

ANNEXATION #1

FACTS, PLEASE

Much complaint is emanating from the Atlanta City Government over the fact that some members of the Save Sandy Springs Group objected to the presence of Atlanta City Officials, attorneys, and school superintendant as back-up men for pro-annexationist debaters.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS that Fulton County Officials, although quite courteous and helpful, because of the nature of their jobs, serving ALL FULTON COUNTY, are not able to take the same partisan stand City of Atlanta employees have adopted.

Fulton County Officials have been present at the debate, to give facts, but have not taken a stand either for or against annexation. This is as it should be.

If speakers for Atlanta are so ill prepared that they have no facts at hand, then we'd suggest they just substitute the City Officials concerned and let them be the debaters. Certainly they will look after Atlanta's interests.

Fulton County Officials CANNOT assume the same responsibility for the Save Sandy Springs Committee or other citizens of the unincorporated area, because they represent, and are elected by, City of Atlanta residents as well as county residents outside the city limits.

LET'S HAVE THE FACTS!

ANNEXATION . . .

IMPROVED SANITATION

Senate Bill 107, 1951, is an act to establish a method for providing garbage disposal systems in the unincorporated portion of Fulton County; to authorize the Commissioners of Fulton County to call on the City of Atlanta to furnish facilities for the collection and disposal of garbage and refuse, the cleaning of streets and roads and related services in unincorporated areas of said county; to require said city to furnish said county with an estimate of the cost thereof and provide such services at cost; to prohibit Fulton County from providing such services except through the City; . . .to provide for defraying the cost of such services by a tax or assessment on property or property owners in garbage disposal districts. . ."

The City of Atlanta is required by law to furnish garbage collection, street cleaning services, and related services, AT COST. The capital letters are ours. The statement, though, is the law.

Sanitation costs would not be reduced by annexation enough to make it worth sharpening a pencil to figure. Not only do Sandy Springs residents get two garbage collections a week, but Fulton County has now installed a service whereby eight collection stations have been located near concentrations of homes in the area. This is an even better service than the City

provides, because area residents do not have to drive around piles of leaves and trash such as litter the city streets until sanitation trucks finally make their rounds. Just a few blocks in any direction will find the eight cubic yard containers, which will hold everything from raw garbage to cardboard boxes.

They are located as follows:

Mt. Vernon Highway at Dupree Drive

Hammond Drive at Glenridge Drive

Spalding Drive at Roberts Drive

Northside Drive at West Garmon Road

Powers Ferry Road at Mt. Paran Road

Sandy Springs Circle at Johnson Ferry Road

Roswell Road at Dalrymple Road

Roswell Road at Hightower Trail

These refuse containers have been installed out of necessity in spite of the 1952 Plan of Improvement prohibition on Fulton County's engaging in the collection and disposal of garbage and refuse.

Section 11, Senate Bill 105, Georgia laws 1951, states that the authority of Fulton County to establish and maintain water, sewer and fire prevention systems is "hereby repealed,"

The Public Administration Service report states on page 37, "Most of Atlanta's treatment plants, which, as noted earlier, serve a much larger area than just the City, provide only primary treatment-- which removes only 30-35 percent of the pollutant material before the sewage is discharged back into streams."

The "PETITION AND PAY" plan is the only way Sandy Springs would ever get sewer service.

City sewer service would not automatically be extended to all homes as a result of annexation. There are many areas within the city limits of Atlanta which do not have sewer service.

New sewer service would cost, as set by law, \$3.50 per front foot. There would be a connection fee of \$80 to \$120. This means it would cost approximately \$420 to install sewer lines down the average R-2A 120 foot lot.

Fulton county has plans to improve the sewer grid, as well as does the City of Atlanta -- witness those homes in Sandy Springs already on sewers. This was obtained under Fulton County Government, WITHOUT "PETITION AND PAY".

ANNEXATION #4

INCREASED REPRESENTATION

City of Atlanta officials have made much of the fact that Sandy Springs area residents could expect to be a new ninth ward, and have two Aldermen elected to represent them. The subject that no one within the City of Atlanta has brought up is contained on page 3114, Georgia Laws 1951, in the so-called Plan of Improvement. It reads as follows:

"The mayor and general council shall have power to make changes in ward lines whenever it is deemed advisable to contract or extend them for the benefit of the citizens thereof, provided that the ward lines, when rearranged, shall not be more than nine wards."

