

SENATOR

# Paul Tsongas Reports

## Tsongas Defending Cause of Education

The United States is backtracking on key educational gains of recent years. At stake is the nation's commitment to economic growth -- especially in high technology -- and educational opportunity for all Americans.

The assault on American

education, both public and private, is evident in a wide swath of Federal cutbacks.

Leading the retreat is the current Administration, which has even targeted the U.S. Department of Education.

In jeopardy or already im-

paired are: college loans for moderate-income families; National Science Foundation grants; special education for the handicapped; college work-study programs; vocational education; and the so-called Title I grants for remedial courses in elementary and secondary schools.

Senator Tsongas is committed to countering the offensive against United States education.

Though he supports savings in line with shrinking school enrollments, Tsongas warns that wholesale dismantling of educational programs is short-sighted. "Ultimately, our nation's prosperity and military security depend on our investment in human resources -- that is, in ourselves," says Tsongas.

As a center of the fast-growing high-technology industry, Massachusetts has a critical interest in preserving a strong educational system that will produce highly skilled workers.

Education itself is an important industry in a state that is blessed with a profusion of private schools and colleges.

Following are some of Tsongas' recent initiatives on behalf of education:

### **Guaranteed Student Loans**

He introduced a resolution that helped stymie efforts to eliminate graduate and professional students from the program.

**Title I Grants** He sponsored a resolution to prevent the Department of Education from using outdated data, which were less favorable to Massachusetts, to determine outlays of Federal dollars.

### **National Teacher Retraining Act**

He introduced a bill to update teachers' basic skills and to help them cope with professional burnout.

**GI Bill** He filed legislation to revive comprehensive educational assistance for veterans. (See page 3.)



Photo by Lawry Payne

During July trip to Israel and Lebanon, Senator Tsongas meets in Jerusalem with Philip Habib, then special U.S. envoy to the Mideast.

Dear Friends,

Every day now the headlines present the grim picture of the Middle East today. The massacre of civilians in Sabra and Shatila is merely the latest of several years of violence and counterviolence. There are factional militias throughout Lebanon, street demonstrations in Israel, United States Marines in Beirut and political tremors throughout the region.

The matter is made all the more difficult by the tendency of leaders to distrust each other's intent and motivation. Perhaps that tendency is understandable. It is, however, inadequate to the time and place.

It's time to move on to a lasting peace. The ingredients are well known. The right of Israel to exist within safe and defensible borders. The resolution of the Palestinian question. The commitment to a Lebanon free of all foreign forces.

The framework is simple, yet maddeningly difficult to implement. But the devastation I saw in Lebanon this July makes it clear to me that only this approach can avert more death -- and more despair.

President Reagan has finally begun to focus on the Middle East. In a bipartisan spirit I offer him my support in his attempt to bring about negotiations -- in particular, the involvement of Jordan in the deliberations. Let us pray that he is successful.

Sincerely,

*Paul*



# Tunnels Backed In Charlestown

Perhaps no section of Boston offers a richer historical tradition coupled with greater economic potential than Charlestown's City Square.

Site of Boston's earliest settlement, City Square has a proud legacy as a once-thriving commercial center. Nearby is the starting point for Paul Revere's famous ride, and also Bunker Hill, where American revolutionaries made their famous stand against the British.

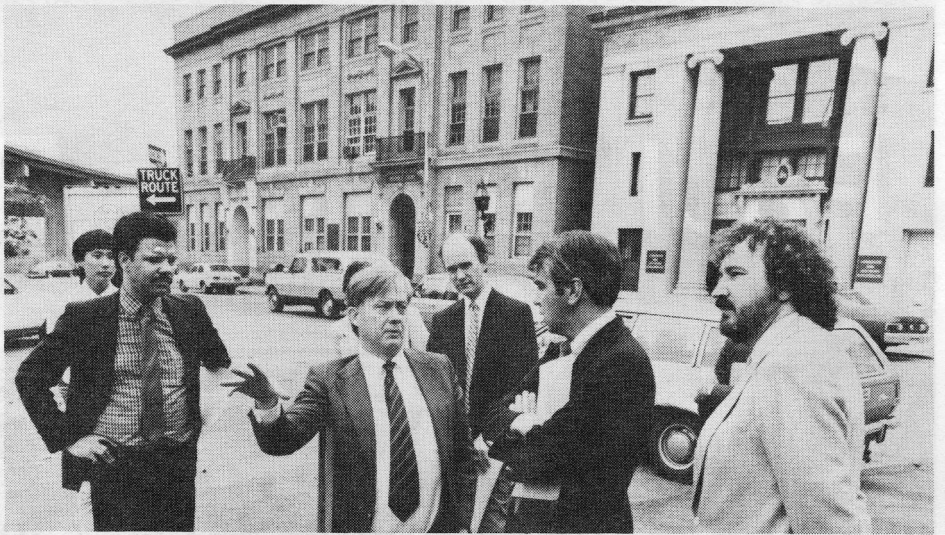
With the revival of the neighboring Charlestown Naval Shipyard into a residential community, City Square ought to be on the threshold of a major rebirth that would boost Boston's employment and tax base.

