

Willard M. Bashaw to Andrew Schoeppel

This letter, dated October 20, 1944, was sent to Governor Andrew Schoeppel by William M. Bashaw, Outside Production Manager of the Beech Aircraft Corporation. In the letter, Bashaw praises the accomplishments of the many subcontractors throughout Kansas who assisted the Beech Aircraft Corporation throughout World War II.

Date: October 20, 1944

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BEECH AIRCRAFT

Beech Aircraft Corporation

Wichita, Kansas

U. S. A.

October 20, 1944.

The Honorable Andrew T. Schoeppel,
Governor of Kansas,
Topeka, Kansas.

OCT 21 1944

Dear Governor Schoeppel:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 12, in which you discuss the subcontract program of the Beech Aircraft Corporation.

The Beech Outside Production Department is especially proud of the record of achievement attained by the various shops in Kansas. The Outside Production Department was created basically by Mr. Walter Beech and Mr. John P. Gaty who have both demonstrated their confidence in the Kansas and Midwestern people. They have always contended that Kansas farm labor could be very readily trained to accept the responsibility of aircraft mechanics and supervisory personnel. The fundamental training received by farmers and small community residents is based primarily upon initiative and ability to improvise to the extent that they are self-sufficient as individuals. These qualities are manifested in our factories today and were certainly so in 1925 and 1926 and the succeeding years of the early development of Wichita aviation. During that period the entire airplane was designed and built from raw materials without relying upon any other section of the country for parts other than engines, tires, instruments, etc. Much of the East and West Coast aviation successes can be directly attributed to Kansas people who superimposed a thorough knowledge of aviation principles upon their inherent ability to get the job done under all types of conditions. Mr. Walter Beech had the opportunity to establish a plant in any section of the United States but with a full knowledge of the character and ability of the people in this area it was not difficult for him to decide to start the Beech factory in Kansas.

Our entire Outside Production Department, from the top down to and including all personnel who might contact subcontract shops, is composed entirely of Kansas or Midwestern people. The teamwork displayed by these Beech personnel, together with the Kansas Subcontractor, has continually resulted in jobs being accomplished which high-powered industrialists have insisted could not be done. The one factor that they all overlooked is the fact that the people in this area don't know when a job can't be done, and thus without the impedance of such knowledge are able to go ahead and do the job.

This letter also gives me the opportunity to thank you and your predecessor, Governor Ratner, for the kind and detailed assistance rendered our program by your respective administrations. Certainly, we have been most fortunate in having two administrations who



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BEECH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION
Wichita, Kansas

The Honorable Andrew F. Schoeppel
Governor of Kansas
Topeka, Kansas

10/20/44.

have the interests of the small businessman at heart. Your attitude in this respect has been most helpful to our program.

Kindest personal regards.

Yours very truly,

BEECH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION

Willard M. Bashaw
Outside Production Manager.

WMB:djc