

STATEMENT ON PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF BUS LINES

The recent newspaper publicity and the committee activity of the Davenport Chamber of Commerce directed toward the facilitation of city-owned bus lines is, in the opinion of the undersigned, most unfortunate. It is impossible for us to conceive how a Chamber of Commerce, itself an organization entirely supported by private enterprise, and presumably a believer therein, could justify and promote the idea of a government-owned and operated transportation system. We believe that private enterprise deserves more from the Chamber of Commerce than lip service and an act which will certainly destroy it in one segment of our community.

Enabling the city to own the bus lines directly encourages Socialism. Why the Chamber of Commerce should be a party to the acceleration of this collectivistic trend which has already reached alarming proportions defies explanation. By the same reasoning which justifies this action, we can logically conclude that newspapers, for example, are essential to the public welfare and therefore the city should be able and ready to step in to own and operate these newspapers if private enterprise does not maintain satisfactory and uninterrupted service.

We suggest that the Chamber of Commerce should manifest confidence in private enterprise by studying means of making the operation of the buses a profitable enterprise.

Signed _____