

~~(SHOW FILM)~~

Roanoke City and County officials boarded two buses this afternoon and toured part of the County's territory which the City wants to annex. A 3-judge court which started hearing the case today also made the trip.

Attorneys for both City and County and the judges toured sections of the North 11 area as well as Summerdeal, Boxley Hills, x Hollins and other sub-divisions. ~~(SHOW MAP)~~

The City seeks to annex 31 square miles of county territory in the suit which opened in Roanoke County Circuit Court today. The tours will continue tomorrow. ~~(BACK TO FILM)~~ Both sides consider the North 11 area one of the most important county sections, in view of its heavy business and industrial concentration.

~~(SHOW FILM)~~

The three judges - Hamilton Haas (HAWA), Fred Hoback and Raynor Snead - allowed photographers to take pictures before court opened today but not during the proceedings.

An attorney for the City - Delegate Kossen Gregory - said in opening arguments ~~that~~ Roanoke vitally needs the territory it seeks - - - and that it will cost about 2.7 million dollars over a 5-year span to complete the annexation. Gregory argued the area is urban and more suited to the City than out of it.

John Thornton - an attorney for the county - called Roanoke's annexation plans "ill timed and ill conceived." He claimed Roanoke is in critical financial straits and couldn't complete the annexation for less than 15½ million dollars. Gregory claimed the money would come from bonds, additional taxes or a combination of both, but <sup>THORNTON</sup> ~~Gregory~~ said Roanoke wants the additional revenues to pay for things citizens have refused to defray. The ~~xxx~~ annexation case may go on a month or more.

# #