



## George Romanos

FIRM: ROMANOS REAL ESTATE  
BORN: BOSTON, 1920  
EDUCATION: BOSTON LATIN

Between 1937 and 1943, George Romanos worked his way from dish washer to waiter in the Statler Hotel. "A waiter during the War made close to \$140 per week. The waiting business was so good, I found time to get married and buy a 3-family house."

George's first property had no heat or plumbing. After adding the needed fixtures, he purchased a second, then a third, etc. "I got a little ahead, then would reinvest. You could buy a 3 or 4 family for \$300 down." George started a repair business, an oil business, a gas station and a laundry. "By 1946 I had 12 buildings and was working days, nites and Sundays; so I sold all my businesses but the real estate."

In more recent years George has become famous as a one-man private urban renewal developer, going into dilapidated properties and areas where most investors steer clear. In 1960 he began constructing apartments, and, to date, has built 50 townhouses. George has recently decided to take his talents into larger properties. He is in the process of remodelling an old South Boston factory into 42 apartments. He also plans to add 20 motel units to a 13-unit complex he purchased in New Hampshire. "As long as I can supply homes in as good or better shape than the new structures I will continue to seek these types of properties; especially larger ones like factories. I am also intrigued in the second home business. More and more families can and are affording the vacation home." George has a 200 lot lake development in N.H.

The father of five children, Romanos' hobby is politics. One of the original Mayor Collins' backers, George has been coordinator for Volpe, Brooke, Richardson and Sargent since 1960. Last week he was appointed as Associate Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry. A director of the Boston Real Estate Board, George thrives on creative challenge, especially by "taking an old piece of junk and proving it can be remodelled".