



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JOHN H. CORCORAN
City Manager

February 26, 1973

To the Honorable, the City Council:

On last Friday we experienced a failure on an old sewer line built approximately 100 years ago on Bridge Street near the Museum of Science. This is a City of Cambridge sewer approximately 8' x 8' in size that collapsed. The line is approximately 18' below the grade of the street and because of its large size is a difficult repair job that could not be undertaken by our Public Works Department personnel.

I conferred with David Sullivan, the representative of the J. F. White Company, and authorized them to undertake emergency repairs. They commenced work on Saturday morning and will continue until the ruptured line has been fixed.

This particular sewer line drains off a large portion of East Cambridge and Somerville.

I have talked with John Sears, Commissioner of Metropolitan District Commission, concerning responsibility inasmuch as the roadway, I believe, is the jurisdiction of the M.D.C. The M.D.C. lawyers and our lawyers are investigating responsibility but it could very well be our own responsibility.

I shall also talk with Mayor S. Lester Ralph of Somerville concerning the repair job inasmuch as this particular line drains a portion of Somerville.

Another issue of importance is the restraining order which requires the 100% evaluation and which will be a much more complex and costly undertaking. I expect to have additional information for you on this issue as we proceed on this matter.

I submit this communication for your general interest. It is expected that we will have a significant repair bill in view of the matter of the sewer failure.

Very truly yours,

John H. Corcoran
John H. Corcoran,
City Manager

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