

APPENDIX A—THE EDUCATIONAL USES

It would be virtually impossible to recount the development of any one of the four proposals which were submitted to DHEW without continual reference to one or more of the others. The one exception to this generalization would be the proposal for the Salina Area Vocational-Technical School. From the very beginning of the development of a land use plan for the base, and lasting through the first nine months of planning, the other interests were in competition with one another for the buildings and acres of Schilling. Even the names of three of the institutions seemed to overlap. It still is not an uncommon request to explain the difference between the area vocational-Technical school, the technical institute, and the vocational rehabilitation center. In more recent months the Institute is being referred to as the Schilling Institute, rather than the technical institute, which has helped to relieve the confusion. Unfortunately, however, some confusion still exists, particularly in other areas of the State of Kansas.

AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Early in 1964 Salina was included with a number of other larger communities in the State of Kansas as a site for the development of a vocational-technical high school. The statewide plan envisioned these schools as serving areas larger than any single school district. The Salina board of education, acting through Superintendent Walter Ostenberg, was completing the preparatory work necessary to schedule a bond election for construction of the facilities when the announcement of the Schilling closing was made. Ostenberg quickly realized that it would be reasonable to expect that surplus governmental buildings and equipment could be made available for such educational usage. Within a very few days after the announced closing, preliminary contacts were made with DHEW officials in Washington and he was assured that, if the base was considered surplus by other governmental agencies, an application from the Salina school board would have high priority.

Prior to the mid-January meetings with Washington and Kansas City officials, the school board had surveyed the base and were unanimously in favor of requesting that a complex of three buildings be acquired for the purpose of establishing the area school. This head start is emphasized by a quote from the minutes taken at the meeting in mid-January with the Federal officials. "The discussion was primarily concerned with the vocational training school. Representatives from Bethany College, St. John's Military Academy, Marymount College, and Kansas Wesleyan University were left largely to our own devices." After pointing out that the school board had surveyed and recorded listings of personal property and equipment, and had picked out several buildings for the purpose of determining their suitabilities for a vocational school, Mr. Ostenberg asked when the board of education might expect to obtain possession of buildings. Dr. George Decker, of DHEW, suggested that the request must generate from the local community as it developed approved plans. Only then could a specific date be established. Mr. Bradford then pointed out that the vocational-technical committee needs must be