



FREDERICK E. BLOOM, president, Peoria Downtown Improvement Association:

The opening of the new bridge and expressway is a tremendous step forward for Peoria in helping to solve the important problem of moving traffic quickly and conveniently. No city can flourish if there is not an easy access by car into and out of its central section, and now not only this is being accomplished but also much congestion through its business district will be eliminated.




MRS. ROBERT BURHANS, president, Peoria Women's Civic Federation:

The new downtown bridge will be a great community asset to Peoria. It will enlarge Peoria's metropolitan area, which lies on both sides of the Illinois river, by better transportation facilities. It will place our city in a strategic position when incorporated into the interstate defense highway network. It is a beautiful structure and has improved the appearance of our community.




HARMON EBERHARD, president, Caterpillar Tractor Co. :

Completion of the Murray M. Baker bridge is an event of broad significance to the Peoria area and its industries. We at Caterpillar have looked forward to this day of dedication for over a decade. The new bridge, as a connecting link in the interstate highway system, will provide a faster, more economical travel, and greater safety for automobiles, buses, and trucks. It will assure thousands of Caterpillar people a quicker, safer, more pleasant trip to and from their work.




DR. HAROLD RODES, president, Bradley University:

In addition to its physical properties, which can be measured statistically, Murray M. Baker bridge symbolizes the progress of the Tri-County region which can be measured spiritually. Progress really begins in the hearts of men, just as it did with the man for whom this bridge is so appropriately named. The practical design, the sturdy construction, and the flow of traffic will give to all who see and use Murray M. Baker bridge a feeling of confidence in the future.




F. DEFOREST HITCHCOCK, president, Peoria Board of Realtors:

The impact of the Murray M. Baker bridge and the expressway on the growth and development of the Peoria area in the next 10 years will be tremendous. It is impossible to realize at this time the overall effect this outstanding improvement will have on the real estate business. Trends are already developing and we anticipate a great increase in market activity.




OSCAR J. MATHIS, mayor, Morton:

We citizens of Morton extend to you our heartiest congratulations on the opening of the new Murray M. Baker bridge. May the opening of this huge bridge bring closer relationship between our city and the many people of Peoria.



FRED SCHRAEDER, president, Peoria-Tazewell Counties Industrial Union Council:

This bridge, it occurs to me, should be thought of as more than a means of spanning a river. It should be thought of as a monument to safety, because it will provide both our citizens and those passing through the means of a safe journey in and out of Peoria.



DONALD C. GUEDET, mayor, Washington:

The Murray M. Baker bridge represents another step of progress for the Peoria community and should reduce traffic congestion for Washington's daily travelers to the Peoria area.

The Murray M. Baker bridge is playing a key role in the future development of both industrial and residential property. That's part of Peoria's progress!