

Nov. 1963 -  
Never delivered due to  
death of President Kennedy

Remarks upon the Formal Opening  
of a Community Clinic in Natoma, Kansas

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to be here today to take part in the formal opening of your new clinic and to join with you in welcoming Dr. and Mrs. Datillo to Natoma. I am especially delighted to participate for I know many of you and how long and tirelessly you have worked to make this day possible.

The pride and satisfaction you feel in seeing a community goal achieved, however, is more than equalled by my pride and admiration for the splendid manner in which you provided Natoma with medical treatment facilities and found a doctor to locate here. The second task proved more difficult than the first--and I will say more about that in a moment--the job of planning, building, and equipping a clinic of this type is a big one. Modern medical equipment for taking x-rays, electrocardiograms, and laboratory tests is costly, ~~more~~ as you discovered. Nevertheless, once the need was determined nearly everyone contributed generously. I understand civic organizations and the Public Service Company through its donation of part of the labor helped make the clinic a reality but that it was built principally through the efforts of many individual, public-spirited citizens from Natoma and the surrounding area.

It is certainly impressive--that your community has built a \$33,000 clinic, complete with all the necessary medical equipment. Such an example of initiative, enterprise, and perseverance--qualities we associate with the growth and strength of this nation--should make us proud to be Americans and Kansans. Carl Becker made an accurate appraisal of the people of this State when he wrote, "The Kansas spirit is the American spirit double-distilled. It is a...product of American individualism and American idealism..." At any rate, whether we call it the Kansas spirit or the American spirit, all of you here today possess it in abundance. It is that spirit of independence and industrial responsibility which led to finding a way to

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solve your community problem without appealing to Washington for aid, as is habitually done these days.

In the face of your example of what can be done by a small community, one can question the necessity of some of the Federal programs. I firmly believe in the proposition the Federal Government should not do those things which communities can and should do for themselves, and feel certain many other communities and cities throughout the country can, as you have, overcome the growing tendency of asking for aid before even trying to do the job alone. As a child never learns to climb the stairs if always carried, we do not learn to assume our rightful responsibilities if the Government is always standing by. It is sad, too, that just as the fond and anxious parent denies the toddler the exhilaration of having reached the top alone, an over-indulgent Government precludes many communities from experiencing the pride and satisfaction you feel today.

I do not suggest, of course, that communities must be totally self-reliant and that there is no legitimate sphere in which local, state and Federal Governments can properly assist. Your difficulties in planning a clinic and locating a doctor are evidence that expert assistance is sometimes needed. You found, however, a private foundation to give the guidance needed, and where this is available, it is certainly preferred, I believe.

The Sears-Roebuck Foundation activity is extremely interesting, and appears to be a particularly valuable kind of philanthropy. Over the years wealthy individuals and successful business corporations have built museums, libraries, and hospitals and endowed colleges, social welfare programs, and medical research foundations-- to name just a few of the many forms American philanthropy has taken. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of these contributions to the improvement of social conditions in our country and to the enrichment of our intellectual and cultural life. Nevertheless, it seems to me that the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, which does not build or endow schools, libraries, or museums, also provides a very

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great service to the nation. It does this by helping communities help themselves.

Other foundations do this to a certain extent by requiring recipients of their grants to raise matching funds, but, the Sears-Roebuck Foundation is highly unusual because it makes no direct awards or grants but supplies expert advice during all stages of a small community's efforts to build a clinic and find a doctor to practice there. This assistance includes a survey of the area to determine the ability of the population to support a clinic or hospital, counseling in how to form a non-profit organization to raise and administer funds, and finally help in obtaining suitable blue prints for the building. In the meanwhile the Foundation is constantly looking for doctors interested in small town practice and acts as a sort of clearing house for information on vacancies and applicants.

According to an article which appeared in Business Week magazine about two years ago, the Foundation spends approximately \$7,000 for each town it helps in this way. However, the value to the community of this assistance is not accurately reflected by that figure, I am sure. Each community receives not only \$7,000 worth of an expert's time spent in making surveys and drawing blue prints but also the incalculable benefits and savings which can be obtained by taking advantage of the Foundation's knowledge and experience. Most important of all, of course, is the fact that in many cases small communities would probably not be successful in raising sufficient funds and attracting doctors without the guidance of the Foundation. Monetary value cannot be assigned to show the value to a community in having its own doctor and adequate treatment facilities. Your hard work and financial sacrifices best indicate how important you think it is; therefore, I speak for all of you in thanking Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation for helping make today's Dedication possible.

