

To: Steve J.

Missy

Dennis

From: Doug M.

June 30, 1980

Re: Projects Report

Negotiations continue on the purchase of the Uniroyal plant in Chicopee. I had dinner with Mayor Bob Kumor and Jim Knisely (who is putting together the deal to purchase the plant) to discuss financing options including possibilities with UDAG. I came away with the sense that a \$4m UDAG for the purchase of tire molds and warehouse space in Holyoke was not really critical to the deal, that the market commitments under negotiation will make the deal if they can be settled by mid-July. Kumor was in Washington last week to meet with the HUD UDAG folks at Cong. Boland's request and met with PT and Missy late Thursday, June 26.

Chicopee also has a 312 application pending with HUD that has had some difficulties due largely to insufficient information. I spoke with HUD (Jim Phiffer) and he has set aside funds for Chicopee and sent out a HUD consultant to the city to assist with pulling together an application.

Met with the Stevens Paper Mill Union folks last Tuesday to hear the ICA rule out the possibilities of a cooperative venture with the mill due to the bleak prospects for the high grade tissue produced at the plant for capacitors. The only serious hope is ~~for~~ another firm from Fitchburg has expressed an interest in purchase of the mill and will make a final decision by July 10. While in Westfield I stopped by with Brian Delaney to see Mayor McDermott for a general update. There are some flood control issues with the Army Corps that we will be following-up on. His agenda is almost exclusively focussed on industrial development. He is also still anxious to have PT visit.

Attended the retirement reception for Herb Almgren of the Shawmut First of Springfield. We had a long chat about PT and action in Springfield and he would be very receptive to future contact with PT. Herb will continue to head the SADC and be a major force in the area.

Spoke to the Hampshire County Selectmens Association June 19 on the Massachusetts Plan and a general legislative update. There was a great deal of interest in the movement with the EDA legislation and concern over revenue sharing and the timing Congress will take up the authorization for F.Y.'81. (Cities and towns set their tax rates and send out bills in early fall. To do this they need to know what to expect in revenue sharing.)

Met with Mayor Musante in Northampton to discuss BUN II which involves a loan pool for conservation and insulation with the banks offering low interest loans and the utility covering the interest for Mass. Electric homes. The city is preparing to interview candidates for the C.D. director and hope to have someone on board by mid-July.

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Doug McGarrah

Had lunch with Don St. Pierre in Greenfield (Exec. Dir. of the Franklin County Chamber) to discuss the town's progress on the Millers Falls tool building and other tourism developments in the County. I followed this with a meeting with the new town planner and a visit to the board of selectmen. The town has an EOCD funded feasibility study on the Millers Falls building which should be completed very soon. The B of S. have agreed to allow the Greenfield Redevelopment Authority maintain the building and coordinate marketing. Any development must include some business/job creation in addition to housing or other uses. I have suggested the Windsor Mill model from N. Adams and will be providing info to the town on this idea for the Board of Selectmen.

I had a very brief meeting with Mayor Lamb of North Adams to discuss his city's energy efforts since PT's visit in April. We also discussed the PWIP application with EDA and he seemed pleased with our support.

The innovative grant competition is rather intense in Western Mass. To date, I have been notified that Pittsfield, N. Adams, Northampton, Holyoke and Springfield have all applied and each application is impressive in that it is specially tailored to that community's needs. For example, Holyoke's application is for industrial/business conservation. N. Adams is a community demonstration center and Northampton is a residential retrofit to complement BUN II. My sense is that even though only one award is likely in the entire state, the application has generated interest and activity in specific ideas and programs for each community and in many ways can be seen as the groundwork for the CEA.

Digital has looked at the Mountain Farms Mall in Hadley as a possible future site location. I contacted Bruce Holbein at Digital to check what the status was on this possibility and it seems to be very early in the site inspection process but he suggested to maintain contact in case anything develops. This would be an ideal reuse of this under-utilized shopping mall and a good tie-in to the area for a skilled labor market (with the 5 college area and the U.Mass. School of Engineering