

which had not been solved. The proposal which would establish Schilling Institute and utilize a major portion of the residential and community areas of the base had yet to be approved. Our industrial contacts and clients had been sold on the potential of the industrial center on the premise that there would be a technical institute in addition to the already established vocational-technical school. The trials and tribulations of the Institute had been numerous. The scope of the institute package had been revised, changed, and supplemented over and over again to conform to the recommendations of Washington and Kansas City officials of DHEW, and as dictated by changing emphasis within the State of Kansas itself.

The problems of the institute were not all the result of Federal direction or requirements. The institute found itself embroiled in a statewide controversy which at times seemed to threaten the very start of the institution. The role of the institute was certainly misunderstood by all of those who rose to oppose it. As might be expected, the objections came from persons involved with the junior colleges of the State and those who were involved with the area vocational-technical high schools, and were being generated by fears that Schilling Institute would be requesting and receiving state educational moneys at the expense of their own institutions and programs. In making these objections the spokesmen unfortunately revealed that they were not conversant with, nor did they understand, the purpose and role of an institute of technology. The basic concept of the institute had escaped them.

In May 1966, the institute had over 30 employees yet they had not received official approval of the plan to establish a State-sponsored institute of technology. However, the dam was broken in early July with the granting of rights-of-entry to both the institute and the vocational rehabilitation center. Final conveyances took place in August 1966.

Chapter V

SALINA, MID-1966

Only the first few chapters have been written of the Salina story. As of this hour, Salina's industrial pot is simmering. Craddock Uniforms have leased three buildings for the production of nationally known ceremonial and school band uniforms. Production of home moisture control equipment and of artificial marble began within days after the properties became available at the base. The first Beech King-Air rolled off the modification line on April 20. The Beech Aircraft Corp. exercised an option and rented three more principal buildings at Schilling for increased production at the new Salina Airport Industrial Center. A major seed company initiated a regional distribution center in a large base warehouse. A distribution center for wholesale frozen meats and produce will soon occupy the cold storage warehouse. And on July 14, 1966, the Salina Municipal Airport moved to new quarters at former Schilling Air Force Base. Renovations to the former base operations building had been completed to make it Salina's temporary municipal airport terminal building. Plans are envisioned to build a new terminal as soon as practicable.