

# Councilors Cautious on Renewal Project

By GERALD CAIN  
Northampton Bureau Chief  
NORTHAMPTON — With Northampton's proposed downtown urban renewal project under fire before it even gets off the drawing board, city councilors are being invited to take a first-hand look at what is described as a successful renewal project in the Berkshire County city of North Adams.

questioned whether the NRA project would halt the decline of the downtown shopping area, chided some downtown merchants for poor merchandising techniques, and said the NRA's still empty industrial park will cause residents to look with distaste at spending more property tax money on another NRA project.

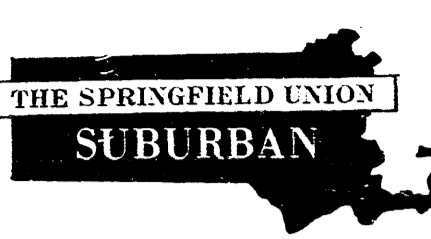
**Exchange Views**  
Earlier this week, city councilors and members of the Northampton Redevelopment Authority met to exchange thoughts on the proposed renewal plan here.

But councilors were less than enthusiastic about the proposal, which they must ultimately vote on for bonding of the project.

**Concerned**  
They expressed concern

about the \$3.8 million cost, questioned whether the NRA project would halt the decline of the downtown shopping area, chided some downtown merchants for poor merchandising techniques, and said the NRA's still empty industrial park will cause residents to look with distaste at spending more property tax money on another NRA project.

**Worked About Park**  
"People are worried about the industrial park," he said. "And what assurances can we give residents who fear that in 10 years the tract will be little more than an attractive and expensive redevelopment project will downtown parking lot."



McColgan said residents were not opposed to the plan itself. Most residents believe the downtown area needs revitalization, but their concern over the industrial park makes them skeptical of the cost and effectiveness of the renewal project, he said.

Asked if any similar renewal projects had been undertaken close by, James Weglom of the Metcalf & Eddy firm, the NRA's consultant on the project, said

the city of North Adams had undertaken a similar project several years ago. He said it had proved successful in revitalizing the downtown portion of that city.

**Might Take Look**  
Ward 3 Councilor Edward Gross and other councilors indicated they might want to take a look at the North Adams project before making a decision on whether to go ahead with a renewal project here.

Paul Walker, director of the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce, who strongly favored the redevelopment proposal, said he plans to get buses to take councilors and other interested persons to North Adams to view their renewal efforts.

Walker said he was familiar with the North Adams project and was impressed by what renewal there had done to revitalize the downtown portion of that city.

Woglom noted that North Adams had spent more money for its project than is envisioned for the Northampton project, but he said the general plan is similar.

**Also Criticized**  
Alluding to the budding criticism of the Northampton project, Woglom pointed out that North Adams' project also met with criticism.

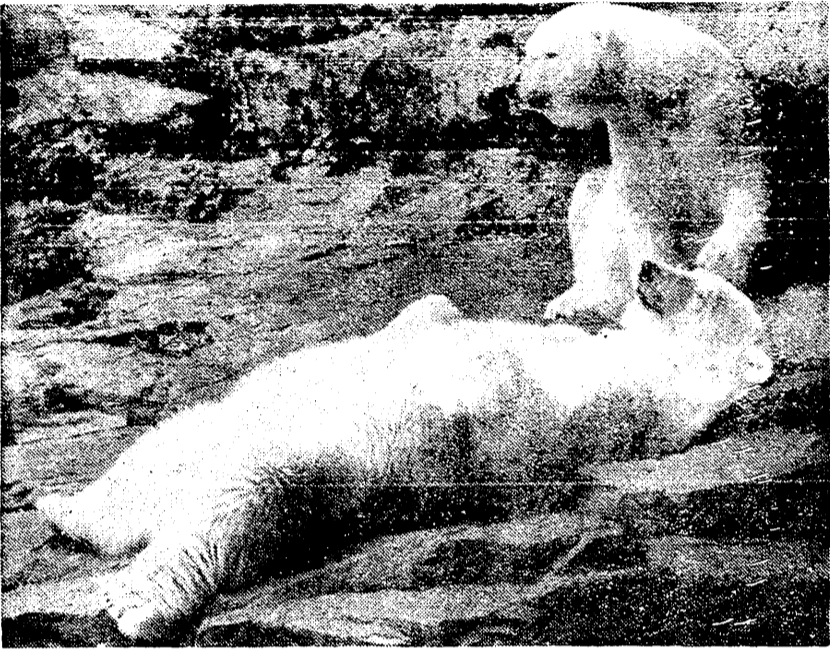
"North Adams tore down a church in the middle of its renewal area, and if you think that wasn't controversial, ask them about it," he said.

Walker also noted that North Adams tore down its City Hall and built a new one during the redevelopment effort.

The chamber executive said he will contact city councilors and others for a commitment to make the trip to North Adams before chartering the buses.

The NRA is not expected to come before the council until early April to seek approval for funds to come up with preliminary plans for the proposed project.

Authority members estimated it would take about four years to complete the project.



(United Press International Teletype)

## Bearing Up Well in Confinement

A polar bear's life can't be too bad if the look on the face of this bear can be interpreted to mean he's happy with his life in the zoo at Pittsburgh, Pa.

## Registrars Ready Recounts In Selectman, School Races

PALMER — Registrars of Voters of Warren and Palmer have an added duty to complete, possibly next week.

These will come under the heading of "vote recounts", one in the race for a Warren Elementary School Committee seat and the other for a selectman's chair in Palmer.

Both recounts were requested following final returns of the annual elections in both towns on March 4.

In Warren, final results showed Edward Baldyge nosing out rival Ernest E. Plante for the grammar school committee by 11 votes, 777 to 766.

Immediately following, Mrs. Lillian E. Bell, town clerk, said Plante filed the recount request.

In Palmer, Harold J. Gray of Forest Lake District who lost to incumbent Democrat Thomas W. Haley by nine votes on the same night, also filed a recount with Town Clerk John T. Brown.

Gray, Thursday, and was assured the recount will be scheduled sometime the week of March 18.

The Gray vs. Haley recount will take place in the public assembly hall of the Town Administration Building at Four Corners.

Gray, an independent candidate, announces he has appointed William Maus of Converse Street, former state auditor, as his observer during recount procedures.

Haley says he first

retained Atty. Walter D. Raleigh as his representative. But because Raleigh is hospitalized following a sudden illness suffered on court duty last Friday, the incumbent must find someone else. He said he has not been notified of the official recount date.

Raleigh is prosecuting a case of the District Court of Eastern Hampden and is in fair condition in the cardiac unit of Wing Memorial Hospital.

## HUD Okays Firm For Housing Job

HOLYOKE — The Boston office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved the selection of the developer of Bower Mosher One, an elderly housing project in Ward 1.

The developer, Mass. General Housing Corp. of New Bedford has submitted a budget of \$2,394,500 for the project, which will provide 100 units of low and moderate income public housing for the elderly.

The Holyoke Housing Authority, Holyoke Redevelopment Authority and the Model Cities Agency made the announcement Thursday.

Under the "turnkey" method of development, the HHA will sell the land to

Mass. General Housing, the building will be constructed, and the HHA will purchase the buildings for the elderly.

The complex, bordered by Ely, Mosher and Bowers Streets and the Rosary Church will consist of two seven-story buildings. Construction is expected to begin in early summer with completion in late 1975.

There will be 85 one-bedroom units, five one-bedroom units for the severely handicapped and 10 two-bedroom units. The buildings will include the latest safety features, security devices and utilities for the elderly. Special features for the handicapped are planned along with landscaping, community recreation rooms and park.

## CHA Sees No Conflict in 'Gas' Purchases

By HENRY FILAR  
Chicopee Bureau Chief

CHICOPEE — The Chicopee Housing Authority is satisfied there is no conflict of interest in doing business with a gasoline station formerly operated by one of its employees, Chairman Richard W. Lysek said Thursday night.

He made this comment after an afternoon newspaper suggested a possible conflict of interest in the CHA's purchase of gasoline from Hank's Auto Service, Inc., at 241 Chicopee St.

The station was operated by Andrew F. Garstka of 601 Birnie Ave., West Springfield, who has been CHA project manager since June 29, 1972, Lysek said.

A published report said CHA made purchases of

some \$9500 in two years at the station, \$4477 in 1973 and \$4799 in 1972.

The report suggested there may be a conflict of interest on the grounds that Garstka was listed as president and treasurer of the station as of Feb. 26, 1973 and continues to own the land where the firm is located.

Garstka has said he has severed his formal relations with the station for health reasons.

Lysek said Garstka was hired after he indicated he cut his formal ties with his business. "The housing authority never sought a ruling from its counsel on possible conflict of interest on the basis of Mr. Garstka's indication that he severed ties with his station," declared the chairman.

According to the published report, Dist. Atty. Matthew J. Ryan is scheduled to look into the possible conflict.

Lysek noted that Hank's station is conveniently located only three blocks away from CHA headquarters. "We did business at the station before Mr. Garstka was hired by the agency and we continue doing so," he declared.

"This is especially important during the gasoline shortage and even more so since we are considered a regular customer.

"The \$9500 in purchases must be viewed as a drop in a bucket when the annual CHA budget totals \$1,180,000 a year," he concluded.

## Last AF Bombers Leave Westover

By FRANK SOUSA  
Union Staff

Two twin-jet B57 bombers lifted off from Westover Air Force Base runways Thursday morning, climbed steeply, banked, flew over the Chicopee facility and then headed toward Arizona.

To those familiar with the base, the flight appeared routine.

It wasn't. It was the exodus of the last regular Air Force planes, bringing an end to large-scale operations that saw Westover play major air roles during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The B57s of the 4713th Defense Systems Evaluation Squadron led by squadron commander Col. John W. Harris were flown to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., for storage.

The men of the 4713th have been reassigned to various duty stations with the majority reporting to the Burlington, Vt., International Airport National Guard unit.

The B52s and KC135s of the 99th Bombardment Wing did not return from the last tour of duty in Vietnam, with many remaining in the Far East, others returning to stateside bases and the remainder being retired.

The base will be inactivated by June of this year with only small Air Force units remaining here.

The Air Force Reserve has been in the process of taking over the operation of the base and will assume the host's duty from the 99th in June.

Westover became a Strategic Air Command facility in the 1950's and the fortunes of the base continued to rise on the wings of the B-52 stratofortress until 1965, when the Air Force announced SAC would cut its heavy bomber fleet one-third.

The birth of the Chicopee base was the result of an airplane ride in 1926. Former Mayor Anthony J. Stonina, then a first-term alderman, was flown over the Chicopee Falls area by barnstorming Army instructor Bill Sergeant and saw the flat tobacco fields potential as an air base.

When he became mayor he led an expeditionary group to secure the base for Chicopee.

A B-18 bomber became the first Army Air Force plane to land at the Chicopee base on Oct. 10, 1940.

Less than a year later, the United States was at war and Westover was used to train fighter pilots and B-24 and B-17 bomber groups.

The base was named an

Air Transport Command Base at the end of the war and became one of the largest freight-passenger terminals in the country.

In 1948, Westover was the staging area for what history would later know as the Berlin Airlift and thousands of planes ran the Soviet blockade from June of that year until May, 1949.

In the Korean War wounded were airlifted here and up to 2500 combat casualties per month received treatment at Westover Hospital.

In 1955, Westover became a SAC base and in 1960 crews from here flew Arclight missions to Vietnam.

In 1970, the Eighth Air Force, with headquarters here, was inactivated as was the underground communication center in the Holyoke Mountain Range.

Other units were transferred or inactivated and the base size slowly was reduced until the inactivation was announced in April.

## Big Streak Canceled at University

By ANNE STADNICKI  
Union Staff

The Big Streak is off. Repeat. Tonight's scheduled run at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, sponsored by East Longmeadow radio station WAQY, is canceled.

Why?

"Because a commercial enterprise cannot come on campus and use state facilities without permission," Daniel Melley, director of UMass public affairs, explained.

Also, because no Recognized Student Organization (RSO) group was sponsoring it, he said.

About \$2,500 in prizes donated by Amherst businessmen, ranging from \$1,000 in stereo equipment to \$25 gift certificates in local clothes stores, was being offered by the radio station to streakers spotted wearing WAQY bumper stickers "on any part of their bodies" during the streak planned for tonight, program director Robert Brookes said yesterday.

He said the run was canceled Wednesday after university officials discovered radio representatives registering UMass students in the Campus Center without RSO membership.

About 150 students registered to participate during the one-and-a-half hour span the table was open, Michael Schwartz, co-

ordinator of the station said, "but it is all off now."

"We decided to cancel to avoid legal problems," he said in a statement prepared for today's issue of the Massachusetts Daily Collegian. He said Melley had threatened that any radio personnel appearing at the pre-determined campus checkpoints tonight would be arrested.

Another big reason was concern for the student body (not bodies) in general. Schwartz said.

Only one student of the several hundreds who have streaked across the UMass campus has been arrested, according to Melley, on charges of breach of peace.

"As long as streaking is spontaneous no firm stand will be enforced by the university," he said. The advent of organized "commercial" streaking would be something different, he said.

