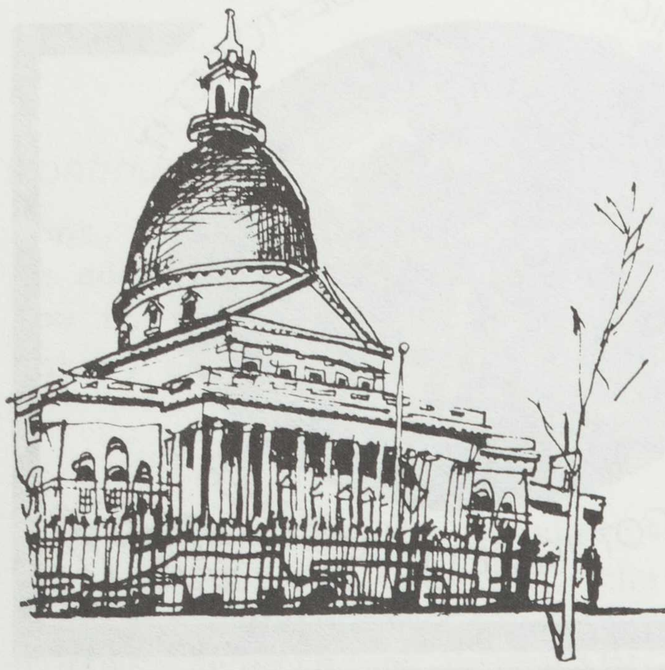


LEGISLATIVE CORNER

by SHELIA MARTIN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: FACT OR FICTION?

Now that the Massachusetts Community Development Finance Corporation is an established entity with ten million dollars earmarked for operation, a wrench in the works has blossomed.

On March 8, 1977, at a hearing before the Commerce and Labor Committee, the Executive Branch submitted legislation (H.5568) to establish the Massachusetts Industrial Development Authority. This Authority will become the umbrella agency for economic and technological development in Massachusetts.

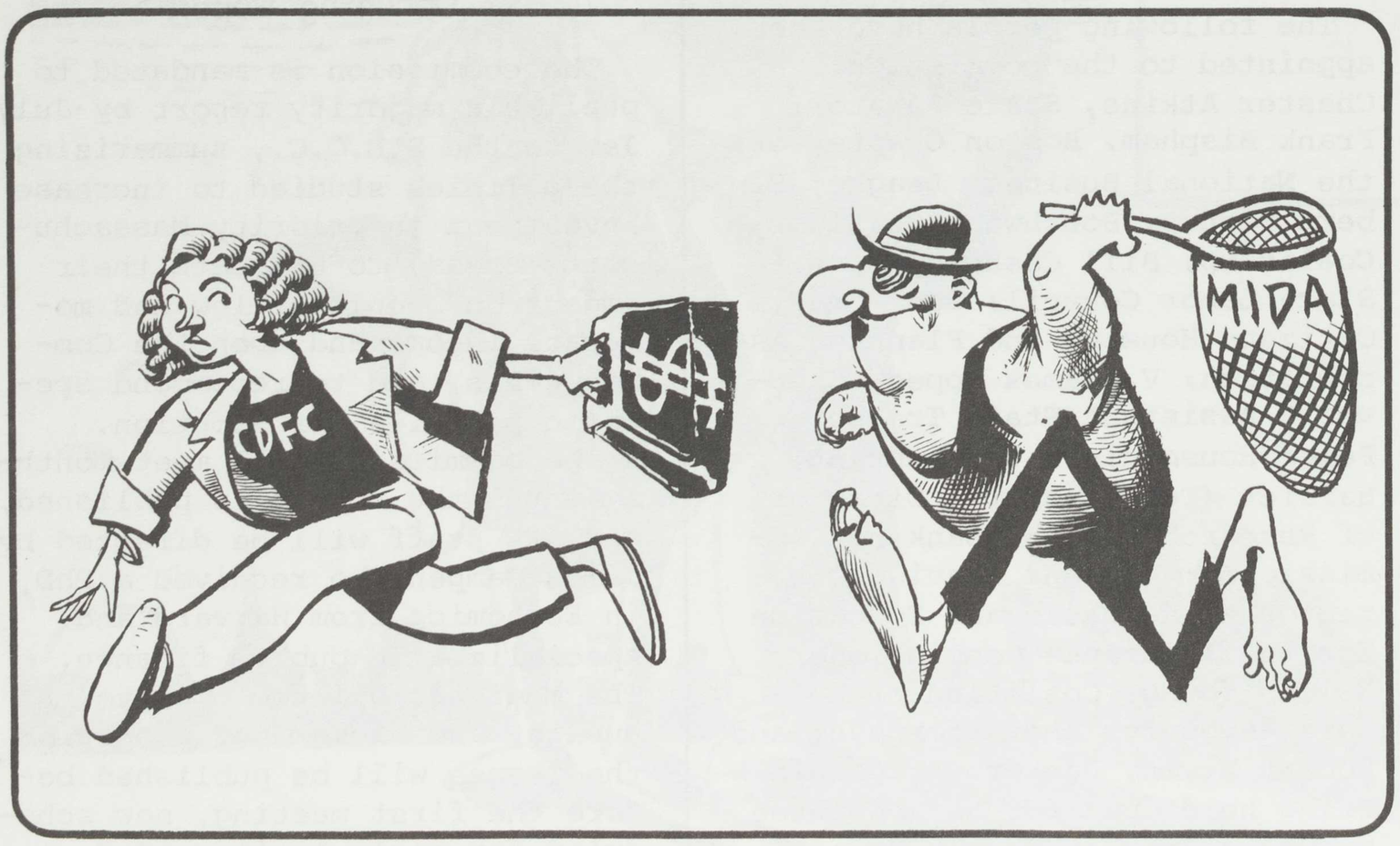
Three agencies are earmarked to be included under this umbrella: Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency, Community Development Finance Corporation, and Technology Development Corporation which is new and has an appropriations tag of ten million dollars.

