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To the Trustees, their Counsel and Special Accountant  
from J W Barriger, C.E.O. 9-28-72

## Purchase of B&M Railroad Suggested

By STEVE PATTERSON  
(Vermont 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.

"It 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 his 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 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

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## Train

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New England route, as opposed to a route from Albany, N.Y., to Montreal, up the west side of Lake Champlain.

The governors presented \$500 and \$1,000 Eastern States scholarships to youths from their states. Winners were Mary Ann Morrill, 19, of Penacook and David J. Riley, 17, of Colebrook, N.H.; Karen E. Stender, 17, of Foster, and Gall Ann Nelson, 18, of Warwick, R.I.; Richard R. Smith, Jr., 18, of Bartonsville, Vt.; Cynthia Kay Hughes, 17, of West Yarmouth, and Leo Pola, 18, of Sandwich, Mass.; David P. Cedarholm, 22, of Georgetown, Conn.; and Christy Ann Spofford, 18, of Skowhegan, and Kenneth R. Olmsted, 18, of Dexter, Me.

The governors met also as the New England Regional Commission, with Chester M. Wiggan, Jr., federal cochairman.

They approved a \$7.7 million fiscal 1973 budget for regional economic development programs. The funds are appropriated by Congress. St. Albans, Vt., Bangor, Me., and Pittsfield, Mass., will receive \$375,000 for regional growth center demonstration projects, and Woonsocket, R.I., and Lowell, Mass., will receive \$375,000 for urban center demonstration projects. Similar projects will be initiated in New Hampshire and Connecticut.