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MAYOR EMERITUS
CITY OF ATLANTA

Mr. R. Earl Landers
Administrative Assistant
City of Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Earl:

I have yours of the 14th. with reference to annexation.

The Act passed in 1966 would, in my opinion, enable Atlanta to annex contiguous land in DeKalb County. In the areas of North Atlanta and Druid Hills, there are many people who would come into Atlanta if given the opportunity, however, DeKalb County would probably not like to lose water customers, and I think it would take some skillful negotiations on the part of the City.

However, since the stakes involve control of some \$700,000,000.00 worth of city facilities, plus the good name of the South's greatest city, I think such high stakes would warrant an intensive campaign to bring these people in - however arduous it might be.

The Bill states that it is cumulative, which means that you could still rely on the old Plan of Improvement Act of 1951 when annexing Fulton County. It is much simpler except you must annex by contiguous land lots.

Another vague section of the 1966 Bill requires that the area be contiguous with the present city limits for at least 1/8 of the areas' aggregate external boundary. I presume this could easily be met in the case of Druid Hills and North Atlanta, although to me it is rather vague, and, of course, bright-eyed lawyers on the other side would subject every step of such procedure to microscopic inspection.

Why could not the city detail several people, without fanfare or publicity, to these two areas and also to the land lot adjacent to Atlanta in the Sandy Springs area for the purpose of securing signatures.

Of course, it is up to you to decide whether you want to use the 1951 law in Sandy Springs and the 1966 law in DeKalb, or whether you wish to use the 1966 law in both counties.

The future stakes are high and well worth the effort. If you will listen to me, however, any advance publicity will simply result in the officials

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involved raising a public hullabaloo to prevent citizens from signing and you will then get nowhere. If it is done quietly by explaining the facts to each citizen and getting his signature, I think you would have a reasonable chance of success.

Yours truly,


William B. Hartsfield

wbh/ctb

P. S. In the case of the land lot adjacent to Sandy Springs, they already voted for annexation, and most of the parents want to send their children to Dykes School.