

A LOOK BACK *at Braddock District Fairfax County, Virginia*

The Impact of Eminent Domain on the Community of Burke, Virginia

IMPORTANT FACTS

June 13, 1951 - Burke citizens learned of the Federal Government's intention to build a jet airport in Burke

4,500 acres of land condemned and seized by the Government

Owners offered fair market value for the land

Burke citizens organized to fight the airport

Opposition lasted for eight years

Government changed its position and chose Chantilly as the location for the airport (which was named Dulles)

Owners offered their land back

Some owners do not repurchase the land

Government auction of land held June 13, 1959

Approximately 900 acres of the original land tract is given to the Fairfax County Park Authority

TASKS

- A. Define ***eminent domain***.
- B. Using local newspapers, research this event: (*Washington Post, Washington Star, The Evening Star, The Fairfax Herald*)
- C. Take one of the positions below and defend your position using facts from your research;

Federal Government supporting building the airport
or
Burke citizens against the airport construction
- D. Summarize the impact this event had on the Burke community: including the first notice, the time period of opposition, the decision making, the auction, and the aftermath of this event.
- E. Discuss your opinion about the Eminent Domain Law. Cite historical examples to support your opinion. Provide your recommendations to support the law or to eliminate it.