

Supplementary material- Section B

IV. War Justification:

b. Effect of such activities upon the existing services and the need for additional services:

Lawrence has experienced a sudden and almost overwhelming population influx during the last few months, an influx due solely and directly to the war effort. A town of less than 15,000 in 1940, the population of Lawrence is now reliably estimated to be well in excess of 24,000. Enrollment in the public schools of the city has increased from 2,701 in May 1942 to 3437 in November 1942, figures which indicate that large numbers of family groups constitute part of the influx. The new people, the majority of whom are active young adults in need of liesure time activities, are from two major sources:

- (1) The Sunflower Ordnance Works, which is located only a few miles from Lawrence; the plant site's location between two small villages results in a large percentage of the workers and administrative personnel living within the city limits of Lawrence. And
- (2) Service men. A Naval Training School for machinists mates is maintained at the University of Kansas; there are about 800 trainees at present, and the number will be increased in the near future. The university also offers special training courses for the various services, and the program will be extended materially. A Civilian Pilot Training unit is in operation at the municipal airport. The number of transient service men is large; Lawrence is on the main east and west trunk lines of the Santa Fe, the Union Pacific, and the Rock Island railways; Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, the Bomber Tactical Training Base at Topeka, the Naval Flight Training Base at Olathe, and the large camp recently located at Salina are all within "visiting" distance.

Even a complete listing of all commercial and non-commercial facilities for recreation makes apparent the urgency of the need for maximum use. Commercial facilities for recreation, in addition to restaurants and taverns, include two excellent and two fair movie houses, one roller skating rink, pool, billiards, and bowling in the downtown district; all are well regulated and charge moderate prices. There is an excellent golf course at the country club, where non-members may play for a moderate greens fee, but it is not near enough the town proper to eliminate transportation problems. The same holds true for a gun club and a driving range south of the city. Although the university has a good small golf course, no substantial use could be made of it since the navy trainees are quartered on the campus. The one swimming pool is located at the extreme west edge of the city. The only well-kept tennis courts are on university property, but their use is not limited to students; the city does not maintain municipal tennis courts, but several private and semi-private ones in fair repair could be reconditioned if money were available.

At the present time, by utilizing all volunteer services, WPA leadership, gifts of local donors, and city funds, Lawrence is barely able to scratch the surface of an adequate recreation program. We need a materially expanded program which will provide liesure-time activity for our newly acquired population and for our own citizens.