

10-23-91 African Americans Propose Own City South Of Army Street

By Huel Washington **Sun-Reporter** Staff Writer

Remembering the principle that caused the formation of the United States of America, a group of citizens in the Southeastern portion of San Francisco are giving serious thought to separating from the mother city.

In a resolution, more radical than most activists' proposals to the Board of Supervisors, Espanola Jackson, president of the District Seven Democratic Club, proposed earlier this week at the monthly New Bayview Committee meeting that the Southeast secede from the city and form their own city.

The resolution was greeted with a few smiles and snickers at first, but the more the representatives of the various community groups thought about it, the more sense it made.

"We are tired of taxes without representation," Jackson told the **Sun-Reporter** later. A similar



Espanola Jackson

statement was made almost 225 years ago by the formulators of the United States Constitution.

And as history relates, these dissatisfied citizens of England wrested their freedom from Great Britain by a Revolutionary War.

Jackson doesn't have an army, per se. But she and members of the New Bayview Committee said their area has enough tax-base to form its own municipal government.

The incorporation of regions is nothing new. In the past fifty years, East Palo Alto, and Stanford have become municipalities with their own governing bodies.

San Francisco has the uniqueness of being both a city and county. Years ago, efforts were made to make it a part of San Mateo County, but the city fathers during that era rejected the idea.

Now, the residents of the

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southeast feel they are being neglected and want a share in the economic gains of the city.

"The Southeast Community has not materially nor socially benefited from its relationship to the City and County of San Francisco," the resolution read. "Whereas the population of the Southeast Community has performed its role as honorable as paying citizens without adequate or reasonable return of city services such as the Crosstown Tunnel to remove the citywide sewage burden, adequate police response and protection or area-based city investment in open space enhancement and placement within the community of major art or entertainment avenues....the Southeast community resolves to secede from the jurisdiction of the City and County of San Francisco."

"Bayshore Boulevard will be the dividing line," Jackson said. "We intend to vote on the measure in February, 1992."

Sam Murray, president of the New Bayview Committee, said the resolution has merit. He said the people of the Bayview-Hunters Point area are tired of being left out of the profit sharing that is done by the other areas of San Francisco.

"We have been promised jobs but still there is more than 40 percent unemployment in the Bayview-Hunters Point," Murray said. "The businesses in the area generate millions of dollars but very little, if any, comes back to the residents of the area."

Throughout the years, the Bayview-Hunters Point has become the sole predominantly Black area in San Francisco but with more and more different ethnic groups coming into the area, the African American population is dwindling.

The area in question has Army Street on the North, the San Mateo County line on the South, Bayshore Boulevard on the West, and the San Francisco Bay on the East.

Among the businesses the group can claim as a tax-base are the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Goodman's Lumber Company, Candlestick Park, City College of San Francisco, Southeast Campus, the San Francisco Independent Newspapers, just to name a few.

"We have the U.S. Post Office and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company on our land," Murray said.

The move may not come as soon as its proponent think but it certainly something that future city officials will have to contemplate.

Although Board of Supervisors President Doris Ward said the plan for secession was unworkable, State Senator Quentin Kopp, who just arrived back from the Soviet Union, said he would definitely look into the feasibility of such an arrangement.

Senator Kopp's district contains some of the communities that stretch to the outer reaches of San Francisco and San Mateo County.