Inter-county development group organizes

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations
E. Lowry Kunkel, Jr., president of the Daly National Bank of Anaconda, is the elected president of the Southwestern Montana Inter-County Development Corporation, founded in May.

The corporation will qualify for federal grants for planning and administering economic development projects in the eight county area, comprising Ravalli, Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson, Silver Bow, Granite, Powell and Deer Lodge counties.

Howard Shinrock, executive director of the Deer Lodge County Industrial Development Corporation, was elected administrative director of the eight-county group.

Other officers include Dean Neitz, publisher of the Philipsburg Mail and Allan Chaffee, Metals Bank and Trust Company, Butte, are the vice president and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

Members of the corporation's board of directors besides the three named officers are Dan Mizner, chairman of the county board of Powell County, Deer Lodge; William Smith, formerly of the U.S. Aviation Agency, Hamilton; E. Carroll Speck, chairman of the Madison-Jefferson County Planning Commission, Whitehall; Robert Smith of Ennis and DeMar Taylor of Dillon.

President Kunkel said as projects in the various counties are developed by the corporation, application for research grants for engineering and feasibility studies will be filed with the Economic Development Administration.

Overall economic development plans for the separate counties of the eight-county district will be compiled to provide a yardstick for the corporation.

It is the first multi-county development project organized in Montana under the Public Works and Economic Development Act, reports Dr. Norman E. Taylor, director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research of the School of Business Administration, University of Montana.

Dr. Taylor said the Bureau would work closely with the eight-county corporation for the development of economic studies and other development projects. The corporation's application for planning and administrative funds has already been forwarded to the Economic Development Administration in Washington, D.C.