This ceremony has aroused varied thoughts and feelings on my part. As stated I am proud to see the initiative and perseverance of the people of this community, and grateful to the Sears-Roebuck Foundation for its contribution, and filled with

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dismay that this clinic has been unused for four years while you tried to locate a doctor. In persuading Dr. Dattilo to come, you have a man not only with fine academic credentials but one born and raised in Kansas. As you know, his wife, a trained nurse, serves as his assistant in the clinic, so it is really a family affair.

While I share in your satisfaction in having a Doctor of Osteopathy in Natoma, I am concerned about the growing shortage of physicians and osteopaths throughout the country, especially among general or family practitioners and especially in our rural areas. There are many reasons for failure to train enough doctors of all types today, but even more numerous and complex are the reasons more and more young doctors are choosing to specialize rather than enter general practice. I will not presume to say what may be done about these trends since a number of medical educators who participated in a recent AMA Symposium on Family Practice failed to reach any conclusion on these points but it is extremely important an answer be found. The general practitioner has traditionally played a very important role in the health care of Americans, and there is every reason to believe that he can and should continue.

We must have specialists too, of course, but the general physician serves a unique function in preventive medicine and in family health counseling. At the present time only about 22% of each year's graduating M.D.'s enter general practice as compared to 70% thirty years ago. This is of particular concern to us as a rural population since we can only hope to draw our community doctors from among these general practitioners. As this group grows smaller, we will have increasing difficulties. The ratio of doctors to the population which is now 79 per 100,000 in semi-rural counties and 46 per 100,000 in isolated rural counties (as compared to 146 per 100,000 in metropolitan areas) will probably become even more unfavorable.

Although the number of general practitioners is declining, this does not suggest that the public does not want them and prefers to use specialists exclusively. In a paper presented before the 1963 Annual Congress on Medical Education, Mr. Mac F.

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Cahal of Kansas City, who is Executive Director and General Counsel of the American Academy of General Practice, reported the results of a recent poll made by the Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, N.J. The poll showed clearly that the public relies quite heavily upon general practitioners and that 75% call the G.P. first when they need help. The poll further revealed that among all doctors--and far surpassing the profession as a whole--the general practitioner has the most favorable image and greatest reputation asset of any profession. Perhaps this study and others, as well as the increasing emphasis by the medical schools and the AMA upon family practice, will convince many young doctors of the valuable role they can perform as general physicians and that we will soon see an increase in the number choosing this field.

I have enjoyed being with you today to join in the long-awaited Dedication of your clinic. May I congratulate you all once again on this remarkable achievement and wish you success in all future community projects.

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SERVICE

REMARKS UPON THE FORMAL OPENING OF A  
COMMUNITY CLINIC IN NATOMA, KANSAS

Prepared at the request of

The Honorable Robert Dole

Jan Malone  
Education and Public Welfare Division  
November 22, 1963

The attached has been prepared for the personal use of  
the Member requesting it in conformance with his direc-  
tions and is not intended to represent the opinion of  
the author or the Legislative Reference Service.

Remarks upon the Formal Opening  
of a Community Clinic in Natoma, Kansas

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to be here today to take part in the formal opening of your new clinic and to join with you in welcoming Dr. and Mrs. Datillo to Natoma. While ~~I am always happy to receive invitations to attend ceremonies of this sort,~~ I am especially delighted ~~to be able to participate in this one~~ for I know <sup>many of you and</sup> how long and tirelessly you have worked to make this day possible.

The pride and satisfaction you ~~must~~ feel in seeing ~~your~~ <sup>a</sup> community's goal ~~finally~~ achieved, however, is more than equalled by my pride and admiration for the splendid manner in which you ~~have all worked together to provide~~ Natoma with medical treatment facilities and ~~to find~~ <sup>found</sup> a doctor to locate here. Although ~~The~~ second task ~~has proved to be~~ more difficult than the first-- and I will say more about that in a moment--the job of planning, building, and equipping a clinic of this type is a big one. Modern medical equipment for ~~making~~ x-rays, electrocardiograms, and laboratory tests is costly, as I ~~know~~ you've ~~already~~ discovered. Nevertheless, once you ~~decided there was a real need here for~~ <sup>the need was determined</sup> such ~~medical services,~~ <sup>nearly everyone</sup> you all contributed generously. I understand that ~~several~~ civic organizations and the Public Service Company through its donation of part of the labor helped make the clinic a reality but that it was built principally through

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the efforts of many individual, public-spirited citizens from Natona and the surrounding area.