But City Square's prospects for historical preservation and economic development are clouded by the overhead highway superstructure connecting Tobin Bridge to Route I-93.

Senator Tsongas is vigorously supporting a campaign by a coalition of Charlestown residents to build tunnels under City Square as part of the area's revitalization. A tunnel blueprint has been prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works and is widely supported in the community.

Under the plan, two tunnels would replace the steel-girded roadway that is stifling development in City Square.

The tunnels also would eliminate the hazards of the elevated highway, which leads the state in traffic accidents.



Standing on site of proposed tunnels for Charlestown's City Square, Senator Tsongas discusses plan with community leaders.

Photo by E. Braverman

The Federal Highway Administration originally earmarked \$140 million for the tunnel project. Recently, however, it cut the allocation to \$40 million and dropped the idea for the tunnels altogether.

The FHA is insisting on an alternative design that actually would worsen the overhead maze in City Square, would only partly reduce the traffic hazards and would compromise the bulk of the estimated \$490 million in private investment that the tunnel project would have triggered in Charlestown.

Senator Tsongas, however, has been pressing for a reversal of the FHA decision. In letters to Norman J. Van Ness, the FHA's division administrator, he has argued the importance of the project.

On Aug. 27, he met in Charlestown with a number of community leaders, among them members of the Charlestown Area Task Force, to discuss the

tunnel and pledge his continuing support -- and that of his staff -- for the project.

Local development projects like the City Square tunnels are a major focus of Tsongas' Boston staff. They assist businesses, community groups and government agencies across the state in a wide variety of development efforts.

## Tsongas Fights Sugar Subsidy

Every time you buy a bag of sugar or any one of the multitude of products that contain sugar, you are paying more than you should be paying.

Sugar prices have been running as much as 10 cents a pound higher in the United States than on the world market. The reason: Federal price supports costing the American consumer more than \$2 billion a year.

Two sugar programs are currently in operation. First, there is a Federal loan program that guarantees farmers a minimum price for sugar. Second, there are quotas imposed by President Reagan last May that restrict foreign imports of sugar into the United States.

Over a year ago, Senator Tsongas sought an amendment to the 1981 farm bill that would have scrapped the price-support program for sugar. If the amendment had passed, the President would have been spared the temptation of levying quotas on sugar imports this year.

Tsongas has opposed sugar-price supports as the sort of special-interest legislation -- like subsidies for tobacco and peanut farmers -- that the nation can ill afford.

A compromise bill he proposed this September would have lowered the level of sugar price supports for at least a year, but the Senate defeated the measure on a procedural vote. He plans further initiatives to reduce or eliminate sugar subsidies.

## Utility Bailout Is Opposed

Should customers of the Boston Edison, Western Massachusetts Electric and other nuclear-power utilities have to pay for the cleanup of the Three Mile Island reactor in Pennsylvania?

Senator Tsongas thinks not.

He objects strongly to the proposed bailout of the General Public Utilities Corporation, which owns the disabled Three Mile Island facility.

The bailout has been approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. But Tsongas plans to fight the bill on the Senate floor.

In a dissenting statement filed with the Energy Committee, on which he serves, he argued that cleanup of the radioactive debris at Three Mile Island can proceed without undue hardship even if there is no Federal help.

Cleanup of Three Mile Island could be financed by a 10 percent surcharge on the Penn-

sylvania utility's rate base over the next six years, according to the U.S. Government Accounting Office.

Even with the surcharge, General Public Utilities customers would pay rates below those charged by Boston Edison and other Massachusetts utilities.

In his statement Tsongas maintained that a subsidized cleanup would be "unfair to ratepayers and utilities across the country."

