FRTF - Reporton Activities, [1972] November-December

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, November 27

November 27

November 28

MEETING of Committee on a Recovery Fair, Chamber of Commerce, noon

Present: Leo Corbett, Blanche Coslett, Ralph Hazeltine, Edgar Lashford, Ted Levanthol, Roy Morgan, Bob Parker, Murray Popky, Bob Rafsky, Nello Riccetti, Max Rosenn, Andrew Shaw, Betty Schechter, Arthur Wiener, Joe Williams, Jr., Walter Wood

Morgan reviewed the Fair's objectives: to demonstrate that the community has recovered from the effects of the flood; to show the cultural, historical, and educational character of the Valley; to function as a tourist attraction; to encourage consideration of the Valley by industrial firms looking for areas in which to locate.

Discussion of desirable duration and of funding of the Fair followed. It was agreed that both the closing dates of local schools and colleges (WB schools - June 13; King's graduation - May 20; Wilkes graduation - June 3) and the difficulties involved in sustaining public interest in a Fair over a long period of time should be considered in determining the length of the Fair. It was decided that the Fair will open on May 11th and tentatively decided that it would end on June 3rd and be reconstituted briefly on June 23rd for recognition of the anniversary of the flood by a concert open to the public.

Rafsky announced that the Commonwealth is prepared to commit at least $12,000 to support of the Fair and is ready to consider a budget submitted by the Committee with the idea of adding to its committment.

MEETING re Theme, Colors, and Logo for Recovery Fair

Present: Annie Bohlin, Murray Popky, Betty Schechter

The desirability of a unifying theme for the Fair was discussed. Annie Bohlin agreed to design a logo and develop suggestions for Fair colors, banners, posters, and signs for the Recovery Fair Committee's consideration.

November 29

MEETING of Planning and Development Committee, Hotel Sterling, 8 a.m.

Present: Badman, Brown, Epstein, Kiley, Koff, Parkhurst, Shapiro, Shelburne, Stettler, Weiss, Williams; B. Schechter, Shaw

Kiley announced that the meeting had been called to consider flood recovery plans and programs that have been put forward by coordinating agencies. After Shaw gave a brief description of the University City Science Center's Pre-Proposal for Inter-Regional Recovery Assistance, discussion centered on the Regional Overall Program Design (OPD) for Northeastern Pennsylvania in the Wake of Tropical Storm Agnes submitted to Theodore Robb, Chairman, Federal Regional Council, Mid-Atlantic Region, by Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

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Shelburne outlined the background of EDC's designation as lead planning agency: it sprang from the flood-stricken Valley's pressing need for a basic "Sketch Plan" against which to measure the worth of applications for EDA grants from individual municipalities; EDC had the staff and expertise to develop the Overall Program needed as a basis for bids by consulting firms for the job of formulating the Sketch Plan. Shelburne added that no firm decisions on redevelopment areas can be made until a Sketch Plan is adopted by the County.

Shaw said that the flood-stricken area suffers from a lack of up to date master plans for individual communities. He added that arrangements have been made for a representative of Wilbur Smith Associates, the firm hired by the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority to make the Sketch Plan, to address the next Task Force sponsored meeeting of local officials: the representative of Wilbur Smith Associates will emphasize the need for individual master plans and explain the consulting firm's function and objectives.

Shelburne pointed out that the work being done by Wilbur Smith Associates relates to redevelopment. He added that they will be gathering the information they need from not only the redevelopment authorities, but also from public officials and agencies concerned with flood recovery, and he suggested that when the Sketch Plan is completed in mid-January, it would be well for EDC and the FRTF Planning and Development Committee to review it jointly. Summing up one of EDC's major responsibilities, Shelburne said that the agency serves the function of understanding both the role of each of the many federal agencies and the kind and amount of funding each can make available.

It was agreed that the Committee would review the Sketch Plan jointly with EDC and make arrangements to meet with representatives of Wilbur Smith.

MEETING re Formation of an Executive Planning Committee for Human Resources Development, 9:30, EDC

Present: Ed Sites (DCA); Bill Desciak, Howard Grossman, Bob Shephard (EDC); Margaret Anderson, Charles Reynolds, Andrew Shaw (FRTF); John Farrell (Pa. Dept. of Health); Bill Eberwine (United Services Agency)

It was decided that the Executive Planning Committee would be made up of those present and Allen Bacon (CEO), Bob McGregor (Health and Hospital Planning Council), Bob Smith (Health Care Management), Frank Slattery (CEP), and John Zatalava (FRC).

