

**KANSAS GENERAL COMMODITY MOTOR CARRIERS:  
REGULATION AND SERVICE PROBLEMS**

by

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### Advantages of Motor Transportation

Motor transportation is a large industry that provides for the interchange of goods in our society. All communities, large or small, heavily depend upon truck service for their everyday needs. Communities that once depended upon railroads now rely entirely upon trucking, since railroads are abandoning track and curtailing service, especially less-than-carload-lot freight service.

For the U.S., the motor carrier industry's share of total ton-miles of intercity freight increased from 7 percent in 1946 to 19 percent in 1969.<sup>1</sup> Railroads' share declined from 69 percent to 36 percent.<sup>2</sup> Each mode increased absolute ton-miles from 1946 to 1969.<sup>3</sup> During this period, the other modes of transportation (pipeline, water, and airline) increased their share of total ton-miles from 25 percent to 45 percent.

The trucking industry has been able to increase its relative share of the ton-mile market because of an inherent ability to provide advantageous services to the shipper. The advantages of motor carrier transportation are speed, flexibility, economy and convenience. Technological

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<sup>1</sup>A ton-mile is a statistical unit measuring weight and distance - 1 ton of freight transported 2 miles is 2 ton-miles.

<sup>2</sup>Interstate Commerce Commission, 62nd Annual Report for the Year Ended October 31, 1948 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1949), p. 15.

<sup>3</sup>Interstate Commerce Commission, 85th Annual Report for the Year Ended June 30, 1971 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1971), p. 120