Numerous studies of the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island have documented the Pennsylvania utility's errors in the operation and management of the nuclear power plant.

"In our economic system," Tsongas said, "those who take the risks are entitled to the benefits, but so must they absorb the financial loss of a misadventure. The system thereby promotes investment and responsibility."



# Tsongas to Revive GI Bill

Senator Tsongas has filed legislation to revive the GI Bill, the education assistance program for veterans.

As originally conceived, the GI Bill rewarded wartime veterans: those who served during World War Two, the Korean War, the so-called Cold War and the Vietnam War. Congress allowed the GI Bill to lapse effec-

## Law Will Boost Small Business

Senator Tsongas was one of the original sponsors of a bill enacted into law this summer that channels Federal resources into small businesses to promote technological innovation.

The new law, the Small Business Innovation Act, mandates that major Federal agencies allot a definite percentage of their research and development budgets to small businesses.

Beginning Oct. 1, 1982, the minimum proportion of such budgets earmarked for small businesses will be .1 percent. Within four years, the figure will rise to 1.25 percent.

The net effect will be \$43 million in new Federal outlays for small business research and development in 1983, and up to \$450 million for that purpose by 1987, but no extra cost to the U.S. Treasury. The total Federal research and development budget will stay the same.

Small businesses have accounted for the vast majority of new jobs and technological breakthroughs in the United States. Guaranteeing a degree of Federal investment in small businesses will help the development of new products and expansion of employment.

Because of the large number of small businesses in Massachusetts, it is likely to benefit more than most states.

The Small Business Innovation Act is patterned on a program initiated by the National Science Foundation in 1977.

tive for new recruits beginning in 1977.

Tsongas, however, believes that the GI Bill could serve an important purpose in bolstering peacetime military recruitment and retention in the era of the all-volunteer Armed Forces.

Under his proposal, an individual who enlists in any branch of the military for at least three years would be entitled to an educational stipend of \$300 a month for up to 36 months.

The legislation also permits mid-career military personnel to use accrued benefits under the GI Bill for financing study while on a leave of absence; provides for transfer of educational benefits to a spouse or children; and ensures those in the Reserves or National Guard comparable GI Bill benefits.

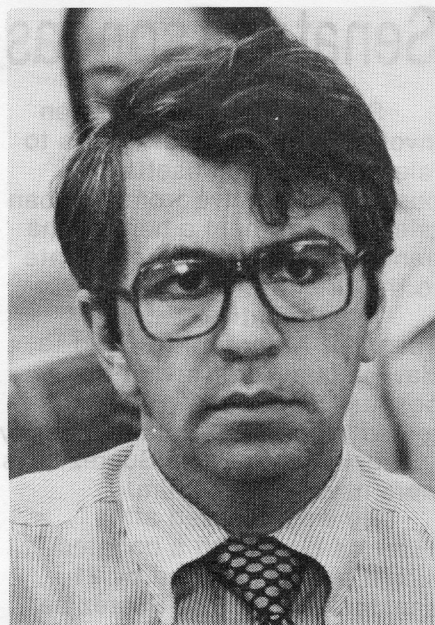
Tsongas expects that a new GI Bill would ease military manpower shortages. "Further," he said in a Senate statement, "by assisting young men and women to pursue their education, we are helping them to improve their lives and increase their productive contribution to the nation."

On other veterans' issues, he has been consistently supportive, calling the treatment of veterans in recent years unsatisfactory. He has resisted attempts by the Administration to curtail or freeze cost-of-living adjustments for veterans' pensions.

He has backed bills to expand health services for Vietnam veterans exposed to the chemical defoliant Agent Orange and co-sponsored legislation to build a Washington memorial to Vietnam veterans.

Further, he is monitoring a survey by the National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV) of men who participated in U.S. atmospheric nuclear testing between 1945 and 1962 and who are experiencing unusual health problems.

If you or a member of your family participated in these tests, please call NAAV survey coordinator Bernie Durkin at 617-545-0157 or 617-321-6000 extension 225.



Senator Tsongas participates in proceedings of the Senate Energy Committee.

## Funds Ordered For Solar Bank

Despite the opposition of the Administration, the Solar and Conservation Bank has a new lease on life.

The Bank is a Federal program authored by Senator Tsongas and enacted by the Congress in 1980. It provides subsidized financing to lower and moderate income families who install energy conservation and solar energy devices.

