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05/06/1986 - Ted Ivarie

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

May 6, 1986

Local/Area

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL.--Dr. Ted Ivarie, Eastern Illinois University dean of the College of Business, will be working to improve the economy of east central Illinois during a trade mission to Canada next week (May 11-16).

Ivarie is one of 50 Illinois business leaders and public officials joining a delegation, headed by Lieutenant Governor George Ryan, that will spend a week in Montreal, Toronto and Quebec City meeting with their Canadian counterparts.

"The underlying agenda is simply to bring more business to the United States including the potential expansion of business from Canada to Illinois," Ivarie said.

"My particular role is to represent EIU and the East Central Illinois Development Corporation by visiting prospective business firms . . . those who want to do business in the U.S. plus those to whom we believe we can sell material," Ivarie explained.

He is also representing area firms and/or cities who have asked him to speak specifically on their behalf. "I've had about a dozen contact me, and each will receive some type of feedback when I return.

"Right now this is an exploratory trip . . . to find out what the opportunities are. Currently there is more trade between Canada and the U.S than the U.S. and Japan. . . Canada is our major trading partner."

Ivarie explained that this is an advantage for Illinois because of the proximity to Canada and the economic dependence of both on the Great Lakes.

"Illinois enjoys one of the highest levels of trading activity with Canada. According to the Canadians, this state can attribute 30,000 jobs to trade with them," Ivarie said.

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As example, Ivarie pointed out that Canada imports heavy industry products from Illinois based corporations such as Caterpillar, International Harvester and John Deere.

Similarly, the U.S. is highly interested in forest products and petroleum from its northern neighbor. "We have taken this relationship for granted for some time however there is great potential to improve the business climate," said Ivarie.

Ivarie's trip is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs and a grant from the Small Business Development Center through the support of EIU President Stan Rives.

"The President attaches high value to the economic development of our service region," said Ivarie, "This is one of just several ways we have served the region, but it is a very visible avenue to help the local economy."

Ivarie's trip may also benefit the University directly since the business college staff has been working with the Canadian Consulate in Chicago for the past two years to "establish a Canadian Studies program at Eastern.

"Right now we have approved an International Studies option in business with a concentration in North American Studies through the management/marketing department."