The day after election of Aldermen from the new ninth ward, the City of Atlanta's mayor and general council could, BY LAW, do away with exclusive representation from the Sandy Springs area.

ANNEXATION #5

PROPERTY TAX

The latest mailing from the Atlanta Team for Tomorrow repeats the old statement "taxes would be higher, but the increase would be largely offset...." and gives an example of a tax increase of \$100.12 on an existing \$43,000 home in the area. Now,

what this latest bit of figuring DOESN'T DO is to repeat the statement made in their March 14th release, and we quote, "Furthermore, Buckhead residents found that property values within the city went up automatically" (after annexation). We say this statement probably is true, because only by re-valuing (or re-assessing, if you will!) a house can taxes be drastically increased. We are sure that such increase will be just as AUTOMATIC for residents of Sandy Springs, should the area be annexed, as it was for Buckhead.

In addition, every set of figures we've seen keeps DEDUCTING for fire taxes, garbage services, etc. Well, you can believe it or not, but that same amount of money is still going out PLUS that little increase they just happen to mention.

Property taxes are assessed, by the way, pursuant to the 1952 Plan of Improvement, by a joint City-Fulton County board. "Operations are conducted at and from the Fulton County Administration Building. The Tax Assessment Department is headed by a three-member Atlanta-Fulton County Joint Board of Assessors....Except for its appointment, the Joint Board has little responsibility to either the City or County Government"*
*From the Public Administration Service Report.

AND DID YOU KNOW FULTON COUNTY COLLECTS ATLANTA'S CITY TAXES FOR THEM? Check the Plan of Improvement. The law.

requires Fulton County not only to collect Atlanta's taxes, but to prepare tax bills and provide office space, as well.

ANNEXATION #6

FIRE PROTECTION

Much has been made of the fact that the City of Atlanta furnishes fire protection to Fulton County residents of the unincorporated area. Under the 1952 Plan of Improvement the Fulton County Commissioners were forbidden BY LAW to maintain either a fire department or furnish fire prevention facilities except UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF ATLANTA, or another municipality.

Senate Bill No. 105 of the plan of Improvement was written "to authorize the commissioners of said county to enter into contracts with one or more municipalities therein for a fire prevention system in any unincorporated area of said county or to call on the City of Atlanta to furnish the same at ACTUAL COST as long as payment is made therefor; to prohibit Fulton County from maintaining fire prevention systems...."

So you see, the City only can charge Fulton County residents of the Unincorporated area for the ACTUAL COST of fire protection, and the County CANNOT have a fire department. Since Sandy Springs is developing a business area of its own, these businesses should be able to contribute to lowering the cost of

fire protection to area residents. Atlanta maintains that its downtown businesses help defray the cost of fire insurance for homeowners. We maintain this would be true in the Sandy Springs area, without incurring an indebtedness of an operation which is inefficient and poorly organized, and has little attraction for qualified personnel.

The Survey Report of the Public Administration Service says about Atlanta's fire protection, "Manning of the department is short of American Insurance Association standards... Qualified recruits are increasingly hard to attract and resignations are increasing at an alarming rate".

In addition, the comment was made in this report, "Its lowest rating (Atlanta's) in the most recent review by the Board (in October, 1964) was in fire prevention."

To get down to the hard facts of fire protection -- Sandy Springs will never get any more fire protection than Sandy Springs can pay for. Atlanta reportedly cannot keep enough men on the job now to function efficiently.

Buildings over two stories in height were built without conforming to zoning in existence when the Sandy Springs fire classification was obtained. Inadequate fire protection is the fault of the joint city-county zoning board, which allowed structures not provided for in the fire prevention program. We

maintain these buildings should pay an increased fire tax to provide for special protection NEEDED BY THEM because they were built in apparent violation of existing specifications.

ANNEXATION #7

POLICING

Under the 1952 Plan of Improvement, the unincorporated sections of Fulton County MUST receive police protection from the City of Atlanta.

In Sandy Springs, because of the limited population, the police have been doing a more than adequate job. Women have been safe going to shopping centers. The incidence of rape alone within the City of Atlanta is so high that it appears their 1.5 man per thousand population needs to be 2.5 men per thousand, while the 1 per thousand in the Sandy Springs area seems to be establishing a fine record for prevention of crime of this type.

