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NEPA Industrial Development
Commission, Aggressive Industrial Development
release, 1972 August-September

Northeastern Pennsylvania
Industrial Development Commission,
Victor C. Diehm, President
Hazleton, Pennsylvania
(Bernie Blier, Scranton, 344-3913)

Release Upon Receipt

AGGRESSIVE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
MUST PROVIDE THE ECONOMIC ANSWER
TO POST-FLOOD RESTORATION PROBLEMS

An aggressive community industrial development program must rate top priority as Wyoming Valley mobilizes to plan the long road back to a post-flood modernized and job-oriented economic base, the region's ranking industrial development planner suggested today.

Roy Stauffer, chairman of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Development Commission, and recognized nationally as the "Father of community industrial development," predicted, "Wilkes-Barre and the entire Wyoming Valley will come out of this disaster as a proud modern commercial and industrial complex."

Noting that, "The challenge is here and our successful experience in overcoming our hard coal and railroad decline demonstrates that we have the leadership and resources to achieve blanket success," Mr. Stauffer, a retired automobile dealer but still very active in real estate, declared.

"We must think big and think positive in the face of this only temporary adversity," the NPIDC Chairman said, "And, our youth must work hand-in-hand beside their more experienced elders in mounting a comprehensive attack to save and create new jobs, for without jobs the present economic sag will not be overcome."

Now is the opportune time for us to plan and build new industrial parks, expand our water and sewer programs, and take full advantage--in our quest for new industry--of our magnificent highway system, Mr. Stauffer emphasized.

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Victor C. Diehm, NPIDC president, called Mr. Stauffer's observations 'frank advice from the master and a reassurance that Wyoming Valley and the region will turn out a final recovery package that will be cited nationally in decades to come.'

He said that NPIDC is developing an 'action program' designed to stimulate and accelerate federal and state industrial development assistance.

Mr. Diehm pointed out that substantial Small Business Administration and Economic Development Administration funds are being inserted into post-flood programming but many major modifications in these legislative and requirements controls must be undertaken including some MITRE recommendations.

"I have discussed the need for remolding some of these federal and state efforts with state Commerce Secretary Walter G. Arader and Dr. Robert Haakenson, head of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Development, and our region's push is expected to be solidified at the two-day Economic Development Up-Date Conference set for Hazleton on Sept. 7th and 8th," the NPIDC President reported.

Mr. Diehm, who is president of the state Chamber of Commerce, and an original member of the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority, said that he is appointing an informal panel to determine the best method to break-out additional lender capability to meet expected emerging need for substantial capital financing throughout the region which must face heavy new expansion commitments in addition to the inestimable flood long-range financing impact.

Also, the new Treasury Department industrial development tax-exempt bond regulations might give the region new direction in the capital requirements field for construction and site preparation financing, he said.

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Mr. Diehm plans to ask several regional leaders to sit in on the panel for crystalization of ultimate approaches. He said that he will ask the following in addition to others to meet on the review: Former Governor William W. Scranton and John S. Fine, Judges Max Rosenn and Andrew Hourigan, Thomas Kiley, Oscar Weissman, C. A. Propas, Rulison Evans, Richard Demmy, William Butler, John Hibbard, Fred Ramage and Attorney Charles Bensinger.

Roy Morgan, Miles Katerman, James McBrearty, Major Lee White, Attorney Louis Shafer, Robert E. Nolan, John Adams, Stuart F. Pipher, Harold Rose, William F. O'Hora, Glenn Kissel, George Bright, Philip F. Brady, Attorney Bernard Brown, Bernard B. Blier, Robert T. Manley, Harrison Smith, David Vipond, Howard Grossman, Dr. Leonard Bush, Thomas P. Shelburne, Attorney Ernest D. Preate and James Tedesco.

Both Congressman Daniel J. Flood and Joseph M. McDade have asked for imaginative programming of all fiscal resources to gain funding back-up for the complete modernization of all flood and flood-related areas and functions, Mr. Diehm explained.

Memorandum

September 5, 1972

SUBJECT: Introduction and Passage of \$100 million PIDA Program
TO: To Special PIDA Group
FROM: Bernie Blier, NPIDC Executive Director

With the return of the General Assembly on next Monday, September 11th, the attached letter went out to all regional Senator and House members.

A short session could block off this vital funding legislation. The next step in this difficult campaign to persuade our General Assembly to approve this imperative economic program for the flood areas will be reviewed by the group at the Treadway at noon Monday, September 11th.

ATTACH.

