

Ol' Hoosier Farmer — May 11, 1977

By Jim Jones

On Annexation

Been readin' lots of stuff in th' paper recently about annexation. Guess Big Brother Richmond over east here wants to take into their boundaries some of our neighbors here in Center Township. It's called progress but we wonders jest how progressive it all is.

Time wuz when th' rural folks wuz pretty well isolated on th' farms an' didn't know much about city ways. They lived th' simple life an' waz happy with what they had--their home, land, simple possessions an' didn't know much about th' big towns. Long came th' auttymobile, radio an' telephone an' folks got off th' homeplace a little an' saw how th' rest of th' world ran. Some liked it, enough to cause a vast-move from th' countryside to th' cities. This has resulted in th' demise of th' family farm an' a housing problem an' all that goes with it in th' cities.

Th' last few years has shown a tunaround in this trend with lots o' folks leavin' the city life an' movin' back to th' country. However, they likes th' city conveniences an' so they works in town. Th' small farms are pretty well gone any way since th' big farmers has bought them up.

As a result of this movin' back to th' countryside, th' cities has had to grow to git th' people back on th' tax rolls, an' help pay fer th' services an' conveniences they don't want to give up since they has had a taste of city life. We hate to see this happen here in Center Township since this is basically a rural area an' we feels that folks who wants to live in th' country should do so without th' threat of becomin' citified hangin' over their heads jest because the city is at their back door. We also feels that if this annexation takes place, th' next step would be absorbin' our village of Centerville into th' city boundaries, which would destroy our small town image and individuality. Many years off, perhaps, but comin' jest th' same.

We'd like to see this annexation of part of Center Township defeated. We feels th' financial and school problems have been discussed an' all interested citizens knows about them. But we feels our countryside should be preserved as countryside an' our little town left alone to do its own thing without bowin' down to neighborin' Richmond. We feels a loyalty to our town that would be impossible to give to a larger city an' that is why we settled here rather than goin' to th' city in the furst place. Most of th' folks we has talked to feels the same. We hopes that this annexation will be defeated an' we urges all of you out there to study the situation carefully and look ahead to what lies in th' future as well as th' situation today. Then make yer voice heard an' cooperate fully with th' effort to prevent this action. Time is runnin' out --once its done we can't turn back th' clock. Tomorrow may be too late!