

this so that, if this had been built and operated during peacetime, the smoke stacks from these nurseries wouldn't bother it. As it so happened this did become the major airport in Chicago, and all the nurseries disappeared and all this became industrial and semi-industrial around the field. Now, on another side of the field it became Bensonville and a residential area out there. But it was the beginning of O'Hare, and the first plans were plans made by an architect planner.

Blum: Are there any simple rules that can generally be applied to planning?

Rockwell: Yes, the whole thing was a planning project. We could not have located it if I hadn't had some background in planning, and our approach to the project was with the planning expertise in the background, which had been developed by an association here in Chicago known as the Chicago Regional Planning Association. This was a marvelous organization because it was led for many years by Daniel Burnham, Jr., and it was the first in the United States. It became the spearhead for New York Regional Planning Association, which became a very well known and well heeled organization. This office did not have the resources that the New York office did, but the marvelous plans that this group did under a man, whose name is Robert Kingery, provided a great residuum of transportation information from 1925 on. And then as a summer student from MIT, I went to this office and worked for a summer so I knew where the material lay. And we went through their vaults, and we got out all this material; we laid it out for Lansing Airport out of the South Side and then we added it all up and it was obvious that this was to be the place for O'Hare. O'Hare was the result of a very careful study. This organization went out not only into transportation, highway, and railway and all that, but into land use and into population density.

Blum: Was this an implementation or an extension of what Burnham had done in 1909?

Rockwell: It was intended to be. Burnham's plan was a marvelous thing, and a lot of people pass up the aspect of the plan that dealt with regional development. If