

and the residents of surrounding cities affected by Schilling's closure, were invited to hear Mr. Bradford. The meeting had been scheduled at the request of the development council for the purpose of acquainting the general public with the problems that faced them. The wisdom of that request was debated at length in the weeks that followed. Nothing firm, positive, or concrete had been resolved in the preceding conferences. The talks had been exploratory only. No hard and fast conclusions had been expected from the meetings; only basic guidelines for Salina action were defined and established. In the minds of many, Bradford had been put on the spot. The theme "It's up to you," the refrain which was to become so familiar and No. 1 in Salina's own hit parade, was not what the audience expected to hear. The questions: Can we use it? Do we want it? Can we afford it? Awaited the community's answers.

"We don't have the brains and we certainly don't have the gall to say that we in Washington know what is best for Salina. The people who know that, are the people who live here." These words by Mr. Bradford were exactly the opposite of what many expected to hear. There would be no spoon feedings from Uncle Sam. There will be help and counsel. The leadership and decisions, however, must come from Salina. "Your first job is to establish goals for your community. This sounds easy but it isn't. It's a hard-nosed business and it involves all the segments of the community's economy. Don't get yourself in a hassle or in a struggle for power about this thing. That kind of fratricide will kill you."

In recounting the experiences and results of other communities faced with a similar problem, Mr. Bradford pointed out both successes and failures and his opinions for the variety of results. Salina leaders were praised by Mr. Bradford for sound, practical ideas and a dynamic approach to economic recovery. In congratulating the community on a most outstanding and successful start, and for the number of sound, practical ideas discussed in the work sessions, Mr. Bradford pointed out that he hoped that Salina's leader understood that they could not solve all of the problems of Salina's future in 36 hours of brainstorming, and that the community was aware that many months of planning and hard work would be needed to develop and carry out a total program. The community was assured that in their efforts they should expect the full support of all levels of government.

Sunday Journal Editor John Schmiedeler had this to say:

"Who wants to be master of his destiny?" "What did he say?" demanded these two fellows I know as they left Salina High Auditorium Thursday night. "You heard him. What did he say? We heard him and we can't tell you. It was just talk. It was the old kissoff."

Well, I'll go along just a short way. Don Bradford's talk before a concerned audience of Salinans was not a ringing climax to what had been the most stimulating—and, perhaps, the most important—day in recent Salina history. Perhaps by design, he underplayed it.

My friends probably wanted to hear the trumpets sound "Charge!" and the foe vanquished by the knight on the white horse riding across the Potomac. My friends might have been moved by an "Ad Astra per Aspera" speech or an "everything's coming up roses" declaration. But probably not. Skepticism is the vogue.

What they really wanted to hear is that Big Daddy's going to take care of everything and his pore li'l children won't have to turn a tap. And when Bradford didn't say that, they concluded he had said nothing at all.

What Bradford did say, while mild in tone and manner, is important. Here are some quotes my doubting friends can paste in their hats for periodic perusal while on pie-in-the-sky expeditions: