Few large cities in the world are not located on navigable rivers.
Missouri River longest river in the United States. It is 2,500 miles long.
This river serves the greatest agricultural area in the entire world.
The Missouri River has the most uniform slope and even flow being 10 inches per mile – four miles per hour.
Melting snows.
Greater minimum flow than Ohio or Tennessee or upper Mississippi.
Drains one fifth of the continental area of the United States.
Yankton, South Dakota to the mouth at Mississippi is eight hundred miles.
Ohio River, upper Mississippi, lower Mississippi, and Illinois River to Chicago.
3,100 miles of trunk line with 6,000 miles of tributary streams.
Development of modern science in control of streams.
40-mile stretch below Jefferson City improved thirty years, 20% reduction port-to-port points, possible 50%.
One towboat carries equivalent of eight trains of fifty cars each.
Necessity of competition with Panama Canal rates.
Our factories forced into branches on Gulf and West coast.
Longest haul for everything we buy and sell – 800 miles to the Gulf.
Agricultural population declining – need intensive farming. Factories are the nearby market for the farm products.
Intensive farming comes only by greater ability to reach consumers’ markets.
Water transportation the cheapest of all.
Ocean-going vessels carry freight for one-tenth cost of railroads; lake vessels for one fifth cost.
Agriculture is the basis of the wealth of our region.
Nature has provided a great highway of commerce in our navigable river.
We helped build the Panama Canal; helped build all our coast harbors; now we ask the Government to complete the Missouri River and establish barge lines.

10 states are involved.
The breadbasket of our country is involved.
The future of manufacturing in the Middle West is at stakes.

We demand our fair share of national prosperity, the birthright of the Middle West.

Business begets business; traffic begets traffic; greater prosperity for the Middle West will increase business for our railroads.

The west demands the most modern type of transportation, railroads, trucks, aeroplanes, and rivers should all be coordinated to put us on a basis of fair competition throughout the nations.

The voice of a great empire demands the lowest cost in getting our raw products to market, and the lowest freight cost on the things we buy.

We cannot move our farms to the seaboard for lower rates.

Industry can move to the coast, thereby taking away a nearby market for our farmers.

Progress discards tools of yesterday.
Cradles and harvesting machines.
Ferryboats and state lines and railroads
Vested interest must not stand in the road of our progress.

Do not look at the Missouri River with disdain. It is a great and magnificent stream, able to carry the commerce of our empires in potentiality one of our greatest natural assets.

It is being harnessed and controlled like a child.

Vote for your elevator bonds; for a dawn of a new era; vote for the growth of greater Kansas City – a river-rail terminal is essential to our farmers.

Introduce Major General Ashburn, twice honored by Congress.

The J.C. Nichols Company Records (KC106) – Speech JCN030
Arguably Jesse Clyde Nichols (1880-1950) was the single most influential individual to the development of metropolitan Kansas City. Moreover his work, ideas, and philosophy of city planning and development had far-reaching impact nationally – so much so that the Urban Land Institute has established the J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionary Urban Development to recognize a person or a person representing an institution whose career demonstrates a commitment to the highest standards of responsible development.

Nichols’ objective was to “develop whole residential neighborhoods that would attract an element of people who desired a better way of life, a nicer place to live and would be willing to work in order to keep it better.” The Company under Nichols and his son, Miller Nichols (1911- ), undertook such ventures as rental housing, industrial parks, hotels, and shopping centers. Perhaps the most widely recognized Nichols Company developments are the Country Club District and the Country Club Plaza Shopping Center, reportedly the first shopping area in the United States planned to serve those arriving by automobile rather than trolley car.

The J.C. Nichols Company Records (KC106) contains both personal and business files concerning J.C. Nichols' private and business life. Included are personal correspondence, family related material, and speeches and articles written by him. Business and financial files pertain to actions of the Company, including information about different developments and the securing of art objects; and printed materials produced by and about the Company.