

Texas Governor Is Showing 'Great Interest' in Interposition

AUSTIN, Texas
Gov. ALLAN SHIVERS has expressed "great interest" in "interposition," breaking an official silence on that subject.

Atty. Gen. John Ben Shepperd already had announced that he may ask the Texas legislature to use interposition as a means of protecting state regulation of oil and gas. But he said the Texas Supreme Court's decision in the Big Spring segregation case (*McKinney v. Blankenship*) may prevent it from joining other southern states in this effort.

State Rep. Jerry Sadler of Percilla, in East Texas, called on Gov. Allan Shivers to summon the legislature into special session "to preserve racial segregation in our public schools. (See "Legislative Action.")

Roy Wilkins of New York city, executive secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, said in Dallas that "Texas is a kind of heaven" for civil rights, compared to Mississippi. (See "What They Say.")

Texas Southern University, state-supported college for Negroes, will abolish segregation on Sept. 1, its board of regents announced. (See "In the Colleges.")

Negroes sought to enroll for the spring semester at white schools in Houston, largest segregated system in the nation, but were turned down. (See "School Boards and Schoolmen.")

Gov. Shivers wrote to Gov. Thomas B. Stanley of Virginia for information on the Richmond meeting where four southern governors agreed to unite in an interposition effort. He asked also for a copy of "any proposed resolution of interposition to be considered by your [Virginia] legislature."

Petitions asking Gov. Shivers to call a special session of the legislature to adopt an "interposition" resolution reportedly are being circulated in Texas but none had been received by him in late January.

Gov. Shivers noted that information from Gov. Stanley would be helpful to a 15-member Texas committee which he appointed to study segregation problems.

'MOOT AND ACADEMIC'

Atty. Gen. Shepperd said that the state supreme court's holding in the Big Spring segregation case may have rendered "moot and academic"

any effort by Texas to retain segregation by legislative adoption of an interposition resolution.

"Despite this, we are studying interposition with a view to advocating it in other situations, such as protecting state rights to regulate the oil and gas industry if the Harris bill fails to pass," Shepperd commented.

Until the U. S. Supreme Court decided otherwise, states regulated production of natural gas. The Harris bill would restore that authority to the states.

In the Big Spring segregation case, the trial and state supreme courts both held that the U. S. Supreme Court decisions in school segregation cases knocked down Texas' laws too, although this state was not directly a party.

It upheld an order of the Big Spring school board permitting immediate integration in the elementary grades.

Atty. Gen. Shepperd had contended that the state's constitutional and statutory provisions on segregation should remain until directly ruled upon by the U. S. Supreme Court. The state supreme court opinion said this position "is so utterly without merit that we should overrule it without further discussion."

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Texas legislature will hold its next regular session in January, 1957. In response to Rep. Sadler's demand for a special session on segregation, Gov. Shivers commented: "I will call a special session whenever I believe it necessary on this or any other subject."

Asked for comment upon the action of Virginia voters, seeking to abolish schools if necessary to maintain segregation, both Gov. Shivers and Atty. Gen. Shepperd pointed to previous statements opposing abolition of the schools.

SADLER RAPS OFFICIALS

This month, Sadler wrote to reporters saying that the reluctance of Texas officials to support all-out segregation methods of the South "is an admission that some public officials, as a matter of political expediency, are bowing down to the Communist-inspired doctrine of racial integration and amalgamation."

Candidates for state office in Texas also have shown no disposition to take sides in the desegregation dispute. One reason may be that a series of failures in Texas insurance companies, resulting in court action and two legislative investigations, so far has overshadowed everything else on the political scene.

UNDER SURVEY

A statewide committee discussed at Austin how to make better use of school property and personnel. Suggestions included using classrooms 12 months every year and relieving teachers of clerical duties so they could teach more pupils.

Dr. L. D. Haskew, vice president of the University of Texas and dean of education there, said: "Not only must we use the maximum resources of our teachers, but we must conserve their time and energy."

The State Board of Education appointed a committee to study high school graduation requirements. One objective will be to investigate charges by board member Cecil Morgan of Fort Worth that some schools encourage pupils to take "easy" subjects rather than science and mathematics.

WHAT THEY SAY

Roy Wilkins of the NAACP addressed approximately 1,200 persons, including some whites, in Dallas. After commenting that compared to Mississippi, "Texas is a kind of heaven" on civil rights, Wilkins declared:

"Texans may and do disagree with the NAACP and with the Supreme Court decision. They may fight it in various ways. But Texans have not subverted Americanism by forcing Negro citizens to choose between their rights and their bread and butter."

