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Free Competition Nurtures Liberty

ENTERPRISE SQUARE, USA, to be built on the campus of Oklahoma Christian College, Oklahoma City, has significance far beyond the construction of another school building or tourist attraction.

The United States of America became a great nation because our form of government permitted free competition among its citizens. It allowed them to develop and market new products and services.

"The greatest strength of the American economic system may be that it is not based on a system at all," said William F. Martin, chairman, Phillips Petroleum Co., Bartlesville, a leader in the project. "It was not devised by political theorists and economic planners. Rather, it has evolved naturally as a part of human nature.

"It is based on people's universal desire for freedom," Martin explained, "freedom to utilize resources, to innovate, to create a product or a service, as well as the freedom to choose whether or not to purchase a product or service."

These freedoms are so natural that our free enterprise system is being taken for granted. It is endangered by indifference.

The importance of public understanding of free enterprise is great, from both producers' and consumers' points of view, but information reaching the public is not always in true perspective.

Anti-business sentiment exists and various sorts of planned economies are being advocated, but a greater danger to free enterprise may be that, because of lack of understanding, the public may permit this fundamental freedom to be displaced or destroyed.

As described in recent news stories, ENTERPRISE SQUARE, USA will be a 60,000-square-foot, \$15 million edifice dedicated to preservation of our economic freedoms. It will use a variety of techniques to inform, entertain and inspire visitors.

"Our goal is for people to understand our system of free enterprise so they may become more effective

in influencing economic decisions that affect their own lives and those of others," said J. Terry Johnson, president of ESC.

In addition, ENTERPRISE SQUARE, USA will honor heroes of American business.

In numerous instances, their contributions to the progress and development of our country have equaled or surpassed those of contemporary military or political heroes.

It has been said that the business of government is the redistribution of wealth. That may or may not be true, but it is certain that unless Americans recognize the sources of our wealth and protect our opportunities to develop it, our wealth will dwindle.

The role of ENTERPRISE SQUARE, USA in helping Americans to achieve better understanding and appreciation of our economic freedom will give it stature far greater than that of an ordinary sight-seeing spectacle.

Without economic freedom, liberty cannot exist!