~~I find it amazing--and certainly impressive--that~~ <sup>It is</sup> ~~of this size has been able to build~~ <sup>your</sup> a \$33,000 clinic, complete with all the necessary medical equipment. ~~When I see~~ <sup>Such</sup> an example of initiative, enterprise, and perseverance--qualities we associate with the growth and strength of this nation--~~it~~ <sup>shall</sup> makes ~~me~~ <sup>us</sup> very proud to be ~~an~~ <sup>a</sup> Americans and ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> Kansans, ~~I add that~~ ~~I am proud to be a Kansan because I think~~ Carl Becker made an accurate appraisal of the people of this State when he wrote, "The Kansas spirit is the American spirit double-distilled. It is a ...product of American individualism and American idealism..." At any rate, whether we call it the Kansas spirit or the American spirit, all of you here today possess it in abundance. It is that spirit of independence and <sup>individual</sup> self-responsibility which led you to set about finding a way to solve your <sup>community</sup> ~~own~~ <sup>would</sup> problem rather than appealing to Washington for aid, as is <sup>habitually</sup> ~~so often~~ done these days.

~~I will say in this connection, moreover, that~~ in the face of your example of what can be done by a small community, one ~~is forced~~ <sup>can</sup> to question the necessity of some of the Federal programs, ~~to aid in the construction of hospitals, nursing homes, and the like.~~ I am ~~a~~ <sup>by</sup> firm believer in the proposition that the Federal Government should not do those things which communities can and should do for themselves, and ~~I feel~~ <sup>Certain</sup> ~~sure~~ many other <sup>Communities</sup> ~~towns~~ and cities throughout the country ~~could do what you have done if~~ <sup>Can</sup> ~~they could overcome their~~ <sup>as you show</sup> growing tendency <sup>long</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>all</sup> ask for help before

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even trying to do the job alone. ~~Just~~ <sup>as</sup> a child never learns to climb the stairs if he ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> always carried, ~~citizens~~ <sup>we</sup> do not learn to assume ~~their~~ <sup>our</sup> rightful responsibilities if these ~~tasks~~ <sup>are always standing legs</sup> are always performed by the Government. It is ~~a little~~ <sup>ay</sup> sad, too, that just as the fond and anxious parent denies the toddler the exhilaration of having reached the top alone, the over-indulgent Government precludes many communities from experiencing the pride and satisfaction you are ~~feeling~~ <sup>ay</sup> today, now ~~that your goal of a clinic and a doctor for Natona has been accomplished.~~

I ~~am~~ <sup>do</sup> not suggesting, of course, that communities must be totally self-reliant and that there is no legitimate sphere in which ~~the~~ <sup>local, state and</sup> Federal Government can ~~assist~~ <sup>physically</sup> them. Your difficulties in ~~knowing how to go about planning a clinic and finding a doctor~~ <sup>expert assistance</sup> are evidence that ~~help from an experienced outsider is sometimes~~ <sup>needed</sup> needed. In ~~your case, however,~~ <sup>however,</sup> you found a private ~~philanthropic~~ <sup>to</sup> foundation which ~~could~~ <sup>available</sup> give you the guidance ~~you~~ <sup>needed</sup> you needed, and where this is ~~possible,~~ <sup>available</sup> it is ~~to be~~ <sup>certainly</sup> preferred, I believe.

~~The work of~~ <sup>activity</sup> The Sears-Roebuck Foundation ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> extremely interesting ~~to me,~~ <sup>appears</sup> and it seems to be a particularly valuable kind of philanthropy. Over the years wealthy individuals and successful business corporations have built museums, libraries, and hospitals and endowed colleges, social welfare programs, and medical research foundations--to name just a few of the many forms American philanthropy has taken. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of these contributions to the improvement of social conditions in our country and to the enrichment of our intellectual and cultural life. Nevertheless,

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it seems to me that the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, which does not ~~building~~ or endow schools, libraries, or museums, <sup>also</sup> provides a very great service to the nation. It does this by helping communities help themselves.

~~Of course, some~~ Other foundations do this to a certain extent by requiring recipients of their grants to raise matching funds, ~~However,~~ <sup>But</sup> the Sears-Roebuck Foundation is highly unusual because it makes no direct awards or grants ~~at all~~ but ~~rather~~ supplies expert advice during all stages of a small community's efforts to build a clinic and find a doctor to practice there. This assistance includes a survey of the area to determine the ability of the population to support a clinic or hospital, counseling in how to form a non-profit organization to raise and administer funds, and finally help in obtaining suitable blue prints for the building. In the meanwhile the Foundation is constantly looking for doctors interested in small town practice and acts as a sort of clearing house for information on vacancies and applicants.

