

# 'Pressure' Disclaimed On City's Annexation Proposal; 'No Malice'

The city of Medford "is not trying to high pressure anyone" in the July 5 annexation election, Mayor Earl Miller declared yesterday in a talk to Medford Kiwanians at Rogue Valley Country club.

Miller listed annexation of adjacent areas as the most pressing of four major problems facing the city. The others are traffic, an off-street parking system, and financing.

## SOC President Announces List Of Consultants

Ashland—Dr. Elmo N. Stevenson, president of Southern Oregon college, has announced the names of members of the SOC faculty who will be available during the school year 1955-56 to act as consultants for elementary school inservice workshops throughout southern Oregon.

They include: Arithmetic—Dr. Bill A. Sampson, associate professor of education, and Miss Bertha Stephens, assistant professor of education. Child Growth and Development—Dr. Phyllis Plichta, professor of education. Finance and Administration—Dr. Sampson. Intermediate methods—Clarence Diebel, associate professor of science; David F. Hill, assistant professor of education; Richard Leigh, instructor in education; Miss Gladys Owen, assistant professor of education; and Arthur Phillips, assistant professor of education.

Language arts—reading—Dr. Plichta. Methods of learning—Dr. Loren Messenger, professor of psychology. Primary methods—Dorothea Bushnell, assistant professor of education; Dawn Gwaltney, instructor in education; Dorothy Masters, instructor in education; and Kathryn Smith, assistant professor of education. Science—Dr. Stevenson and Diebel. Social sciences—Florence Allen, assistant professor of education; Dr. Alva Graham, professor of education; and Dr. John McAulay, director of teacher education and professor of education. Spelling—Miss Stephens.

**COPTERS ORDERED**  
Paris—(U.P.)—France has ordered eight Sikorsky helicopters from the United States to help combat the rebel "Army of Allah" in North Africa, authorized sources said today.

**WEATHER** By United Press  
Northern California: Mostly fair through Friday but thunderstorms likely extreme northern mountains today.

# Water District Spokesman Argues Against Annexation

By GUY CORLISS  
Chairman, Charlotte Ann Water District

The city of Medford's so called "invitation for annexation" of an area south of Medford on close analysis looks more like an attempt to "strong arm" it into the city.

It is interesting to note that the first publication stating exactly which area was to be "invited" didn't appear until the first of June with the election scheduled for the 5th of July, barely giving time for the four required weekly publications required by law before an election to annex an area. Could this by any chance mean that they are afraid the voters won't accept their kind "invitation" if they are given time to ponder the matter, or that they don't want any unregistered voters in the area to have a chance to register 30 days before the election as they would have to in order to vote?

**Vote on Measure**  
Now we know that Medford needs additional tax money, for on the same day of the proposed annexation vote the city is voting on a measure to exceed the 6 per cent limitation and broaden their tax base. This attempt to force an area of farms, orchards and outlying industries into the city to grab their tax money seems not only unfair but borders on the ridiculous.

There are one or two thickly settled areas near Medford which have small enough lots of land that they could afford to pay additional taxes to the city and who also need water and sewer facilities. Apparently it is these small thickly settled areas which the city is depending on to vote in the areas of larger farms, areas which have already made provision for water, sewer facilities and fire protection, and which will still be obligated to pay for them even though the city would succeed to ownership of all water mains, meters, services and fire hydrants in the annexed area, except operations of the remainder of those facilities necessary for the operation of the district.

**Sees 'Discrepancies'**  
There seem to be several discrepancies in the facts and figures presented by city officials in the June 12 article in the Medford Mail Tribune. It quotes an average of \$16.25 paid for fire insurance by residents within 500 feet of a fire hydrant. Upon checking, I find the rate to be \$4.80 a thousand for three years insurance for a block or brick building with composition roof or \$5.20 a thousand for three years insurance for a wood frame house. This area falls into the same insurance rate zone that Medford had prior to the construction of their new fire station and the rate is still very little more than the rate applying to residents of Medford.

As an example of the so-called small differences in taxes between rural areas and the city of Medford, the county tax levy consists of 5.9 mills whereas the city levy is 22.8 mills as of this year. However if the people of Medford approve the measure to exceed the 6 per cent limitation and broaden their tax base the Medford levy will increase to approximately 25.8 mills.

**Examples Cited**  
The following are some typical examples of the differences between levies paid in the area proposed for annexation at the present time and the approximate amount that would be paid in case of annexation. The only levy that will be removed in case of annexation is the 5.2 levy in effect for the rural fire district.

**Example 1 — one-half acre rural.**

Present Millage Levy	
Code 49-9	Mills
School No. 9	39.5
County	5.9
Charlotte Ann Water	4.1
S. Bear Cr. Sanitary	4.9
Medford Fire	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.6</b>

Levy After Annexation	
School No. 49	Mills
County	39.5
Charlotte Ann Water	5.9
S. Bear Cr. Sanitary	4.1
City of Medford	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.2</b>

Increase after annexation . . . 17.6 mills.

