

# Airport environment under study

The effect on the environment of the proposed second Atlanta airport has been given too little attention in recent weeks according to federal and local environmentalist and planners.

The city of Atlanta's choice between an airport site on the Polk-Paulding County line and one in Paulding County did not give enough weight to the environmental effects each site would have.

On Monday that same fear was raised over Atlanta's favorite site choice in Henry County when the top federal environmentalist in Atlanta said the pollution problems that the airport could cause at the Henry County site could make its cost "unacceptable economically."

Jack Ravan, regional administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said Monday that the cost to make the Henry County site safe environmentally could reach as high as \$500 million. As it turns out that is the estimated cost difference between constructing an airport at Henry County and one in the Polk-Paulding County area.

## Would Pollute Lake More

The main concern over the Henry County site is the air-

port's effect on Jackson Lake. The lake, located about 35 miles southeast of Atlanta, is already heavily polluted with the domestic sewage discharge from Atlanta and DeKalb County. Ravan fears that the sewage from the airport facility and airfield runoff waters would only make the situation worse.

A peculiarity of an airport's environmental effect on surrounding land and waters is the large amount of rain water that would run off the miles of runways. In that water would be bits of aircraft rubber and waste oil which would have to be treated before being dumped into streams or lakes. Any streams that would cross the runways would have to be put into culverts, which environmentalist say would cause the "death" of that stream.

While there is no environmental study on the Henry County site, preliminary studies comparing it to the Polk-Paulding site indicate that there would be less damage to the environment at the Polk-Paulding site.

## Site C Not Best

Of the two proposed sites in the Polk-Paulding area Atlanta chose Site C, which is located in Paulding County, about seven miles southeast of Rockmart. The other site, Site A is located north four miles on the county line between Polk and Paulding counties. It has been cited in an environmental study as being less damaging than Site C.

Dr. Phillip Greear, a biology professor at Shorter College, did the environmental section of the latest feasibility study of the Polk-Paulding site proposal. According to the study at Site C Pumpkin Vine Creek would

have to be covered by the airport runways and waste treatment plants would be more efficient at Site A. (This, he explained, is because streams where treated waste would be dumped are located further away from the airport site at Site A, giving more room for the treatment process inbetween.)

Dr. Greear and local area planners took a dim view of the point system which Atlanta used in one of its studies to chose between Site C and Site A. A total of 100 points were allotted to land acquisition problems, development costs, environmental

impact, ground transportation needs, site preparation, relocation costs and airspace. With 100 being the most advantageous, the Site C proposal got 94 points compared to 84 given to Site A. Dr. Greear and area-planners are unhappy with the 20 out of 100 points that was given to environmental impact. They feel that the environmental impact should have gotten more weight and if it had, Site A would have come out on top point-wise.

Both Dr. Greear and Ravan agreed that the environmental effect from any future airport is going to be more

## Collins gets 'left' support—McDonald

Dr. Larry McDonald, Democratic candidate for Seventh District Congressman, charged today that his opponent, Republican Quincy Collins, is being supported by "far left liberal activists."

McDonald made the charge at a Cedartown Optimist Club meeting this morning. He also spoke at Krannert Center on the Berry College Campus Wednesday evening. At both meetings he fingered "big government" and federal spending as the cause of a host of ills in the U.S., inflation especially.

When McDonald was asked to name the "far left radicals" he claimed support Collins he said the National Educator's Association was one of them and they are giving \$1,500 to Collins' campaign fund. Other "far left radical" supporters of Collins, says McDonald, are COPE of the AFL CIO and the

chances for election. McDonald, said no, because it is too much of a "splinter group". He went on to write off the movement as "being principally a few in Floyd County, one in Cedartown, a couple in Summerville and Calhoun and maybe one Democrat in LaFayette."

During his presentation McDonald attacked President Ford's tax surcharge proposal, saying that it would "Grind the last economic hope into the ground." The "last economic hope" he explained, was the American productivity of the American middle class. The tax surcharge applies only to families with incomes over \$15,000 per year.

## OPPONENTS

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were strongly denied by commissioners.

The commissioners were

important than in the past because of new legislation that has become effective

recently. The Dallas-Fort Worth Airport was the last major airport development to

be constructed under the older and fewer federal environmental regulations. This

will not be the case with the proposed second Atlanta airport said Ravan.