

at the somewhat amateurish approach and its signal success. On May 13, 1965, upon publication in the Topeka Daily Capital, house bill 1101 became law and the technical institute was born under the name of Schilling Institute. The legislation provided that the new school would be administered by a "State education authority" consisting of three members. Dean Paul Russell, the institute's first pioneer, was selected by Governor Avery as one of the three members to administer the affairs of the new school. Henry Neely was appointed the institute's first president and Tom Creech, in turn, was selected by President Neely to be the institute's first academic director. By these appointments, the continuity of the planning and developing of Schilling Institute was assured.

Mr. Neely, using a desk in the airport authority office, began the complex and involved task of organization which was directed toward the opening of the Institute in September 1966. The formal proposal grew from some 40 pages of explanation and justification to a document with over 500 pages. Dozens of meetings at Washington, at Kansas City, and at Salina were held. The listing of support equipment and furniture, made available by DOD, grew to 78,039 items.

While these efforts and contacts with the Federal agencies were being conducted, the institute was faced with problems within the State as well. The leaders of education throughout the State, particularly those concerned with junior colleges and the area vocational-technical schools, voiced objections to the establishment of the institute and based their statements on the misconceived idea that the institute would be duplicating the educational opportunities available at their own institutions. Basically however, it was evident that they were anticipating loss of dollars because of the new school. The staff of the institute was slowly and systematically increased and all of its members took turns in visiting the hundreds of high schools throughout the State to bring the story of the institute to the 1965 high school graduates and to their counselors. Locally, the institute had to resolve the conflicts between their needs and those of Kansas Wesleyan University for buildings and areas at the base. The institute was also preparing a proposal, and appropriate justification, for one of the surplus Atlas missile sites located a few miles north of Salina. This complex of mechanical, electrical, electronic, and environmental equipment was surely a most desirable laboratory for advanced students of the institute.

President Neely and his staff were continually emphasizing that the institute was not a Salina institution but a State institution. The staff was also proving to the State that the institute program was not in any way a duplicate of that offered at the junior colleges or at the vocational-technical schools. Despite the efforts and recommendations of Governor Avery, the Institute budget was reduced by \$193,000 forcing the institute to reevaluate its initial program.

Although the Schilling Institute Story abounds with the recounting of problems and obstacles, it truly is a story of monumental success. The delays in getting formal approval from the Federal Government were frustrating. However, on July 18, 1966, the institute became a reality at Schilling with the raising of the National and State flags in front of the administration building. Plans are now firm for an initial enrollment of 250 students in September 1966 and the imple-