

June 28-1968

Osawatomie
remarks

Thank you, Mayor Barnes. I appreciate this honor of being made an honorary citizen of a progressive community like Osawatomie.

It has been just a year since I was last in Osawatomie. And I am most impressed with the improvements that have been made since then.

Many small cities in Kansas, I am sorry to report, are having serious economic problems. They are losing people because of a decline in agriculture. It takes far fewer people to produce the food for our nation than it did even 20 years ago. That means fewer people for many communities to buy the goods and services that are offered.

Such is not the case in Osawatomie. Your population is growing because of your closeness to metropolitan areas and because the people in this community are willing to spend the money and do the work to provide fine living conditions.

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It seems to me that this new downtown is a symbol of your progressive spirit. No community can grow and prosper without an attractive shopping area. All other facilities and services in a community revolve around the business community.

One aspect of this new downtown business district pleases me very much: There are no federal funds involved. It is routine these days for much of our nation to always have its hand out for federal money. Right now we have federal programs designed to help cure the ills of our cities. In Osawatomie, however, you did the work itself. And, I might add, I think the results are much better--and cheaper--than if you would have become involved in federal red tape.

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I note, also, that the downtown area's the only

area that you are improving. Your new high school now being

constructed will be a fine improvement for your community.

During the past 5 years you have enlarged your electric plant,

enlarged your water plant capacity, and started work on the

flood protection system. Coming into town I noticed the

high water. It's too bad the dikes weren't completed in time

to prevent the flooding inside the city. But I'm sure the

dikes will be up in a few years once they are finished.

And I understand you are getting ready to improve and enlarge

your sewer system.

All of these things suggest to me that there is a city

that is alive with enthusiastic people who aren't going to sit

down and allow the community to wither away.

Wassonville and I'm people have a great future.

You are meeting the challenge.

I commend you.

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