

THE SALINA STORY: "SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES"*

PREFACE

This recital of the steps taken by the citizens of Salina, Kans., in overcoming the impacts of the closure of Schilling Air Force Base is a heartening example of American toughness, ingenuity, and resilience. It was for the purpose of presenting this story to the American people that the Department of Defense commissioned a Salina firm to write Salina's story. Thus, the contents of the following pages are written from the local viewpoint. This local approach is, of course, what we wanted—for it makes *The Salina Story* a valuable guideline for any American community in organizing and acting to meet changed circumstances.

The efforts of the Defense Office of Economic Adjustment, as described in *The Salina Story*, reflect the philosophy expressed by Secretary McNamara on July 10, 1965:

While the Nation as a whole * * * benefits from the closing of surplus military facilities, these closures often have a substantial impact on the employees and communities involved. We are all aware of that fact. The Defense Department, in my judgment, bears a special responsibility as an employer. It has long been my contention that the burden of major dislocations caused by our dynamic economic growth should not rest solely upon the people immediately involved. Our society should help to carry that burden.

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INTRODUCTION

This story of Salina, Kans., is a recital of the efforts of a small mid-western community to overcome the economic, governmental, and social impacts of the closing of a large nearby Strategic Air Command installation—Schilling Air Force Base.

*Issued by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, August 1966.