The function of this committee was defined as review and coordination of plans and programs in the area of human resources. It was noted that this committee and its functions fall within the scope of the Regional Overall Program Design prepared by EDC.

MEETING re Long-term programs for repair and rehabilitation of flood-damaged homes. EDC, 2 p.m.

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Present: Ray Atherton (WB Redevelopment), Paul Cain (FRC), William Conner Carlucci Staff), Howard Grossman (EDC), Andrea Hornett (Carlucci Staff), Jim Price (Luzerne County Redevelopment), Cliff Rossignol (EDA), Robert Scalia (HUD), Andrew Shaw (FRTF), William Wilcox (DCA)

The major topic of discussion was the further rehabilitation of flood-damaged homes after completion of short-term programs such as mini-repairs, interim assistance, and the temporary repairs program contemplated by the Commonwealth.

Atherton presented a proposal by the terms of which his agency would contract out to the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority to survey damaged properties in its area of responsibility and provide each owner of a damaged home in that area with specifications spelling out which kinds of rehabilitation can and which cannot be funded with SBA loan monies (Money can be borrowed from SBA to restore a property to pre-flood condition, but not to bring it up to local code standards if it did not meet those standards before the flood). No decisions were reached on the proposal.

Discussion of how recovery agencies can best advise and help homeowners achieve complete rehabilitation of their damaged houses followed. The question of the point at which citizens groups should participate in decisions on this was brought up but no decisions were reached.

MEETING re HEW funded University of Pennsylvania study of the Impact of the Flood on the Wyoming Valley Elderly and the Response of Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies, Hotel Sterling, noon

Present: Margaret Anderson, Edward Boltz, Bill Desciak, Richard Ehst, Russell Gardner, Glenn Gooch, Elmer Klimchak, James O'Malley, Robert Patton, Max Rosenn; Betty Schechter, Andrew Shaw; Elias S. Cohen, S. Walter Poulchak (HEW Study - Principal Investigator and Research Director)

Cohen discussed the general objectives and specific aims of the study (outline attached) and explained that he had asked to meet with a group of the community's business leaders because it has been found that in a disaster-affected area the decisions made by business have a critical effect on every element of the area's population.

Rosenn said that the area's elderly suffered from a critical shortage of nursing home beds before the flood and that the flood aggravated this problem by dislocating and, thereby, making dependent many previously semi-self sufficient elderly people. Anderson added that stringent new State health-safety requirements are certain to have the effect of materially lessening the number of available nursing home beds. Cohen cautioned that decisions on construction of new nursing homes should be made on the basis of the need anticipated for a fifty year time span.

Discussion of housing for elderly persons not in need of nursing home care brought out several problems: many people of advanced age lack both the funds and the vigor to rehabilitate their damaged homes; many such people live on low, fixed incomes and cannot afford to pay higher rents than they paid before the flood; many who own their own homes are reluctant, both because of their

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age and the pride residents of this area take in staying out of debt, to borrow large sums of money.

Cohen pointed out that the security and convenience elderly people find in shopping in small, owner-run, neighborhood stores should be taken into consideration when plans are made for construction of housing for the elderly. He added that the question of whether or not such flood-damaged stores will reopen will affect decisions elderly people will make on whether or not to return to their pre-flood homes.

Cohen asked those present to see to it that the business community considers the needs of the elderly when making decisions on the direction flood-recovery efforts will take.

November 30

MEETING of Transportation Committee, Treadway, 8 a.m.

Present: Tom Crews (DOT); Gabrielle Ramsauer (EDC); Ray Radomski (PennDOT); Cliff Bigelow, Tom Bigler, John Conyngham, Leo Corbett, Ed Schechter, Jack Schmidt, Jim Tarity

Schechter distributed copies of a long, detailed letter he had received from PennDOT Secretary Kassab reporting on the status of the Cross-Valley Expressway, Project LR 1052. The letter makes it clear that the project retains the high priority it had been assigned and that it is still scheduled for completion in 1974. Schechter asked Crews to forward a copy of the letter to Dr. Costantino of DOT.

