State University was interested in establishing a technical institute at collegiate level in facilities at the base. Mr. Neely and Mr. Creech began spending almost full time inventorying, evaluating, and in the preparation of a tentative proposal for the establishment of a State-sponsored technical institute.

When the initial five-package utilization plan was presented to the public in mid-March, institute planning had progressed to the point that justification had been developed for some 95 acres of land and two complexes of squadron headquarters buildings, shops, dormitories, dining halls, and student recreation buildings. Local citizens, the development council and the K-State sponsors realized that the success of the proposal would require the acceptance of the idea by the Governor, the State legislature, the board of regents, and numerous other State and Federal agencies.

Speedy action was obviously paramount and an attempt to get at least tentative commitments from these groups had to be made within a very few weeks. In the discussions with State officials, it was most important that the sponsors be able to say with positiveness that the proposal would meet the requirements of and would be acceptable to OEA, DHEW, GSA, etc. The terms of such a transfer had to be clearly defined and understood. The policy with respect to availability of surplus equipment and furniture would also be of considerable help in the efforts to expedite State approval of the proposal. Armed with this information and many other supporting facts, the community of Salina, with the full cooperation of Kansas State University staff people, began an organized campaign throughout the State gathering support for the proposed institution.

The Kansas State Engineering faculty envisioned the school as a 2-year post-high-school institution offering an associate degree of technology in a number of programs. Initially the plan further contemplated curriculum in six programs.

Aeronautical technology.
Civil technology.
Design and detail technology.
Electronic technology.
Electrical technology.
Mechanical technology.

The program would be expanded as dictated by the requirements of industry in Kansas and in the surrounding States. It was pointed out that only two similar institutions existed within a radius of three or four hundred miles.

Nearly everyone agreed that it was a splendid idea. The Governor said so. The board of regents said so. The engineering societies said so. The chambers of commerce and industrial development groups said so and so did a great many other organizations and individuals. The only trouble was that no one at the capitol seemed to want to put up the money; a matter of less than $200,000 initially. Without the appropriation, both the institute and the potential Federal grants of surplus property and continuous supporting funds would be lost to the State.

Salina civic leaders, area political leaders, industrialists from around the State, consulting engineers and architects, and aircraft company executives descended upon Topeka in mass, in person, by mail, by telegram, and by phone call. Professional lobbyists were amazed