

FEE

RENTAL

NOV 29

urban growth "sterilizes"

"Annexation is the sterilization of land," Ray Gibbon, mayor of St. Albert told a meeting of the Alberta Geographical Society Thursday in T1103. Topic of the panel was "Edmonton--Annexation or Stagnation?"

Gibbon, quite confident of his ability to keep his town from the clutches of the encroaching monster to the south which employs 85% of his citizenry, boasted that St. Albert has nearly as many serviced lots available as Edmonton. He saw land banks as the solution to providing reasonably-priced lots in a metropolitan area.

Gibbon said that St. Albert, "the cradle of civilization in Alberta", sees a 20% increase in housing starts annually. He is against annexation because "the bigger the area, the greater the bureaucracy and the worse the representation," and because he does not want his town "sterilized".

Jack Snary from the Alberta government asked the question "who is to say what limits are to be placed on growth?" It will be recalled that Julian Kinisky's issue in his run for mayor of the city

was the limiting of the city's size.

Snary said that the city of Moscow had attempted limitation, but this proved impossible even for the communist government, so how could a democratic, free enterprise system hope to impose such limits?

Snary supports industrial development wherever free enterprise decides to locate it, because it takes some tax burden from the population, and increases the productive employment opportunities.

He said he is against controlled decentralization because it interferes with business concerns.

Neville Bothwell, from the land developer BACM Industries, said that artificial restraints on the city and industry produces distortion of growth, but does not halt it. He said that limiting housing development only produces slums and speculation. He is

against this "molding" of people into seeing some particular solution to urban problems as best.

Bothwell came up with the novel suggestion of abolishing municipal government, and electing city members to the Alberta legislature to form a "municipal council". In this way cities and towns could fight for their share of tax revenue at the provincial level.

The last speaker, Norman Giffen of the Edmonton Regional Planning Commission, opened with the

statement "boundaries don't matter a hoot." He said that urban areas will expand regardless of city restrictions, independent of annexation.

His goal is planning for people rather than things, and for dealing with people now where they are and where they will be, not for changing their ideas.

lh

C'wealth games film wed.

Hal Pawson of the Edmonton Commonwealth Games Society, in conjunction with the Gateway, will show the film, "Fifteen Minutes Minus Two: A Presentation From Canada," tomorrow at 2:30 pm in Room 142 of SUB.

This is the film which city mayor Ivor Dent took with him to Munich last summer as part of a presentation that convinced representatives from Commonwealth countries to

hold the Games in Edmonton.

The film has raised considerable controversy here. Its detractors claim the city is grossly misrepresented as having facilities which are presently only conjectural. Supporters say that anyone who watches the film closely will realise the projects outlined may or may not be completed by 1978.

Pawson will be available to answer questions after the showing. Admission is free.

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suggested that artists should be brought into the school in a capacity other than that of "teacher." The child could then see the artist in motion and learn to appreciate the aesthetic and technical aspects of art. When asked if the parents would fully understand the idea of having their child spend a full school day with a painter, the delegate said the parents should be educated along with the child. The parent could attend a few classes, or through media presentations, begin to understand the need for cultural development.

Three hundred people from the prairie provinces attended the conference. The delegates were divided into groups for the four workshop sessions, and later met as a body to hear a two-minute statement from each group.

All criticisms and policy statements are being compiled by conference analyst Paul Schafer who is incidentally the brother of Murray Schafer, noted Canadian composer.

The report will then be presented to the Canada Council, arts administrators, and government departments.

Many other suggestions and ideas came out of the conference. Some of these include: 2% of all construction costs should be directed to the arts (paintings, murals, etc.); schools and universities should have "composers in residence" to encourage Canadian writers and musicians; newspaper arts editors should be offered specific training courses, and be knowledgeable in the arts; art needs to be funded by public treasury; the "dignity" of the arts must be preserved, and the artist must be better understood by society.

Also recommended was the availability of arts funds to

groups other than the established ones such as symphonies or major theatres, street theatre and travelling art shows are equally valid, for they actually move into the community. Some felt that 'art has been taken away from society,' on case in point being art galleries.

The validity of this conference certainly must be questioned. The organizers claimed that at last the working artist would have a voice in art funding.

I found it ironic that the major participants in this conference were the 'elite' of the 'artistic elite.' Most 'working artists' were not informed about the conference, nor was sponsorship readily available. While there was a cry for a collective voice for artists, it was mainly the interested individual that made his lonely way to Calgary.

Another outrageous fact was that each provincial government put forth well over a thousand dollars for the banquets alone. As a result, 'starving artists,' feasted on gourmet delights and fine wines. When you estimate how many people could have attended from all levels of society, you realize how undemocratic the entire system was.

These facts must be placed in perspective. Perhaps the results of this conference will affect governmental decisions. Certainly it was worthwhile to meet such a vast array of personalities, and listen to their views. Perhaps it is a valid alternative to societal revolution, the gradual gathering of ideas and communication to appropriate sources. Often the artist's most difficult and important task is to understand himself; society must have adequate time to grasp even this.

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