Council Affirms Faith in Air Force Titan Plans

The City Council yesterday passed its resolution expressing confidence in the Air Force and Department of Defense to give full consideration of favorable plans when locating the Titan missile bases scheduled for Tucson.

Councilmen Ray Wagner abstained strongly and voted against the resolution. The others were for it.

The passage represents less of a major battle for Dr. James McDonald and the Committee Against Ringing Tucson With Titans (CARTT).

McDonald, a University of Arizona physicist, feels the community would be placed in unnecessary danger from atomic fallout generated by enemy bombs if the missiles are located within (even) of the city and are the target of an enemy missile attack.

But following the passage committee members said they wouldn't contest their fight to get answers from the Air Force as to why missile must be located in or near major U.S. cities in close proximity to major thoroughfares, which are, in many cases, indicated as prime defense evacuation routes.

Members of the committee came back at the end of the council meeting to ask Mayor Don Hume to have another passage of the resolution, he said, which would attempt to aid in development of a Civil Defense plan.

Hume said they the executive committee of the American Municipal League is deeply concerned about the inadequacy of civil defense in most U.S. cities and believes present CD plans are impractical and unwieldy.

Hume said he believes the main difficulty stems from the concept that CD is a local federal and local responsibility. This means lack of coordination, information and funds, he explained.

The municipal group, of which Hume is vice president, is pressing Congress to accept CD as a "part of the overall national defense responsibility." Hume said.

McDonald reported at the meeting that he had discussed the case with Col. William Boones, senior officer at Davis-Moore Air Force Base, and gained "specifically any clarification of the Air Force position on development of Titan III." McDonald added that Boones said that what had been made frequent reference to classified (secret) information that apparently is the basis of the Air Force decision.

In ending the resolution, Councilman James Kirk noted he had been given some classified information that governed his decision.

Hume, who said last night that as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve he has the highest clearance, also has indicated that classified information is involved in the Air Force decision.

McDonald said he had suggested to Boones that a scientific member of CARTT, who knows government clearance, he gives the classified material so he could analyze it and pass it on to the committee. He said Boones has been non-committal about the suggestion.

McDonald said he drew the conclusion from the conversation that Boones feels "that we will all be determined (as an attack) and do the downed question has no bearing. I barely want to say that we disagree." McDonald added.

Meanwhile the Air Force will not announce the exact intended location of the defense line that will hold the WIC Titans to be assigned to this area.

June 13 to 17, 1960

10:00 to 12:00 Wednesday

WIC TITAN

June 16 to 17, 1960

10:00 to 12:00 Thursday

WIC TITAN

June 13 to 17, 1960

10:00 to 12:00 Tuesday

WIC TITAN

June 16 to 17, 1960

10:00 to 12:00 Thursday

WIC TITAN

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