According to an article which appeared in Business Week magazine about two years ago, the Foundation spends approximately \$7,000 for each town it helps in this way. However, the value to the community of this assistance is not accurately reflected by that figure, I am sure. Each community receives not only \$7,000 worth of an expert's time spent in making surveys and drawing blue prints but also the incalculable benefits and savings which can be obtained by taking advantage of the Foundation's knowledge and experience. Most important of all, of course, is

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the fact that in many cases small communities would probably not be successful in raising sufficient funds and attracting doctors without the guidance of the Foundation. Obviously, ~~no~~ <sup>cannot</sup> monetary value ~~can~~ <sup>the value</sup> be assigned to show what ~~it~~ means to a community ~~to~~ <sup>in my</sup> have its own doctor and adequate treatment facilities. Your own ~~own~~ <sup>in</sup> hard work and financial sacrifices show ~~best~~ <sup>indeed</sup> how important you think it is; therefore, I know ~~I am~~ speaking for all of you when ~~I thank~~ <sup>in thanking</sup> Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation for helping make today's ~~Dedication~~ <sup>Secret</sup> possible.

This ceremony has aroused varied thoughts and feelings on my part. ~~As I have~~ <sup>stated</sup> said, I am proud when ~~I see~~ <sup>to</sup> the initiative and perseverance of the people of this community, and ~~I am~~ grateful to the Sears-Roebuck Foundation for its contribution, ~~I am~~ <sup>and</sup> filled with dismay, ~~however,~~ when ~~I consider~~ the fact that this clinic has been ~~standing~~ unused for four years while you tried to locate a doctor. ~~At last~~ <sup>what</sup> you have been fortunate to persuade ~~Dr. Dattilo~~ <sup>my</sup> to come here, and ~~I must say~~ I think you've ~~hit the jackpot~~ <sup>done</sup> after your long wait. ~~Dr. Dattilo~~ <sup>a way</sup> comes not only with fine academic credentials but with ~~the added~~ merit of having been ~~born~~ <sup>and</sup> and raised in Kansas, and ~~having had his~~ training here as well. ~~As if this weren't enough,~~ <sup>As you know</sup> he has brought along his wife, who is a trained nurse, ~~and will serve~~ as his assistant in the clinic. ~~so it is really a family affair.~~

While I share in your happiness ~~at having finally found~~ <sup>subject in</sup> a doctor for ~~Natoma~~ <sup>of Dattilo's</sup>, I am concerned about the growing shortage of physicians and osteopaths throughout the country, especially among general or family practitioners and especially in our

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rural areas. There are many reasons <sup>for failure</sup> why ~~we are failing~~ to train enough doctors of all types today, but even more numerous and complex are the reasons ~~why~~ more and more of ~~our~~ young doctors are choosing to specialize rather than enter general practice. I will not presume to say what <sup>may</sup> ~~can~~ be done about these trends since a number of medical educators who participated in a recent AMA Symposium on Family Practice failed to reach any conclusion on these points. <sup>but</sup> ~~I will merely say that I think it~~ extremely important ~~that~~ an answer be found. The general practitioner has traditionally played a very important role in the health care of Americans, and there is every reason to believe that he can and should continue ~~to do so.~~

We must have specialists too, of course, but the general physician serves a unique function in preventive medicine and in family health counseling. At the present time only about 22% of each year's graduating M.D.'s enter general practice as compared to 70% thirty years ago. This is of particular concern to us as a rural population since we can only hope to draw our community doctors from among these general practitioners. As this group grows smaller, we will have increasing difficulties. The ratio of doctors to the population which is now 79 per 100,000 in semi-rural counties and 46 per 100,000 in isolated rural counties (as compared to 146 per 100,000 in metropolitan areas) will probably become even more unfavorable.

Although the number of general practitioners is declining, this does not suggest that the public does not want them and prefers to use specialists exclusively. In a paper presented

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before the 1963 Annual Congress on Medical Education, Mr. Mac F. Cahal of Kansas City, who is Executive Director and General Counsel of the American Academy of General Practice, reported the results of a recent poll made by the Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, N.J. The poll showed quite clearly that the public relies quite heavily upon general practitioners and that 75% call the G.P. first when they need help. The poll further revealed that among all doctors--and far surpassing the profession as a whole--the general practitioner has the most favorable image and greatest reputation asset of any profession. I hope <sup>perhaps</sup> that this study and others like it, as well as the increasing emphasis by the medical schools and the AMA upon family practice, will convince many young doctors of the valuable role they can perform as general physicians and that we will soon see an increase in the number choosing this field.

I have enjoyed being with you today to join in the long-awaited <sup>Dedication</sup> opening of your clinic. May I congratulate you all once again on your <sup>great</sup> remarkable achievement and wish you success in all ~~your~~ future community projects.