Copies of a draft of a statement justifying emergency, flood-related status for the project prepared by Ramsauer were also distributed. It was agreed that although it was apparent from the Kassab letter that such a justification was unnecessary as far as the Commonwealth was concerned, it could be useful in gaining DOT support for prompt construction of the Expressway. It was decided to complete preparation of the statement and to use it as the need arises.

Schechter reported that the Luzerne County Transportation Authority had hired Jerry L. Eddy, formerly a division manager of the Public Service Corporation of New Jersey, for the post of Executive Director. Schechter also reported that the Authority is currently negotiating with the Wilkes-Barre Transit Company for purchase of service agreements and that he expects that an agreement between the Company and the Authority will be signed soon.

MEETING re The flood-affected regions' need for consultant-prepared recovery programs Hotel Sterling

Present: representatives of the consulting and accounting firm, Peat, Marwick, and Mitchell: Jim Reynolds, John Wander, and a company economist; Betty Schechter, Andrew Shaw

Reynolds and Wander discussed the services their firm is equipped to perform. It was decided that they would submit a memorandum to the Task Force indicating the areas in which they can provide assistance to existing recovery efforts.

December 1

The staff of the FRTF has moved their headquarters from the Hotel Sterling to Rooms 1008 and 1010, Holy Cross Hall, King's College.

MEETING re Evaluation of Commonwealth's flood recovery program, Holiday Inn, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Present: (DCA) Secretary of Community Affairs William Wilcox, Al Hydeman (Executive Assistant Secretary), Rod Terry (Chief, Governmental Consulting Service), Rony Carabello, Roy Newsome, Bob Rafsky, Ed Sites (Administrative Aides), 6 other representatives of DCA; Howard Grossman (EDC); Min Matheson (FVAC); Max Rosenn, Andrew Shaw (FRTF); Raymond Lowery (Kingston Borough); Leon Case (Luzerne County Redevelopment); Ray Carmon, Bill Jonathan (PEL)

A series of statements were made by individuals and representatives of groups on their opinions of the State's response to the problems created by the flood. Carmon spoke on the merits of consolidation of local governments and this provoked debate on the definition of consolidation and on the geographical boundaries of Wyoming Valley. It was proposed that Secretary Wilcox call public hearings on the question of consolidation with the expectation that those testifying at these hearings would indicate a need to examine existing governmental functions and their costs. Representatives of PEL agreed to a request that their agency compile data on which to base decisions about governmental reorganization.

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, December 4

December 4

December 5

MEETING of Committee on Flood Control, Chamber of Commerce, noon

Present: Richard Cronin, John Doran, Robert Laux, John McDonald, Roy Morgan, Robert Parker, Betty Schechter, Andrew Shaw, Frank Slattery, Nick Souchik, Frank Townend; Howard Flint (Defense Civil Preparedness Agency); Walt Chappel (EDC)

Townend outlined a report by Colonel Louis Prentiss of the Army Corps of Engineers slated to be made public at a meeting in Wilkes-Barre that evening. The report divides restoration of Federal flood control facilities into three phases: Phase I emergency repairs; Phase II work needed to restore projects to original design configuration; Phase III modification of existing flood control projects in Wyoming Valley to provide a higher degree of protection. Phase I is completed. Phase II is in process and is scheduled for completion in April. The question of how Phase III modifications of existing dikes will be done is still unsettled: essentially, the Corps recommends raising the dikes 12 feet as the best method of providing prompt protection against Agnes-type storms.

Townend indicated that his major criticism of the report has to do with timing: if it is to protect the region against a spring freshet, Phase II must be completed by the end of February. It was agreed that the Flood Control Committee will support the report as far as it goes and strongly urge earlier completion of Phase II and a spring start on work on Phase III.

On the subject of long-range flood control, Townend said that in his opinion land management is a relatively unimportant factor and that the best solution lies in a combination of dams, impounding basins, reservoir, and dikes.

Slattery suggested that letters be sent to officers, directors, and paid members of the Susquehanna River Basin Association, Inc., an organization that functioned during the 60's, telling them that a committee of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce is ready to reorganize the corporation. Morgan urged such action, saying that EDA has made it clear that it is ready to fund reactivation of the Commission. It was agreed that Slattery, as president of the Commission, will write the letters and the Task Force will attend to reproducing and mailing them.

