

Sooner Leaders See Bright Future

A POSITIVE note for Oklahoma's future was sounded through "Industrious Oklahoma," a special section of The Sunday Oklahoman published March 27. Leaders expressed strong optimism.

They cited assets of the state, such as natural resources, energy, agriculture, soil and water, finances, transportation, education, culture, business and manufacturing as factors underlying a sound economy. Each of these is very important.

Also appearing frequently in statements by scores of citizens from over the state were sentiments fostering the concept that attitudes of the people and quality of life also are essential for progress and genuine prosperity.

This concept included numerous references to faith in God, an honest day's work for a fair day's pay, and self-reliance for sustenance, rather than dependence on others.

Certainly, not all Oklahomans hold to these ideals, but there is hope when they are upheld by many

leading citizens.

Orville A. Jones, tire company executive, said, "the quality of life itself, the friendliness of the people, the community and state pride that people have — these and many other attributes add greatly to the overall environment. These conditions don't just happen."

Robert H. Rowland, president of American Citizenship Center, said Oklahoma's greatest assets are "her people, who have retained their faith and independence."

From Tonkawa, Dr. Edwin E. Vineyard, college president, said Oklahoma characteristics include "a strong sense of right and wrong, a conservative sense of morality yet a broad range of tolerance, a belief in the work ethic but willingness to assist a neighbor in need."

The real test of a city's value must be the desirability of that city as a place in which to live, said Dr. Finley W. Tinnin, Baptist pastor, who predicted that our "most significant progress will be made in the spiritual direction."

Methodist Bishop Paul W. Millhouse stated, "The future of Oklahoma will be determined by the quality of our lives — the faith by which we live, the ideals that challenge us, the commitment that motivates us, the loyalties that sustain us."

University President Robert Collier of Tahlequah said, "We, as Oklahomans and Americans, must work tirelessly to see that our society is full of prosperity and our pride is tempered with humility and a strong faith in God and our fellowman."

Gov. David Boren declared, "We have a great opportunity for a quality of life that will be unsurpassed." Richard B. Douglass, state Baptist leader, asserted that "people with a vital faith will help bring that vibrant future."

Thus, these and other leaders agreed that physical resources are the stuff from which economic progress is made, but it takes people with faith and vision to convert the raw materials into quality products and quality of living.