Wilkins added that the Negro vote "will be a factor" in this year's elections.

SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOLMEN

Francis Williams, attorney and president of the Houston NAACP, said it is looking into complaints

that elementary, junior and senior high schools had refused to admit Negro applicants for the spring semester. He added that 16 Negro students were turned down at white schools last fall.

"The NAACP does not send these people around, but parents know the law and they go on their own and often report back to the local branch that their children were not admitted," said Williams.

Supt. W. E. Moreland said that some Negroes seek to enroll in white schools at Houston each term. But he said they are refused because "that is a question of policy that has not been settled yet, and we are still operating on a segregated basis."

A citizens advisory committee and faculty committees are studying problems of integration at Houston. The citizens group has recommended ending segregation.

Supt. Moreland has named six committees of white and Negro school personnel to study specific problems.

They will investigate: (1) districting, (2) transfer of students, (3) assignment of personnel, (4) grade placement of transferred students, (5) the building program, and (6) school activities program.

The committees are working under a central committee headed by Dr. Moreland and including assistants from both white and Negro supervisory staffs.

Staff meetings of Houston schools already have been integrated. Also, subcommittees on textbook selection this year for the first time include both white and Negro teachers.

Dr. Moreland did not indicate any timetable for the study committees to report.

"The committees have a big job ahead and their study will be comprehensive," he declared.



IN THE COLLEGES

Directors of Texas Southern University at Houston announced that it will admit white students next September. Application of six white students at the university had been announced previously, although some of these reported later that they did

not know it was a Negro college. It is not known whether any requests from white students still are pending.

Ralph Lee, one of the nine members on the bi-racial board, voted against desegregation. He declared that the law creating Texas Southern specified that it is for Negroes. The legality of desegregation by board orders has not been tested.

The state has one other all-Negro tax-supported college, Prairie View A&M.

UNIVERSITY BAN GOING DOWN

The University of Texas has announced that segregation will be abolished in its classes starting next September, subject to selective admission examinations for all new students.

Segregation on the undergraduate level was ordered last September at Texas Western College, a branch of the state university at El Paso. This action was taken while a lawsuit was pending by Miss Thelma White, a Negro, seeking to enroll at Texas Western.

While Miss White did not enroll for the fall semester, eleven other Negroes did. Six other Negroes are attending evening classes, according to Registrar J. M. Whitaker. Some of the Negro students are servicemen from Fort Bliss and Biggs Field.

As of late January, two or three Negroes had applied for entrance at North Texas State College in the spring semester, according to President J. C. Matthews. None of the applications had been completed. Joe L. Atkins, subject of the lawsuit which opened the college to Negroes, was not among the applicants.



MISCELLANEOUS

The Baptist Student Union at the University of Texas pledged its efforts to make racial integration effective "in every phase of our student program."

"Negroes have attended our retreats, served on committees, and participated in study groups," the Baptist students reported. "We shall endeavor to broaden their participation in our program in the future."

But an official of the Southern Baptist Convention reported in Dallas that no decision has been made regarding the integration of member-churches.

"Baptists are thinking very seriously on this [question]," commented Dr. W. L. Howse of Nashville, secretary for education in the Southern Baptist Convention.

CHURCHES AUTONOMOUS

Dr. Howse said a study commission has been appointed. While the Baptist World Alliance meeting in London called for an end to segregation, Dr. Howse said that churches are governed locally and do not necessarily have to follow the advice of the World Alliance.

Desegregation worked well in one South Texas high school football district last fall, according to an article written for the official publication of the Texas Interscholastic League.

The district to which the article refers is located near Corpus Christi on the Texas coast. It has a small percentage of Negro students and a high proportion of Latin-Americans.

The article was written by John S. Gillett, assistant superintendent and principal of the Kingsville public schools and chairman of District 8-AAA, Interscholastic League. He wrote:

"After the Supreme Court decision had been handed down and it seemed that integration was to take place as soon as practical, it was felt in our district that plans should be made to handle the situation in the best way possible . . .

"Everything has been harmonious so far during our football season. We have had splendid cooperation on the part of everyone. The program this year, to date, has operated as if integration had always been in effect."