Flint was introduced to the group as representing the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, a federally sponsored organization interested in improving civil defense organizations all over the country. Flint said that one of the things he is most interested in is the local Civil Defense organization's impressive achievement in preventing loss of lives.

MEETING re Civil Defense

Present: representative of a Civil Defense Consulting Team from Washington, D.C., Howard Flint (Defense Civil Preparedness Agency); Andy Shaw

Flint's purpose in visiting this area was to determine how the Agnes disaster

December 5 (continued)

was handled here: his agency was impressed with the local Civil Defense's success in keeping loss of life so low. Shaw said that one of the major reasons Civil Defense in Wyoming Valley has been effective is because its personnel, particularly the volunteers, are always undergoing training, e.g. courses in light rescue, heavy rescue, emergency care, etc.

Shaw suggested that there should be a master plan under which, in a disaster, CD would be authorized to assume command for a certain period of time, during which time the Government and CD would be able to determine the magnitude of the disaster and then designate, under special edict, an agency to handle local government affairs (e.g. County Commissioners and small policy group of officials).

Shaw said that the name of CD should be changed to Civil Disaster Agency, or something similar in the interests of bettering its image. Such a change could be expected to bring National Disaster Insurance into the limelight.

MEETING of Committee on Recovery Fair, Chamber of Commerce, 4:00 p.m.

Present: Ted Levanthol, Roy Morgan, Murray Popky, Betty Schechter, Joe Williams, Jr., Walter Wood; Bob Rafsky (DCA)

Discussion of schedule of Fair events led to agreement that the Fair should open on May 11th and close on June 3rd and that the following tentative schedule of events should be accepted:

May 11	Fireworks display
12	Parade
12-13	Cherry Blossom Festival
13	Antique Auto Exhibit
14-16	Educational Activities
17-21	Fine Arts Fiesta
21-25	Sports and Recreation
28-30	Historical activities
May 31-June 3rd	Parade of Progress

It was also agreed to ask Public Square and Main St. merchants to display works of art in their windows during the period of the Fair; if this is done, it would, in effect, add a long-running art exhibit to the other features of the Fair.

Professional direction for Fair activities was discussed: Rafsky told the Committee that Secretary Wilcox will make $12,000 available for planning purposes, suggested that either a part-time consultant or full-time staff man be employed, and offered to look for people with exhibition experience who are available for such work.

It was agreed that Rafsky, Morgan, and McClelland would arrange to meet and discuss Fair funding.

December 5 (continued)

MEETING re HUD's rules and regulations, William T. Warne's office, 4 p.m.

Present: William T. Warne; Joe O'Boyle, Mrs. Joe O'Boyle, Min Matheson, Tom Doty, other representatives of FVAC; Roy Newsome (CSA); Shaw

The group discussed HUD's methods of gathering information, and, specifically, the Survey of Families in Temporary Housing. Matheson indicated that many mobile home park residents resent being asked questions, many of them personal in character, by interviewers, who do not explain why the information is needed. Warne explained that HUD needs the information as background for its efforts to find permanent housing for flood victims and he told FVAC members that HUD personnel conducting the survey will be instructed to explain its purpose.

Also discussed were problems experienced by flood victims in private parks, especially Lakewood. Warne said that HUD will try to relocate residents of these parks into publicly run parks in locations convenient to them. A need for improved bus service was also discussed.

Replying to complaints about discourteous park managers, Warne assured the group that such managers will be replaced and all managers will be instructed to keep the difficulties flood victims confront constantly in mind. He added that mobile home park residents should try to find solutions to their problems through the park manager and then, if not satisfied, refer them to HUD Management Relations Bureau.

Another topic of discussion was problems with SBA. A change in regulations has occurred as of 11/28/72 and some flood victims think the SBA is falling back into its old, unsatisfactory patterns. This problem might be due, in large part, to the fact that the personnel keeps changing. Warne said that these problems should be discussed with the SBA.

