

AUGUST

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MONTHLY REPORT
CENTRAL AND WESTERN MASS
DOUG MCGARRAH *gm*

Springfield

I toured the Easco Hand Tool plant (formerly the Moore Company) which we had helped secure an Action Grant almost one year ago. I had some general discussions on the IDB issue as well as the Japan speech and reinvestment/productivity strategies.

I had a lengthy discussion on Western Mass development topics with Gordon Oakes (Pres. of BayBank Valley and Pres. of the West Mass Development Corp.), I will be a part of a working group which will meet in September to plan on linking the University of Mass School of Business and Springfield area businesses.

North Adams

While attending a housing groundbreaking, I was asked by Mayor Lamb for assistance with the Post Office to force it to add a ramp for handicapped access. Much of the city has been made accessible for the handicapped but the Post Master had refused. As of this week, I have a commitment from the Postal Service in D.C. that they will prepare a cost estimate for a temporary, wooden ramp for the building and perhaps the costs can be shared between the city and the P.O.

Greenfield

A dairyman contacted the office to seek assistance for financing his expansion. There is generally an unwillingness to invest in new agricultural ventures in Massachusetts banks. However, I was able to arrange for a meeting with the BayBank in Greenfield and it appears that they will be willing to offer financing to the farmer.

Chicopee

The Urban Systems project for downtown Chicopee was held up due to FHWA concerns over proposed project amenities. We pressed hard for acceptance and agreement has been reached to allow the city to go out to bid by the end of September.

Lee/Lenox

The Washington Mountain Brook water supply project conflict was resolved with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between CLF and the Soil Conservation Service. I attended the signing and we were given some credit, publicly, for our assistance.

Northampton

In response to a call from Mayor Musante, I arranged a luncheon meeting with Oliver Scott of OXFAM to discuss an idea for a conference and unique fund-raising campaign in the city sponsored with Smith College. Sen. Kennedy will be the keynote speaker.

Additional Activities

I attended the Pittsfield City Democratic Committee rally for Democratic Candidates. I also met (with Frank) with Bruce Ferin, Business Agent of IUE Local 255, to discuss issues of mutual concern.

(It should be noted that I was on vacation for two weeks in August.)