

"We will help this community help itself."

"We don't know what's best for Salina. The people who know that are the people who live here."

"I'm enthusiastic about people, not procedures. We've found the type of people and the capability here that ends up in good results."

"You should start thinking about the long-term objectives of Salina."

What Bradford was saying is simply this: what happens to abandoned Schilling Air Force Base, for weal or woe, is squarely up to us. Despite the horror stories one hears about Federal bureaucracy shoving square pegs into round holes, Bradford and his fellows aren't in the least bit interested in force-feeding Salina.

They advise, they'll help and they'll point out possible pitfalls, and they'll cut redtape with great and good glee.

But the blueprint, the grand design must come from here.

If it upsets my skeptical friends to be masters of their own destiny, that's just too bad. Frankly, I like the feeling.

In the organizational meetings held by the development council, prior to the mid-January conferences with Federal officials, a lengthy list of objectives, both of a general nature and specific missions, and a preliminary procedural outline was discussed at length. The obvious needs for moneys to pay expenses of the council, the need for constant liaison with Schilling Air Force Base, the desirability of a coordinated procedure to handle publicity, the maintenance of constant contact with the Office of Economic Adjustment, the need for a permanent office space, and the immediate need for a full-time coordinator-consultant to man the council office were a few of the more urgent items that faced the group. Congressman Bob Dole's offer of space in his newly established headquarters in Salina, together with the services of his secretary, was quickly accepted. Suite 905 in the United Building, Salina's only skyscraper, was a most desirable location as a meeting place for the many businessmen and community leaders who would be involved in the council's work in the months that followed.

On the day prior to the arrival of the Washington delegation, Wilson & Co., Engineers & Architects, offered the services of one of their professional staff members to the council for a period of 3 months as a donation in the all-out community effort to plan an orderly transition of Schilling from military to civilian uses. Professional Engineer-Planner R. A. McAuliffe, has had considerable experience in the evaluation and planning of a number of Strategic Air Command bases throughout the United States, including the then current master plan for Schilling Air Force Base. This experience included knowledge of the availability of plans and data at the base and in the files of Wilson & Co. Wilson & Co. had also acted as consultant designers for a large percentage of the buildings and structures at Schilling, as well as for the airfield pavements, utility systems, and supporting facilities. This arrangement continued until April 1965, at which time the Department of Defense assumed the coordinator's salary expense for 3 additional months. Since that time, the expense of providing a coordinator has been borne by Salina.

During the month of January there was much evidence of a widespread intention of the people of the community to unite in support of the Schilling Development Council in the formulation of a plan to utilize the base for civilian purposes. Civic clubs, business associations, and individuals pledged their full support to the council. Many offered personal time and resources and many suggestions were received, as well as a wide range of personal opinions.