiber board plant in Claremont, N.H. which is producing a revolutionary product called oriented strand board which likely will replace plywood very soon. As soon as the housing industry comes around, this board will allow New England builders a product that is as good (and really better in terms of stress tests, etc.) as the plywood which is entirely imported. Several new plants are scheduled in Massachusetts areas which have a resource area capable of supplying such a facility. State Sen. Olver, Gordon Oakes and others from West Mass. Devel. Corp., and several members from the U. Mass faculty were along. Impellizzeri (owner of the plant) is also considering locating his R&D facility (presently in Calif.) near a university with wood science resources. This effort established an important link between Amherst and the University and the Springfield financial community. (4/26).

Attended the Central Mass. Housing Needs Conf. at Worcester (4/2) State College and brought copies of PT's housing bill for distribution

✓ Attended the opening of Chicopee Day which launched an effort to market the city. PT should visit Westover soon. (4/2)

Met with Jay Loftus and Berton Fisher of the Fisher Group to discuss the Pittsfield mall. They are the designated developers and have been working the last six months to put together the parcel for development. (4/8).

Met Bruce Farren, Dir. of external relations at G.E. Pittsfield. Bruce has taken over for Tom Litwiler in this capacity. (4/8)

Attended a Pittsfield Rotary luncheon and met the Pres. of Berkshire Community College who was very supportive of PT and the fight on student loans. (4/8)

✓ Met with the editors of the Berkshire Eagle to discuss Pittsfield downtown development strategies. (4/8)

Met the Mayor (Smith) and the dir. of Community Development on the same topics.

MARCH 2, 1987

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT