To the Trustees, their Counsel and Special Accountant

from J.W. Barriger, C.B.O. 9-28-72

Purchase of B&M Railroad Suggested

BY STEVE PATTERSON
(Veronight Press Bureau)
WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.

—Massachusetts Gov. Francis Sargent has put out feelers to
other New England governors about having the states purchase
the Boston & Maine Railroad.
The action came at a session of
the New England Governors
Conference here Friday.

Gov. Deane C. Davis of
Vermont was cautious about the
prospect, but did not reject it
outright.

"I will take a lot more study
before any decision can be made
in Vermont about such a
purchase," Gov. Davis said.

The B&M is expected to close
down pretty soon, according to
what was said here. Gov.
Sargent broached the idea of
having the other New England
states join the Bay State in
purchase of the line.

Gov. Sargent said he has asked
the Massachusetts Port
Authority and the Massachusetts
Bay Transportation Authority to
study the feasibility of the B&M
purchase. He indicated it would
be a help if the other New
England states contributed to
the purchase.

There is some B&M track in
all of the New England states.

Gov. Sargent seemed to imply
that the states would pay
according to a certain scale
and the scale would be
determined by the amount of
track in each state.

Gov. Sargent said keeping the
B&M in operation would be
helpful for freight service, and
would also help maintain rail
passenger service for the region.

Gov. Davis said there has been
no study to determine how much
the company would ask for its
track and equipment.

The region is not a stranger to
efforts to maintain rail service.

Recently Amtrak, the national
rail service, authorized a New
York-to-Montreal run through
New England. It will go through
Vermont, starting Sept. 29.

The governors took some
recognition of that situation here
Friday. They issued a special
tribute to Joseph V. MacDonald,

a New York businessman who
did extensive work in obtaining
the Amtrak route through New
England. A native of St. Albans,
Vt., MacDonald, wrote hundreds
of letters to public officials
pointing to the advantages of the
region.

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