

To: Steve, Missy and Dennis  
From: Doug M.  
July 28, 1980

Re: Projects Report

Visited the Cranwell estate in Lenox with Candy Jenkins from Mass Historic and determined that the property was clearly eligible for the National Register. I then met with the folks from G.E. to discuss the prospects of their investment in a "R&D" facility at this site. Due to the size of the investment (around \$30 million) MIFA will not be able to participate. The two major incentives we can identify to help in this case are the rapid depreciation with national register status and possible EDA help with utility hookups and particularly an expansion of their water supply. I have also had conversations with the DPW on improvements to Rte. 7 from the Mass Pike. While the by-pass seems a ways off to have any impact on this project, there are some planned improvements to the existing route which should be implemented in the next 3-4 years. Jim Carlin will be meeting with the G.E. folks this Friday.

Met with Roger Paradis in Pittsfield to discuss a proposal he has prepared to open a real estate business. He was interested in SBA assistance and I explained the process to him and left him some informational materials.

Discussed the possibilities of forming a development corporation in Pittsfield with Janet Goldberg (CD Dir.) and met an owner of several downtown blocks interested in a facade improvement program. Pittsfield has nearly \$1 million to reprogram and a Devel Corp. with local bank participation could be a "first step" that was neglected with the mall business to bring back the commercial viability of downtown. We also discussed the prospects of using the land bank to acquire the theatre and rehab to a performing arts center. The land bank has already been out and is interested in the project.

Attended the Digital ground breaking at their new plant in Westminster. It is located just off Rte. 2 and 50% of the work force lives in the Gardner-Fitchburg area. The other half commute from the Maynard and surrounding areas. DEC uses a van pool program as well as flex time and have found this to increase productivity.

Visited with Earnie Beresh of the Rural Housing Improvement program in Wichendon. They are the housing agency for most of rural Worcester County and have been involved in a number of innovative projects including a Farmers Home development in Springfield for migrant farm workers, solar homes in Athol, an Innovative Grant proposal in Wichendon, and a water quality and disposal program for small communities in the northeast. They had very good things to say about our office, especially on housing legislative and HUD dealings with Missy.

Toured the Spalding plant in Chicopee which is the company's only American manufacturing facility in the U.S. It employs roughly 1400 people and is under a new consolidation program to increase productivity at the plant. They have also established a new research facility and have resolved their waste water problems with a new recycling system. Golf balls are the main product line that is expanding.

Pittsfield obtained an extension on their NSA Sect. 8 32 units yet to be obligated to Sept. 1. Janet feels they should have no trouble meeting this new deadline.

I spoke at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs breakfast and discussed the Mass. Plan among other topics. They don't feel PT is supportive enough of nuclear power and would like to see him more enthusiastic on coal. They are pleased, however, that he is paying as much attention to the state as he is.

Met with Al Griggs and toured the Coke plant in Northampton. He is interested in buying the Northampton Hotel and I discussed with him various possibilities of financing the roughly \$3 million deal.