Tennessee

(Continued from Page 8)

Hugh G. Grant, Augusta, Ga.; and Mrs. Hallie Kendall, Charleston, W. Va.

The Federation had its origin in Jackson, Miss., Jan. 21-22, 1955. The group voted to restrict membership for the time being to those who attended the Jackson meeting plus members of its advisory council.

In a speech at the meeting, Sen. Eastland was quoted as saying:

"It is essential that a nationwide organization be set up. It will be a people's organization, an organization not controlled by fawning politicians who cater to organized racial pressure groups. A people's organization to fight the court, to fight the CIO, to fight the NAACP, and to fight all the conscienceless pressure groups who are attempting our destruction. We will mobilize and organize public opinion. We will attempt to pledge candidates in advance as they attempt to pledge them."



UNDER SURVEY

A West Tennessee man, Richard Burrow Jr., commander of American Legion Post 118 in Milan, has asked U. S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell to investigate the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In a telegram to Brownell, Burrow said he sought the investigation on the basis of information compiled by Georgia Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook from the files of the House Un-American Activities Committee.



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Rutherford County magistrates by unanimous vote have adopted a resolution opposing integration of white and Negro schools. The resolution was the same as that recently approved by the County Farm Bureau. The measure upheld the doctrine of "separate but equal" facilities and called desegregation the "trade of politicians of both parties" seeking to gain the large northern Negro vote.



COMMUNITY ACTION

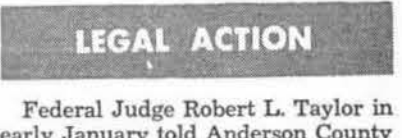
Leaders of the new Association of Citizens Councils of Tennessee were organizing a drive for members in January with "keeping segregation" their aim.

The association was issued a "non-profit" charter in December at Nashville and hopes for a statewide membership of 30,000—half of it in Memphis.

A. B. Wren of suburban Frayser, second vice president, said, "We're going to organize Memphis street by street and house by house."

Membership fees are \$5 a year. Clarence Leopard, a furniture store salesman, is president. The association's first public meeting drew about 125 persons.

"We love the Negroes here and we respect them as long as they keep their place," said Wren, a building contractor. "But they've got to keep their place."



LEGAL ACTION

Federal Judge Robert L. Taylor in early January told Anderson County white schools to accept Negro students "not later than" next fall.

It made Anderson County the first in Tennessee to be told by a federal judge that it must integrate its public high schools.

While Judge Taylor's announcement came as a surprise, there has been no protest, one newsman reported. In general, he said, there was little evidence of any reaction. (See text on Page 8.)

School Board Chairman Chester Hicks of Lake City, when told of Judge Taylor's decision, said he planned to discuss it with Frank E. Erwin, superintendent of county schools, and possibly call a special meeting of the school board.

Since that time, the school board has declined to discuss the matter, although a committee on integration, formed to examine the problems of integration and composed of school board members, now is orienting county PTA units with current developments.

Anderson presently is without secondary school facilities for Negroes. Eleven students currently are being sent to a Negro school in adjoining Knox County while eight others go to a Roane County school, all at county expense.

Federal Judge Elmer D. Davies ruled that Negroes should be allowed to use the four municipally-operated golf courses in Nashville.

The ruling, which gives the city "reasonable time" to open the links to Negroes, grew out of a federal suit filed in 1952.



IN THE COLLEGES

The State Board of Education's program for gradual integration of colleges went into operation Jan. 3 when two Negroes enrolled at the graduate school of Austin Peay State College at Clarksville.

Registering at the start of the second semester were the Rev. William Daniel, Baptist minister at Clarksville, and Russell B. Macklin, principal of the Negro junior high school at Clarksville.

Daniel began efforts to enroll at APSC several months ago.

The state board's policy was drawn up last summer as a defense in a federal court suit by five Negroes seeking admission to undergraduate work at Memphis State College. It received the approval of federal Judge Marion Boyd when the case was heard last October.

GRADUATED PLAN

The plan provides for desegregating classes at the state colleges and the A&I university one class at a time, beginning with graduate students this year, and one lower class each school year until desegregation is completed.

James A. Hamlett, a Nashville Negro, becomes the first member of his race to teach at Maryville College, a Presbyterian institution in Maryville.

Hamlett, a faculty member at Knoxville College for Negroes, was hired as a temporary replacement for a Spanish instructor who is on sabbatical leave for this semester. He will teach two Spanish classes.