annexation

☆☆☆ Section A **Page 15**
January 11, 1970
S. F. Sunday Examiner
& Chronicle

Santa Cruz Fight Over Annexation

Row Embroils UC Campus

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SANTA CRUZ— Controversy over a city plan to annex a large coastal area is increasing as the Local Agency Formation Commission nears a decision on the plan.

The commission Wednesday will continue a hearing on the matter and may come to a decision.

The annexation is favored by the City Council, Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz Sentinel and city officials, but several groups whose ranks include some students and faculty from the University of California here oppose the plan.

The land is north of the city and adjacent to the UC campus.

Another group favoring annexation—the Santa Cruz Taxpayers Committee for Property Rights—yesterday wrote to UC Chancellor Dean McHenry protesting university personnel involvement in the controversy.

Voices Protest

E. V. Manchester, chairman of the taxpayer organization, protested what he labeled "the great amount of involvement of the teaching staff in Santa Cruz city and county political life the past four months."

He said his group "strongly questions the validity of this sudden involvement, as well as the propriety of it."

In the absence of Chancellor McHenry, Assistant Chancellor Gurdin Mooser said he was not aware of any organized campus opposition to annexation. He promised he would look into the matter.

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"But," he said, "what we are objecting to is faculty members using paid secretarial help, university supplies and postage to mount a campaign against the pending annexation."

Foresees Approval

City Manager David Koester said the annexation proposal was based on "a broad review" by the city and probably will be approved.

Among organizations opposing the plan are the Coastal Coalition, dominated by faculty members and students. The group was one of the sponsors of a full-page newspaper ad that implied the annexation will lead to urban sprawl.

A spokesman for the company proposing to develop one-sixth of the area termed the ad a "gross misrepresentation."

Opponents claim the proposed development will close off access to the ocean front, but developers argue it would provide access to the ocean where there is none now.

Details Not Approved

City officials point out that details of the proposed development have not been approved and contend they would not approve anything they did not think enhanced the area.

In the meantime, annexation should proceed to prevent fragmentation of the area into several districts under county auspices, according to city officials.

UC faculty member Dale Flowers acknowledged that his secretary prepared and mailed material for the newly formed Santa Cruz Council on the Environment, which opposes the development and annexation.

But he said this work is now being done by others. "We did it (in the beginning) as a public service. When we get requests for assistance from within the city we try to comply," Flowers said.

Flowers said the anti-annexation ad originated on campus.

Faculty member Peter Scott, an active opponent of annexation, said it is true members of the campus public relations staff helped prepare the ad, but said the work was done on their own time.