Schwartz denied that the Big Streak was a commercial venture. He said it as all "in the spirit of fun."

Whatever the intent, WAQY and UMass officials are hoping the public hears of the cancellation.

"We had calls from all over, including a group of 25 young men from Connecticut that wanted to know where to get the bumper stickers," Schwartz said.

The fate of the prizes remains uncertain, but he said the method will come up with a station of distribution to UMass students within two weeks.

THE SPRINGFIELD UNION  
TODAY IN HISTORY

30 Springfield, Mass., Friday, March 15, 1974

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 15, the 74th day of 1974. There are 291 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

On this date in 44 B.C., Julius Caesar was assassinated.

On this date:

In 1603, the French navigator and explorer, Samuel de Champlain, sailed for the New World.

In 1767, the seventh American president, Andrew Jackson, was born.

In 1820, Maine entered the Union as the 13rd state.

In 1874, France assumed a protectorate over the central Indochina region of Annam, which had been under Chinese control.

In 1916, a U.S. force of 12,000 soldiers under Gen. John J. Pershing was ordered into Mexico to capture the revolutionary Mexican leader Pancho Villa.

In 1943, during the Pacific war, Japanese planes raided the Australian city of Darwin.

Ten years ago, French President Charles de Gaulle began a 10-day visit to Mexico and French territories in the Western Hemisphere.

Five years ago, bloody border fighting was reported between Soviet and Communist Chinese forces.

On year ago, President Nixon recalled Ambassador David Bruce from retirement to head the new American diplomatic establishment in Communist China.

Today's birthdays: Singer Eddy Arnold is 56. Actor George Brent is 70. Bandleader Harry James is 53.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Youth comes but once in a lifetime.—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet, 1807-1882.

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## Today's Summary

High 50 Low 20  
Chance of precipitation zero today, 10% tonight

## YESTERDAY'S WEATHER

March 14, 1974

High temperature 46	Year ago 68
Low temperature 22	Year ago 34
Precipitation 0	Year ago .01
Barometric pressure 30.03	
Hours of sunshine 11.9	Year ago 11.9
Normal hours of sunshine 6.7	
Relative humidity 40	
Record high 78 (1916)	Record low 7 (1943)
Highest since Jan. 1 69	Lowest —5

## TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST FOR SPRINGFIELD AND VICINITY: Mostly sunny and mild today, high 45-50. Increasing cloudiness tonight lows upper 20s. Saturday mostly cloudy, chance of rain developing in the afternoon. High in the 40s.  
Sun Rises 7:03 Sets 6:57

BOSTON AND VICINITY — Today sunny and mild with highs in the low 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph this morning, becoming variable this afternoon. Tonight fair and not quite so cold, lows around 30. Saturday increasing cloudiness with highs in the low 50s. Probability of precipitation near zero today and 10 per cent tonight.

MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND — Sunny today with highs in the upper 40s or low 50s. Fair, not so cold tonight, lows in the upper 20s or low 30s. Saturday increasing cloudiness with highs in the low 50s.

CONNECTICUT — Today mostly sunny with high 45 to 50. Increasing cloudiness tonight, lows in upper 20s north to low 30s south. Saturday mostly cloudy with chance of rain developing in the afternoon, highs in the 40s.

## Housing Rejection Disappoints Mayor

CHICOPEE — Disappointment was expressed Thursday by Mayor Edward J. Ziemia in the wake of a Board of Appeals rejection of a petition which would have allowed construction of a six-story building to house elderly persons in 104 one-bedroom units.

His feelings, along with a plea for advice in view of the rejection, was submitted in a letter to the Boston office of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In his communication to Robert L. Paquin, HUD program manager, Ziemia

said, "I would ask you to advise the Chicopee Redevelopment Authority and myself further with reference to what action we may now take.

"Certainly we need the housing, especially the elderly housing. It stands to reason that we cannot allow this land to remain idle as a wasteland."

This concern was conveyed as the appeals board turned down a petition which would have allowed a six-story building despite city laws limiting the number to four stories.

Chicopee Housing Associates is the developer of the proposed \$6.4-million, 250-unit moderate-income housing project in the Chicopee Falls urban renewal area. The remaining 146 units would be housed in garden-type apartments and would not be designated for the elderly only.

The mayor noted that no action was taken on a possible variance for a second elderly housing project in the urban renewal area because the Chicopee Housing Authority is not in a position to say how many floors will be required for the 80 units.