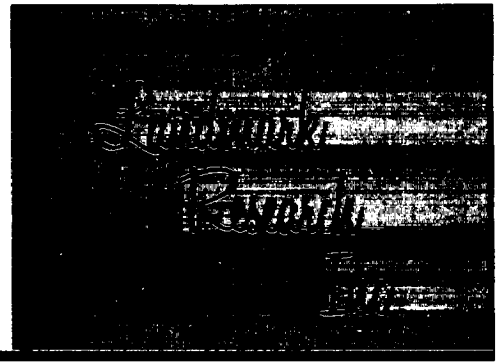


JAMES A. GRAASKAMP COLLECTION OF TEACHING MATERIALS

X. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - CITY, STATE, AND NATION

C. Graaskamp and the Convention Center Controversy

7. Correspondence from Graaskamp to Madison
Press and Politicians.



James A. Graaskamp, Ph.D., S.R.E.A., C.R.E.

Jean B. Davis, M.S.

October 8, 1987

TO: Eric Parker
Mark Eisen
Bill Belden
Keith Yelinek
George Austin
Mayor Joseph Sensenbrenner

Thomas M. Waller
Dave Zweifel
Frank Denton
Mary Kay Baum
Darrell Wild

FROM: Prof. James A. Graaskamp

RE: Creating Public Policy for Economic Development

It is comforting to know that the travesty of planning, feasibility analysis, and political opportunism of the Madison Convention Center project is a common urban experience according to the attached article from the October 5 editorial page of the Wall Street Journal. The Mayor of Philadelphia and Mayor Sensenbrenner share the same understanding of finance, specifically that a Convention Center financed with general obligation bonds is a free good. Certainly the questions raised by the article will be of great help in raising money to make the next referendum on the Convention Center a fair fight between the downtown vested interests and the rest of Madison.

The article on psychology of groupthink and the ability to reach a consensus on a bad idea also sheds some light on the mystery of planning in Madison.

If there was any clear understanding in the Madison power structure of the process of economic development and improving the economic base for Madison, it would seem that if we spend half the \$15-30 million programmed for a Convention Center on subsidizing the construction of corporate headquarters for Sematech, say \$7½ million, the City would be implementing Governor Thompson's new guidelines for economic development, working with the University in the development of the west side technology park, and supporting a land use policy with taxpayer funds in the long run best interest of all the Madison residents.

JAMES ARNOLD GRAASKAMP
202-A BREESE TERRACE
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53705

MEMORANDUM

TO: George Austin
Mary Kay Baum
Mark Eisen
Eric Parker
Thomas M. Waller

FROM: Prof. James A. Graaskamp

DATE: October 8, 1987

SUBJECT: Creating Public Policy for Economic Development

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JAG:mjf

Enclosures