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Group Has Ideas

State Economic Picture Weighed

LANSING —AP— A small, seldom heard-of group of professional industrial development men had a few suggestions for stepping up Michigan's economic growth today.

The select Michigan Professional Industrial Development Association suggested more research parks and improvement in a state law allowing establishment of a state development credit corporation.

"But, these were just ideas that we threw out for consideration," said John P. Kavanagh, acting assistant chief of the Industrial Development Division of the Michigan Economic Development Department, and a member of the group.

Edgar K. Orr, a Grand Rapids industrialist, sat in on a meeting of the group Thursday as a personal representative of L. William Seidman of Grand Rapids, appointed an economic consultant

in Gov.-elect George Romney's cabinet this week.

Orr asked for ideas, and the group made suggestions. But, Kavanagh said, they did not take an official or collective stand.

"We're not policy people—just the working stiffs of the industrial development field," he added.

The 18-member group includes employees of utilities, railroads, Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the state Economic Development Department.

"We get together every two months and exchange ideas," Kavanagh said.

Law Not Used

The state credit corporation law has been on the books for nearly 10 years, but has not been used because some of its features caused reservations in the minds of some of the private groups who would be involved—such as banks, he said.

"We thought if there were some way to make this workable, it should be explored," Kavanagh said. Rep. Gilbert E. Bursley, R-Ann Arbor, is preparing enabling legislation for introduction to the Legislature, group spokesmen said.

It would permit municipalities to issue revenue bonds to finance industrial construction to expand local industries and attract new ones.

Other Suggestions

The group also suggested increased research projects, including industry-oriented research, using existing facilities at state colleges and universities.

Members suggested a drive to obtain federal research grants—particularly in the growth fields of electronics, space and pharmaceuticals.

Small business investment corporations also were suggested, through which private investors could put up as much as \$150,000 on a matching basis with the federal government to make loans to small growth firms unable to borrow through regular channels.

William J. Farrell of the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce is chairman, and George Moffett, industrial development director for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, is chairman-elect.