PROGRESS AND THE FRISCO
Progress and the Frisco

To the Editor of the Post-Dispatch:

The attitude conveyed by your reports on the acquisition of the Central of Georgia by the St. Louis, San Francisco Railroad is most difficult to understand. It would seem that you just preach "progress" while you practice "decay."

In recent years St. Louis has been becoming more and more an economic colossus as our home-grown industries are bought up by outside interests. Here we have—of all things—a railroad with headquarters in St. Louis which is endeavoring to grow and expand materially, a growth and expansion that could not help but redound to the economic benefit of the St. Louis area.

Now, because of an alleged technical violation of an obscure and complicated federal statute, which was dismissed by the Interstate Commerce Commission as being insignificant in relation to the public good to be accomplished by the merger, you react to this item of local progress as though the Frisco had tried to steal City Hall.

This is a period of intense competition among American cities for new business and industry. In choosing a site for a new enterprise, an industry considers most carefully the "community attitude" and much of this "community attitude" is obtained from the newspapers.

Your attitude on the Frisco merger is one to discourage a new industry from locating here and, further, one likely to suggest to the Frisco the advantages of moving their headquarters to Memphis or Birmingham, in which places, I am sure, the local press would be pleased, if not delighted, by their growth and expansion.

ELDRIDGE LOVELACE.