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPEMENT COMMISSION

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Chamber of Commerce Building

Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

Phone (717) 344-3913

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Vice President

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Executive Director

BERNARD B. BLIER



September 5, 1972

Senator T. Newell Wood,
Post Office Box 628,
Wilkes-Barre, Penna. 18703

Dear Newell:

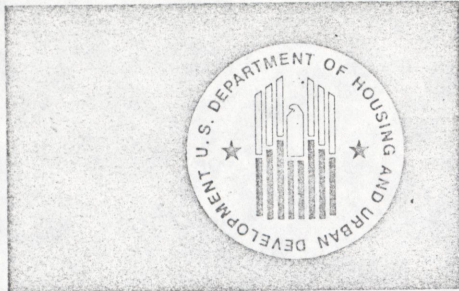
The General Assembly almost extinguished the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) program during the earlier session when it failed to fund this nationally-copied, no grant, job-creating activity.

Now, when the Governor called the Assembly back in special session, one of the essential programs posted was an authorization of a \$100 million bond issue and appropriation to fund PIDA so that effective job-saving and job-creating could be exercised by local industrial development agencies to off-set the tremendous economic impact resulting from the Hurricane Agnes flooding.

During the first period of the Special Session - - which, otherwise, did very little for the flood districts - - the General Assembly leadership not only did not pass this vital funding program, but a bill providing for it was never introduced.

Our Commission and the affected job-hit flood communities ask you to join with other Senate colleagues in introducing a PIDA funding measure similar to House Bill No. 10 upon your return to Harrisburg. The approval of this PIDA program will represent one of the major economic achievements for the General Assembly because it shoots right at the target of a dismal situation - - restoring and upgrading the flood-affected economy.

Sound REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT Supports
Regional Government, Business, Cultural and Educational Progress.



HUD NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON D.C. 20410

HUD-No. 72-498
Phone (202) 755-5277
(Ervin)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday
August 29, 1972

UNPRECEDENTED RE-HOUSING EFFORT UNDER WAY IN "AGNES" FLOOD AREAS

"Never before have homeless families been re-housed as rapidly as in the case of Tropical Storm Agnes," HUD Secretary George Romney reported today.

"It took us six months to provide approximately 5,000 units following Hurricane Camille," he said. "Now, in nine weeks we have provided temporary housing for 17,382 families. In other words, in about one-third the time, we have done three times as much."

"This unprecedented accomplishment in providing temporary housing relief for disaster victims was only possible as a result of the cooperation of governmental and private organizations and the victims themselves. In many instances, private organizations, such as the mobile home manufacturers, subordinated normal business considerations and gave the meeting of the relief requirement top priority."

The Secretary pointed out that three weeks ago, "we had provided approximately 6,500 units of temporary housing; as of Monday, the figure had risen to 17,382 units for the more than 27,500 applicants who have been adjudged eligible for help."

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"In Pennsylvania, we have housed 12,358 families of the more than 21,000 approved applicants," he said. "In Wilkes-Barre alone, where the devastation was the greatest, we have provided 8,306 units for the more than 15,000 approved applicants. In the Southern Tier of New York State, where we have about 5,500 approved applicants, we have housed 4,103 families.

"The housing mission in the other four States and the District of Columbia, where there was flooding damage, has been virtually completed and we are concentrating our efforts at finishing the job in New York and Pennsylvania, where the damage was the most extensive."

Mr. Romney said the accelerated pace in New York and Pennsylvania was due to several new initiatives -- one being the designation of a Presidential coordinator, Frank C. Carlucci, in Pennsylvania.

The Secretary also reported that the housing mission in Rapid City, S.D., has been completed. He said that "in less than 70 days after the disaster of June 9th, 1,203 families of the 1,241 eligible for temporary housing had been placed. Housing is available for the remaining eligibles, but the HUD Disaster Office has not been able to locate them because of incompleting or outdated applications."

Mr. Romney said the Department's efforts in Rapid City have resulted in housing of 3,431 individuals and generated \$5.5 million in labor contracts -- many of which were awarded to minority contractors. These contracts covered site development, skirting of mobile units, excavating, and water and sewer work.

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September 5, 1972

To: Senator T. Newell Wood

May we be assured of your co-introduction of this PIDA program, your full support, and your Senate leadership in asking your colleagues to join in this vital area bill.

Respectfully,

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Vic
Victor C. Diehm, President

B. Blier
Bernard B. Blier, Executive Director

VCD:AK

P.S. We are sending a copy of this letter to your Harrisburg office for your return on September 11th.

D/B

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