Annexation Petitioners Offer Their Arguments

FARMINGTON City of Farmington and Farmington Township residents who first petitioned for annexation in October 1969 have issued a statement this week in an attempt to clarify some of the pros and cons being offered by other groups debating the issue.

The nucleus of the annexation petitioners speaking out include Bob Button, Bill Mitchell, Dick Tupper and Don Stoddard.

This group was among the leaders who circulated the petitions which resulted in the vote coming up on Nov. 3 on annexing the southern portion of Farmington Township to the City of Farmington.

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PURPOSE FOR clarification was explained by Button who says:

"There have been several articles, letters to the editor and much discussion concerning the detail of the issues in this campaign.

"It is important to note, however, that all of this verbiage reduces to two simple straightforward questions."

The petitioners say the two issues are: (1) Do southern township residents want to join with the city or wait and eventually incorporate with the township? (2) Do city residents want to exercise their last opportunity to expand the city's boundaries to achieve advantages of a more optimum size?

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FROM THE TOWNSHIP'S standpoint, says Mitchell, there are myths that have arisen that should be put to rest.

"Township residents have been told they are about to be victimized by land grabbers," says Mitchell, but the petitions were filed by city and township residents to give the "affected" residents the opportunity to decide in a "free election if they wish to merge."

The petitions were filed under provisions of state law which defines annexation as a normal means for a city to expand its boundaries, he added and means for a township government to dissolve into a city as it becomes urbanized.

Mitchell spoke to the observation that some township residents believe they will be better off under the leadership of Earl Teeples as supervisor.

"This is the most ridiculous of myths," stresses Mitchell. Petitions have been circulated for citybood, he explains, and if annexation fails an incorporation election will be held.

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"It would certainly seem reasonable on the basis of the township's 2-1 vote in favor of consolidation that this time incorporation will pass," says Mitchell. "Once a charter is approved, Teeples can no longer be a supervisor of a non-existent township."

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TUPPER OBSERVES that the Future Farmington Association (FFA), a non-partisian group fighting annexation, is composed of residents from the north portion of the township and has no ties with south end residents.

The city has a closer relationship to the south end, claims Tupper, and has detailed plans for better drainage, police and fire protection, recreation, roads and planning should annexation pass.

Annexation assures the affected residents of positive action in the very near future, says Stoddard, in those areas where action has been so sorely required for years.

"This action is being promised by an established city government which can provide needed services now," says Stoddard.

"From the other side, township residents are receiving some rather vague possibilities put forth by the same township leadership that has historically ignored the needs of the southern portion of the township."

The township must be vague, exerts Stoddard, because it will require at least two to three years to establish the nucleus of a city government that is even able to respond to needs.

Tupper stresses that for city residents Nov. 3 may be the last opportunity to square off the city's boundaries.

"To date," says Tupper, "we have seen absolutely nothing from the township leadership. Township residents are essentially being asked to balance detailed proposals from the City of Farmington against a 'wait and see' attitude by township leadership from the north."

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AN ADVANTAGE of annexation is it will provide affected township residents the benefits of an established, well-functioning city government, says Mitchell.

The city's Public Safety Department is one of the finest in the state, he says, and in 1967 was awarded second place in the nation for fire prevention in its population class and first place in the state.

All personnel are graduates of the Police Academy, he continued, and officers with one or more years service have received additional special police schooling. Chief Robert Deadman is recognized as one of the best in the state, adds Mitchell.

Another capable administrator, notes Mitchell, is George Vondrak who now heads the city's DPW after working for the City of Dearborn where he was in charge of 200 men.

John Dinan is a very competent city manager, adds Mitchell. Dinan is a civil engineer, has experience as an urban planner, has been Farmington's city manager for 10 years and was assistant city manager for Oak Park for nine years.

In future years, the current trend of regional planning will become the accepted practice, concludes Tupper. "At that time it will be very important to have the ability to negotiate from a position of strength.

"Certainly, a 14-square-mile city will have a much more effective voice than a 2.5-square-mile city in any regional planning. Annexation will also allow the city to square off its area and thereby prevent encroachment of less desirable zoning on its boundaries."

Hatton Urges Voter Support

FARMINGTON William Hatton, candidate for Farmington Township trustee, at a coffee in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Vignoe, questioned the independence of the group of Republicans who are attempting to overthrow the results of the August Republican primary.

He said the same Republicans who supported the present "machine administration" are now supporting a write-in candidate for township supervisor.

"These die hards lost in the primary and are now trying desperately to regain control of the township government by purporting to sponsor a reform position the proper time would have been to offer their candidate before the primary.

"Only after defeat of the machine in the August primary have they come to realize that any reform was needed," Hatton continued.

"But how can they reasonably expect reform when only their supervisor candidate does not share the taint of the machine? I submit that he shares this taint equally with the remnants of the machine left after the primary, because he recieves their backing and support", Hatton said.

"THESE MACHINE Republicans would have us believe, as they rise to new heights of moral indignation, that normal Republicans never vote for a Democrat, and that Democrats never vote for a Republican," Hatton continued.

"Outside our provincial area, Republicans in Michigan know that they cannot win statewide elections without the help of Democrats and independents.

I do not feel any more hesitancy in asking for Republican support than asking for Democratic support.

"The only way to make the much needed change at township hall is to elect the candidates who will insure that change away from the machine---Earl Teeples, Harris Berger, Burton Levy, and Hatton."

Hatton said that these four people have a detailed knowledge of the many areas of township government where improvement is needed -- the police and building departments, adequate policy determined by all the township board, and efficient and productive administration.

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THESE MEN also have the determination and willingness to solve the problems here on the local level and not pass the buck up to the state or county or pass it down to individual supposedly dissatisfied police officers or building inspectors, said Hatton.

He continued: "The problems appear enormous only when compared with the smallness of the imagination of the officials who have them to solve.

"The weakness of the late machine administration was its vacillation and timidity to attack the problems of the people of the township. This timidity even went so far that often the problems were improperly stated or not even recognized."

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(Hatton and Levy will work with Berger and Teeples to end the conflict of interest among present Township officials).
- Restore confidence in the Police Dept.
- Vote NO on annexation.
- End annual sharp increases in homeowner taxes.

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50,000	8	1975	4.85
50,000	8	1976	5.00
50,000	8	1977	5.15
50,000	8	1978	5.30
50,000	8	1979	5.45
50,000	8	1980	5.60
$ 75,000	8¾	5/1/1981	5.75%
75,000	8	1982	5.90
150,000	8	1983*	6.00
175,000	7¾	1984*	6.20
175,000	7¾	1985*	6.40
175,000	7¾	1986*	6.55
200,000	7½	1987*	6.70
200,000	7½	1988*	6.80
200,000	7½	1989*	6.90
$200,000	7¼%	5/1/1990*	7.00%
200,000	7¼	1991*	7.10
200,000	7¼	1992*	7.15
225,000	7¼	1993*	7.20
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