What is feared by advocates of the Community Development Finance Corporation (CDFC) and others, is that operations control of the CDFC will be hindered under the submitted legislation that will establish the Massachusetts Industrial Development Authority (MIDA).

Advocates and Board Members of CDFC have been assured by the Executive Office that the MIDA legislation can be rewritten to insure the operations and administration of CDFC will remain within that agency.

The advocates of CDFC are taking the rewriting of the MIDA legislation a step further; they want to strike out completely the inclusion of the CDFC under MIDA's umbrella.

CDFC advocates are also working on legislation which will provide technical assistance to local community development corporations to assist them with their applications for economic development monies. At the present time it is unknown from whom and from where this technical assistance will come.



NEWS BRIEFS

FOCUS ON LEGISLATION

H.3258 - an act for full employment for youth, along with S.51 to provide for full employment and H.2119 to establish a pilot program of services for displaced homemakers; all of these bills were heard before the Commerce and Labor Committee on March 8, 1977.

At a Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee Hearing on March 10, 1977, S.482 and S.523, both bills, want to provide a sliding-fee scale for day care, particularly for mothers who are now off of welfare and cannot afford to pay the going rate for day care.

The Banks and Banking Committee was busy on March 15, 1977. They heard a number of bills to prohibit red-lining in certain communities in Massachusetts. Two bills, S.30 and S.34, had the majority of testimony, both for and against red-lining practices. Also heard during the hearing was SEOC's H.3253 "Massachusetts First Policy," regulating the deposit of public monies in local banks.

The Department of Community Affairs submitted legislation to the Urban Affairs Committee, H.24, to enable that department (DCA) to provide technical assistance to local community economic development projects. (This bill has no relationship to the technical-assistance bill previously mentioned.)

None of the above legislation has been reported out of committee. In next month's newsletter we will take a look at how these bills are reported out, favorably or unfavorably.

News note: public hearings are now being held on H.1: the budget of the Commonwealth.

NOTE: If your community organization or agency has any news about local issues, please write or call Shelia Martin at S.E.O.C., Rm. 744, 294 Washington St., Boston, Mass. 02108.