

PERFORMING THE ANNEXATION STUDY

by

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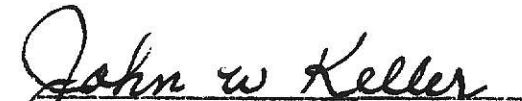
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

What is Annexation?

As a point of beginning, it seems appropriate to define the process with which this report will concern itself. Annexation, as defined by Lachlan F. Blair, ". . . is the process by which usually contiguous fringe territory is added to an existing municipality."¹ Another definition states that "annexation is a process, legally defined in state statutes or city charters, by which a city extends its corporate limits."² The two definitions include the important aspects of annexation by pointing out that it is a "process", that it is "legally defined in state statutes or city charters", "by which a city extends its corporate limits" by adding "usually contiguous fringe territory" to its existing boundaries. It is important that all of these parts of the definition be included as they are all necessary in understanding and properly employing the annexation process.

Why Annex? The Pros...

Cities are often faced with the dilemma of deciding whether annexation is the proper path to follow in their

road to growth. An examination of the reasons for annexation and arguments against it may help to solve this problem.

A major reason for a city to annex may be the lack of large areas within the city for subdivision and development. When a city is growing and expanding its residential, commercial, and industrial needs, space is needed to accommodate this growth. This situation is occurring in many Midwestern cities at the present time. These cities are one hundred to one hundred and fifty years old and over the years have developed most of the developable land within their corporate boundaries. Since the land within these boundaries is of a fixed amount, the only way to gain more land for development is through annexation.

Following directly from this first reason for annexation is a second: providing a means by which the municipality can order growth and development on the urban fringe area so as to assure coordination between the city and suburbs. ". . . The municipality should recognize that for orderly urban growth and expansion, portions of the developing fringe should be periodically incorporated into the city in a planned manner."³

As David H. Blau mentions, most fringe areas are deficient in their development and in their provision of services, and most are ". . . characterized by a sporadic and unplanned development uncoordinated with that of the adjacent city."⁴ He goes on to say that "[m]any municipalities are beginning to realize that the problems of substandard