PUBLIC MEETING sponsored by Army Corps of Engineers re Restoration of Federal flood control facilities in the Wyoming Valley, Coughlin High School, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Col. Louis Prentiss, C. E. Shores, William Trieschman, Maj. Gerald Vick (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers); Representative Dan Flood; Min Matheson (FVAC); General Townend (Civil Defense); representatives of the Federal and State governments; representatives of local organizations; private citizens

Prentiss told the assemblage that the Corps of Engineers has divided the task of protecting the Valley against flooding into three phases: Phase I, already completed, called for immediate repair of parts of the dikes that were breached by the flood waters and for repair of damaged pumping stations; Phase II is concerned with restoration of existing flood control projects to original design configuration and operational capability; Phase III will implement decisions made as a result of presentation of a Corps study on the feasibility of increasing protection provided by existing projects to the public, Federal, State, and local agencies; review by the District and Division Engineers, the Chief of Engineers, the Governor of Pennsylvania, concerned Federal agencies, and the Office of Management and Budget; construction of a project will be dependent on authorization and funding by the Congress.

December 5 (continued)

Discussing Phase III, Prentiss said that of the possible methods of increasing protection the Corps recommends raising the levees 12 feet. He made it clear that the Corps is eager to hear opinions of the public and concerned organizations and to incorporate them as much as possible in the final recommendations for Phase III.

The meeting was opened to the floor. Representative Flood discussed the flood control bills he has introduced in Congress. General Townend said that the Civil Defense organization supports the major part of the Corps' plans but would like to see the rest of them explored further. He urged the Corps to advance the March 15, 1973 deadline for completion of Phase II lest repairs be made too late to contain the spring freshet.

Mrs. Matheson also urged an earlier completion date for Phase II and said that the Flood Victims Action Council will consider taking legal action if that part of the project is not finished "in time".

Anthony Mussari of the Wilkes-Barre School Board urged the Corps to expedite delineation of the flood plain in the interest of making it possible for flood victims to make sensible decisions on rehabilitation of their homes.

A number of borough and township officials expressed concern about the effect a substantial raising of the dikes might have on creeks in their areas. Prentiss said that he would arrange a meeting to discuss this matter.

December 6

December 7

MEETING re Rejection by Northeast region of the Governor's Justice Commission of application by Luzerne County for LEAA grant to expand and improve police communication service

Present: Price, Russ, Pinsky, Souchik, Townend; Shaw; representatives of consulting firm, IDA (Information Development Association); police officials of area municipalities

Nonconformity with study of area's needs by consulting firm was given as reason for rejection of the grant application. Lengthy discussion of the single comprehensive communications network supported by Civil Defense and local officials brought out strong differences of opinion between them and the consultants and doubts on the part of officials of thoroughness of the consultants' study.

It was decided that Russ should confer with Civil Defense officials with a view to ironing out what it was agreed were essentially minor differences. The grant application is to be resubmitted before the end of December.

MEETING re Symbol, colors, name for Recovery Fair, Task Force headquarters, noon

Present: Annie Bohlin, Murray Popky, Betty Schechter

December 7 (continued)

Decision made to recommend suggestion on theme put forward by Annie Bohlin: rainbow over schematic representation of water. Decision also made to recommend that Fair be named Rainbow Fair: this name believed eminently suitable in its evocation of the Bible story of Noah and the hope and promise for the future traditionally seen in a rainbow.

Discussion of possibilities for publicizing the Fair in terms of its symbol followed.

MEETING of West Side Council of Governments (COG), Wyoming Hose Company No. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Present: State Representatives Frank O'Connell and Fred Shupnik; William Wilcox (DCA); representatives and officials of six West Side municipalities; representatives of Wilbur Smith Associates; Jim Tarity

Wilcox addressed the group on the advantages of consolidation for small, fragmented communities. He noted that, due to a lack of coordination between its various governments, the West Side has failed to qualify for many recovery programs. He recommended that West Side communities recognize the drawbacks of functioning as entirely separate entities and consider alternate methods of providing services to their citizens.

The representatives of the municipalities in attendance went on record as opposing true consolidation: the consensus of their opinion was that effective flood recovery can be implemented through the existing Council of Governments.

O'Connell and Shupnik indicated support for use of COG as a vehicle for recovery of West Side communities and explained that, but so using it, each municipality can retain its perogatives and, at the same time, cooperate with the others in the recovery effort.

It was decided that COG meetings will be held twice a month.

Representatives of Wilbur Smith made a brief presentation on the Sketch Plan for Wyoming Valley that they are preparing.