**Example 2—20 acre farm**

Present Millage Levy	
Code 4-6	Mills
Rural School	51.4
School No. 4	13.2
County	5.9
Charlotte Ann Water	5.2
Medford Fire	4.1
Charlotte Ann Water	4.9
S. Bear Cr. Sanitary	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.7</b>

Levy After Annexation	
Rural School	Mills
School No. 4	51.4
County	13.2
Charlotte Ann Water	5.9
S. Bear Cr. Sanitary	4.1
City of Medford	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>102.3</b>

Increase after annexation . . . 17.6 mills. According to these figures I think we can safely assume that

our taxes would increase at least one third even before paying for additional improvements.

**Take Over Facilities**  
The city of Medford suddenly appears to be greatly concerned over health hazards in this area. Now that itself to a bonded indebtedness for water and sewer lines the city would gladly take over these facilities—however residents of the area should not expect extensive improvements immediately as it will require some time to provide adequate service to the area, according to Mayor Miller.

He stated that water main installations and street improvements in the area would be done when petitions signed by property owners desiring improvements are submitted to the city council.

If the property owners succeeded in getting any of these improvements I suppose they would be paid for on the front foot basis, making it rather expensive for people owning large acreages of land. I understand that the city requires payments to be completed within a short time limit, whereas if the same

improvements are made by people residing in a rural water or sanitation district the payments are spread over a 20 year period with the bonded indebtedness being paid from 3 sources: (1) taxes, (2) connect fees, (3) income.

**Asked to Pay**  
In the case of the Charlotte Ann Water District and Bear Creek Sanitary District the city proposes to take over the largest part of our water and sanitary districts for which the property owners are bonded to the extent of \$158,000. In return they ask us to pay off the bonded indebtedness while they take over all connect fees, profits from sale of water and taxes on increased valuation of district.

Were they to take over the complete water and sanitary districts state laws says they would have to assume the indebtedness, but they also know the law and have carefully excluded a small part.

I have no objections to some areas in the proposed annexation being voted into the city if they so desire, but I do object to the gerrymandering

which will force other areas in at the same time.

**Why Not Other Areas**

The city officials have assured us that the proposed annexation is not just for the benefit of the city but for the good of the people in the area to be annexed—to protect our health by giving us pure water and adequate sewage disposal facilities and to give us better streets, roads, police and fire protection. In view of this I wonder why some areas closely adjacent to Medford such as Berrydale, which is badly in need of sewage disposal facilities, are left out of the plans, while other areas such as the Charlotte Ann District, which has already made its own arrangements for sewage disposal and fire protection, are to be taken in.

Were it not for the fact that I know these city officials to be honorable men I would almost suspect that they were more interested in the tax money from rapidly developing industrial areas than in our health and welfare.

**State Police Available**  
As for police protection I think most of us can feel com-

paratively safe with just the protection we get from the State Police and the County Sheriff.

**Mayor Miller states** that one of their objectives in taking in the proposed area was to lay out uniform streets before there is too much growth in the outlying areas.

If streets are laid out uniformly and of a 60 foot width according to city standards, they would cut through some homes already built in this area. Suppose one of these streets should go through your property and 50 per cent of the people should ask for paving. On an acre of ground at \$8 a front foot for each half it would amount to \$16 a front foot times approximately 200 feet frontage or a total of \$3,200. On a five acre place at \$16 a front foot for approximately 1000 feet it would cost the property owner \$16,000.

There are many homes in Medford proper at the present time who are still depending on Septic tanks for sewage disposal. There are also rough streets and streets having no sidewalks.

**What Assurance?**  
People have asked me what assurance we would have of getting such improvements as good streets, water, sewage lines and sidewalks, if we were taken into the city when they haven't yet secured them for all people in the present city limits. To this I can only answer, "I don't know."

It seems the only way we can be assured of these improvements is to form our own districts outside the city over which we can maintain control and see to it that we get the desired improvements, rather than turning all authority over to the city and hoping they will give them to us.

As long as we are outside the city the new State Municipal Sanitary District Law would protect our interests in getting sanitary facilities, but once within the city we have no recourse but to sit and wait, hoping the city council will some day get around to seeing that we have these improvements.

**HO TO RUSSIA**  
Tokyo—(U.P.)—Ho Chi Minh, Moscow-trained leader of Communist Viet Minh, arrived in Communist China today on the first leg of a tour that will take him to Soviet Russia, Peiping Radio reported.

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**MARGARINE** Fancy Brand **2 lbs. 39¢**

**WHITE KING SOAP** Giant size package **55¢**

**Fruit of the Vine** Grape Preserves **25¢ jar**

**Cocktail Peanuts** 3 cans **\$1.00**

**CAKE MIX** CLOSETOUT 5 pkgs. **\$1.00**

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**Strawberries** Local Table Rock Full Weight Crate **\$2.79**

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