From the outset, the Administration failed to implement the program, provoking a lawsuit. This summer U.S. District Court Judge Charles Haight of New York ordered the Department of Housing and Urban Development to begin spending the Bank's \$22 million congressional outlay for the 1982 fiscal year.

Senator Tsongas hailed the court ruling and reaffirmed his commitment to secure ample financial support for the Bank in the future. The Bank counteracts the "problem of large start-up costs for energy improvements," he said, adding that "the consumer will enjoy dollar savings right away."

The Bank is designed to assist both tenants and homeowners in obtaining the capital necessary for investing in renewable energy resources.

Massachusetts especially stands to benefit from Bank assistance.

For one thing, the state has a relatively high number of rental units -- 40 percent of the Massachusetts population lives in rental housing, compared to 35 percent nationally.

For another, Massachusetts residents rely heavily on imported oil. Bank-sponsored energy alternatives promise to lessen dependence on costly fuels, like home heating oil.



Model above is replica of a statue proposed for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial under construction on the Washington Mall.



# Senator Tsongas Assists in Cases of Suarez, Somjai

Senator Tsongas has been involved in successful efforts to release a Massachusetts business executive from a Cuban prison and to help a hero of the Iranian hostage crisis immigrate to the United States.

The executive, Miguel M. Suarez of Arlington, traveled to Havana last April to visit his hospitalized mother. He was arrested in May and detained nearly 16 weeks for reasons Suarez says were never clear to him.

He was released after Tsongas circulated a congressional petition, signed by 21 senators urging that Suarez be freed, and following personal appeals to the Cubans by Senator Edward M. Kennedy and House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr.

Suarez is executive vice president of Matra Datavision of Burlington. Born in Cuba, he fled in 1961 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen eight years later.

He studied engineering at Northeastern University and worked at two Massachusetts firms, Computervision and Arthur D. Little, before joining Matra Division.

On his return to the United



Senator Tsongas greets Miguel Suarez, his wife, Celia, and their children, Walter and Isabelle Maria.

States from Cuba in August, he said, "I was treated like any other person in a Cuban prison. But like any loss of freedom, you feel like you are losing your life."

The hero of the Iranian hostage crisis is Somjai Sriweonetr, a Thai cook who risked his life by hiding five fugitive American diplomats. The Americans were eventually smuggled out of Iran by Canadian diplomats.

Somjai also acted as a secret courier for Victor Tomseth, one

of three American hostages held at Iran's Foreign Ministry in Tehran.

When the American embassy in Tehran was seized on Nov. 4, 1979, Somjai was working as a cook for three employees of the U.S. International Communications Agency, all of whom were taken hostage.

Once the American hostages in Iran were freed in January 1981, Somjai was encouraged to

**"Mr. Somjai has shown above all else his intense loyalty to Americans in time of danger..."**

leave the country for his safety.

Later that year, Tsongas introduced a bill in the Senate to authorize Somjai's immigration to the United States. At the time, the senator said, "Mr. Somjai has shown above all else his intense loyalty to Americans in time of danger... He deserves the opportunity to immigrate to the United States with his family."

In June of this year, Somjai arrived in this country on a residential visa granted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He is working at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and arranging for his wife and three children to join him in the United States.

## Staff Serving You

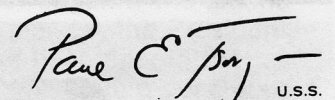
If Massachusetts residents run into red tape dealing with a Federal agency, whether it is the Social Security Administration, the Postal Service, the Department of Labor or any other, they are invited to seek information and help from Senator Tsongas' Boston staff. Telephone 617-223-1890 or write: Office of Senator Paul E. Tsongas, Room 2003f, John F. Kennedy Building, Boston Ma. 02203.

**Health and Safety** The Federal government offers numerous publications related to health and safety. Among them: "Think Toy Safety," a children's coloring book and safety guide; "Sodium -- THINK ABOUT IT. . .," a primer about salt in the diet; and "Accidental Hypothermia -- A WINTER HAZARD FOR THE OLD." The publications are available free of charge from the Boston address above, limit one per constituent as long as supplies last.

**Energy** Educators preparing for the National Energy Education Day on March 18 can obtain the pertinent materials also from the Boston address above. The NEED Project, created by legislation that Senator Tsongas cosponsored in Congress, is intended to promote energy education in school. The available materials include guides for NEED activities.

## United States Senate

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