December 8

MEETING re Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment Authority plan for redevelopment of downtown area of city, Hotel Sterling, 10 a.m.

Present: George Akahoshi (Real Estate Market Consultants); Peter Bohlin (Bohlin & Powell); Edward Boltz; Leon Case (WB Redevelopment Authority); Leo Corbett (WB City Engineer); Anthony Dunlevy (Direction Associates, Inc.) Robert Ducek (Direction Associates, Inc.); Howard Grossman (HUD); Sam Gutman (WB Planning Commission); Dave Koff; Horace Kramer (Chairman, WB Redevelopment Authority); Peg Krengel (HUD); Russell Lackie (Merchants Association); Edgar Lashford; Dick Powell (Bohlin & Powell); Jim Revie (Fowler, Dick & Walker); Robert Scalia (HUD); Bonnie Smith (EDC); Vince Szykman (Consulting Engineer); Tom William (WB Redevelopment); Len Ziolkowski (EDC); representatives of CEO, Direction Associates

December 8 (continued)

Inc., DCA, HUD, Lazarus Department Store, OEP, Wilbur Smith Associates, Andrew Shaw, Betty Schechter, Alice Ellman (FRTF)

Kramer opened the meeting by pointing out that the flood had greatly increased what had already been an urgent need for urban renewal of downtown Wilkes-Barre: every retail store was put out of business; many buildings, sub-standard before the flood, were damaged beyond repair.

Case told the group that, upon learning that a great majority of local merchants were willing to return to the business district, the WB Redevelopment Authority undertook a detailed study of the area which led to development of a Downtown Urban Renewal Area Plan, implementation of which could start in the spring of '73. To present the Plan, Case introduced consultant Bob Ducek of Direction Associates, Inc.

Showing a series of slides, Ducek outlined a comprehensive plan for the rebuilding and rebirth of the central city. He emphasized that certain project improvements such as the widening of Union Street and a re-patterning of city traffic are essential to its success.

Anthony Dunlevy, also of Direction Associates, discussed financing and relocation implications of the Plan: gross project cost is estimated at $65 million; implementation of the project will result in displacement of 152 families and a number of individual renters and roomers, 260 residential or office units, 12 industrial concerns and 19 non-profit, semi-public groups. He told the group that adequate quarters for individuals, families, and businesses to be displaced by project are either presently available or will be made available.

George Akahoshi, real estate market consultant, discussed the office space, retail store and motor hotel potential of the Plan and said that there are both a market and funding ready to make them realities.

Carlo Poerio of Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment discussed citizen participation in the Plan. He said that officials and private citizens, merchants and public agencies affected by the Plan had been consulted both informally and formally, that strong sentiment in favor of the Plan had been expressed, and that the Authority plans to hold public meetings on the Plan as soon as the federal government commits the money needed to implement it.

Lashford, speaking for the Chamber of Commerce, endorsed the Plan and recommended its support. Also speaking in support of the Plan, Lackie, vice-president of the Merchants Association, urged development of a "merchandise mix" of complementary stores for the downtown area. He emphasized that implementation of the Plan can be expected to re-establish the city's tax base. Revie told the group that developers have a strong interest in Northeastern Pennsylvania because of its great potential for support of the expanding megalopolis. Koff indicated that if the necessary land is made available, the money, talent, and initiative needed to build a strong metropolitan area will be at hand. Boltz expressed the opinion that Wyoming Valley is the heartland of Northeastern Pennsylvania and said "all the players are ready to play".

December 8 (continued)

Responding for HUD to the presentation of the Plan, Robert Scalia said that he saw a need to compress scheduling lest imponderables delay or prevent full implementation. He stressed a need for sensitive understanding of problems confronting merchants who have rehabilitated their stores, only to learn that their properties are slated for acquisition. Scalia indicated that if the schedule for the Plan could be compressed HUD could make "special tools" available. He discussed methods of easing the financial burden on developers.

Peg Krengle, Citizen Particiaption Officer of HUD, Scranton, indicated concern lest the interests of small businessmen and residents of the area to be redeveloped be given less than full consideration.

It was announced that HUD will reply to the presentation of the Plan within two weeks.

A copy of the Downtown Urban Renewal Area Plan is available at FRTF headquarters.