Theft and housebreaking, and the more serious crimes of violence and murder, have almost seemed to confine themselves to the City limits.

If handling offenses in the unincorporated area through the Fulton County Criminal Court continues to hold crime at the petty low level now maintained in Sandy Springs, we do not feel it would be wise to swap for City justices, city ordinances of Atlanta, and city crime.

ANNEXATION #8

PAVING AND LIGHTS

Streets, sidewalks, street lights and traffic lights almost all come under the "PETITION AND PAY" plan. Exception probably is in the traffic light area, and of the eight lights recommended as being needed, Fulton County already has taken note. Plans already are under way for installation of some of these lights.

The recommended street lights definitely will be on a petition basis.

Atlanta could find only THREE MAJOR STREETS IN SANDY SPRINGS BELOW STANDARD. We say this is remarkable in an area roughly one-third the size of the City of Atlanta. Extension of these figures SHOULD MEAN that Atlanta only has nine sub-standard major streets. Is that so? By the way--paving comes under the "PETITION AND PAY" plan in the City of Atlanta.

To get a street paved in front of the average R-2A lot would cost THE HOMEOWNER between \$726 and \$900, should he live in Atlanta. If he wants a sidewalk, it will cost about \$192 more. "PETITION AND PAY" again, except where increases in public safety needs allow the city to lay a sidewalk without petition and charge owners on a front-foot basis.

ANNEXATION #9

INCOME TAXES

City taxes are deductible items on income taxes.

Anyone who has ever figured an income tax knows just how much credit you will get on "Income Taxes" for the amount of city taxes paid. And you still have to pay the city taxes!

Will the deduction you get balance the tax you will have to pay? Never has yet! Also, we point out deduction does not apply if short form return is used; only when long form 1040 is used, listing all deductions, would these taxes be deductible.

ANNEXATION #10

SCHOOLS

Atlanta schools have nothing to offer children attending Fulton County schools.

Although Atlanta schools allegedly have received preferential treatment from the joint Fulton County-City of Atlanta tax assessment board, the Fulton County schools have more than measured up. In fact, Dr. John Letson admitted that there was substantially no difference in the two systems. Dr. Paul West of Fulton County added that for years the two systems had been operating under a coordinating board.

The city schools offer free kindergartens. It is interesting to note that the State of Georgia is now considering a plan to add free kindergartens to all state schools.

Fulton County and Atlanta both have a program for mentally and physically handicapped children. The tuition is FREE

for both.ever, in the case of Fulton County, if the children live too far from the school, they are TRANSPORTED. Needless to say, this is a real help to a family which already has the extra burden of a handicapped child.

Fulton County has school psychologists and psychometrists. It pioneered specialists in such areas as curriculum development and reading.

Fulton County operates a joint vocational training program with the City of Atlanta.

If bus service is lost, Atlanta Transit Company HAS NOT agreed to furnish transportation at ten cents a ride. And if it did, it would only take some \$57,000 a year to transport those children now being transported free. Try dividing this among the families of Sandy Springs, and see how much this NEW, NON-DEDUCTIBLE (on your income tax) "TRANSPORTATION TAX" would add to the cost of going into the City of Atlanta.

Since Judge Wood's decision that city schools and county schools must have their tax structure equalized, for the first time in 1967 Fulton County Schools will have adequate funds.

Atlanta schools will not. Dr. John Letson says he needs 64 MILLION DOLLARS to have adequate funds. He can borrow only 21.5 million, because, to put it quite simply, the property he has just won't take any bigger first mortgage (school tax

assessment., The amount of money. that can be borrowed is limited by the tax base (amount of property) by the State Legislature.

SO, INSTEAD OF FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS BEING IN DIRE NEED, IT IS IN REALITY THE CITY OF ATLANTA SCHOOLS, in spite of larger tax assessments, and no homestead exemption deductions, that are IN DIRE NEED OF FUNDS.

Fulton County schools have NO CHILDREN ON DOUBLE SESSION -- Atlanta has more than THREE THOUSAND.

Just in passing, City and County officials alike are NOT agreed that the eventual merger of the two systems will take place.