

PSYCHOLOGY

Desegregation Opposition

When the time arrives to put into effect the Supreme Court's ban on racial segregation in public schools, the loudly voiced opposition will die out.

► THE BITTER and loudly voiced opposition to desegregation in schools on the basis of the Supreme Court's decision that racial segregation is unconstitutional will probably come to an end when the time arrives to put the desegregation into effect.

The protests are likely to continue all summer and increase in violence as autumn approaches. However, when the time comes to admit Negro pupils to the school of their choice without regard to color, there will be little or no violence, and the new situation will be accepted quietly and the opposition will die out.

This prediction is based on a survey of what has happened where desegregation has already been effected.

Active resistance to the change, or violent action, is no more likely in communities where individuals are strongly prejudiced, a study made by Cornell University of 20 American communities showed. Even strongly prejudiced persons will accept and adapt themselves to the changed situation, once the change is in effect.

Desegregation has already been put into effect in elementary and secondary public schools within the past five to ten years in local communities of 12 states, including some as far to the south as Arizona, Maryland and New Mexico.

In general, the change over has been made without violence or incident. This is shown by a survey reported in the *Journal of Social Issues* (Vol. 9, No. 4), a special issue edited by Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, associate professor of psychology at the College of the City of New York.

Desegregation of Catholic parochial schools in two cities, Washington, D. C., and St. Louis, Mo., demonstrate two methods of putting the change into effect. In Washington, a slow, gradual persuasive method was adopted. The Archbishop, Rev. Patrick A. O'Boyle, issued no direct order. Instead, he merely talked to his clergy and school officials individually, and every effort was made to avoid antagonizing the opponents of desegregation.

As a result, the pace of the change varied from school to school. Now, five years later there are still all-Negro and some all-white parochial schools in Washington.

In St. Louis, the desegregation was accomplished by a direct order from Archbishop Ritter. He refused to be swayed by open opposition of 700 Catholic parents and quieted them by threat of excommunication. Now there are no all-Negro parochial schools in St. Louis. A few parents withdrew their children from school and sent them elsewhere, but six months after the order was issued officials had received not

one report of friction among white and Negro pupils.

The accomplishment of efficient desegregation with a minimum of social disturbance depends upon five factors, the scientists found:

1. A clear statement of policy by leaders with prestige and other authorities.
2. Firm enforcement of the changed policy and persistence in the face of any initial resistance.
3. Willingness to deal with violation or any attempt at violation with strong enforcement action.
4. Refusal to tolerate subterfuges.
5. An appeal to the individuals concerned in terms of their religious principles of brotherhood and their acceptance of the U. S. traditions of fair play and justice.

The Supreme Court decision may serve to strengthen the moral backbone of many individuals whose consciences are now at war with their racial prejudices, and so bring them welcome relief from internal conflict, in the opinion of psychologist Dr. Gordon Allport of Harvard University.

"People really know that segregation is un-American, even the masses in the South know it. They also have prejudices. This mental conflict is acute. . . . People do accept legislation that fortifies their inner conscience. Protests are short-lived and readjustment rapidly sets in," he said.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Segregation Decision Undercuts Propaganda

► TO THE extent that the Supreme Court decision that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional results in the wiping out of racial discrimination in this country, we will take away from the Communists one of their most effective arguments against the American way of life.

Making all the public schools equally available to all children without regard to race or color would increase our prestige immeasurably in foreign countries, especially in countries, such as India, where the people have dark skins. These countries are now being made particular targets of Communist propaganda.

This probable foreign reaction to the Supreme Court's decision is suggested by statements by Dr. Otto Klineberg, prominent social psychologist of Columbia University, in "Social Psychology." (See p. 348.)

The court's decision will be welcomed by psychologists as an application of the find-

ings of psychological science with regard to the lack of scientific proof of inborn psychological differences between the races.

Psychologists are practically unanimously opposed to any political action based on racialism, Dr. Klineberg says. Several psychological bodies have issued statements, as have professional organizations in the field of anthropology and genetics, to the effect that there is no proof of inborn psychological differences between ethnic groups and, therefore, no scientific basis for racial discrimination.

Even the few psychologists who do hold that such inborn differences between races or peoples do exist would agree that the overlapping of abilities between groups is so great that there is no scientific justification in considering all members of one race superior and all those of another inferior.

"Acceptance of this 'fact,' and action based upon it, would produce a revolution in human relations which would transform some of the most important aspects of international politics," Dr. Klineberg declares.

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RADIO ASTRONOMY

Report New Kind Of Heavenly Object

► DISCOVERY OF a striking new kind of heavenly object, only nine of which have so far been spotted, has been reported by three radio astronomers from the University of Manchester, England.

The objects are very intense radio "stars," three of which have been identified with long wispy streaks that scientists call nebulosities. The other six are probably associated with such nebulosities also, but their light is so faint it has not yet been caught on photographic plates.

These nine "represent a definite class of object" in our Milky Way galaxy, Drs. R. Hanbury Brown, H. P. Palmer and A. R. Thompson suggest in *Nature* (May 15). Their observations were made at the Jodrell Bank Experimental Station of the University.

Sensitive radio telescopes pick up radio waves from radio "stars." So far only five radio sources have been definitely identified with visual stars. Of these five, three are of the newly discovered type just reported. The other two radio "stars" are quite different in kind from the three that are associated with the nebulosity.

The visual identity of one of these three was reported for the first time. It is associated with a faint nebulosity in Auriga, the charioteer, a constellation visible low in the northwest sky, Dr. R. Minkowski of Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories has found.

The nine intense radio sources all seem to have rather low temperatures, of the order of a few hundred degrees, rather than thousands or millions of degrees as most visual stars do, and as do the other two radio "stars" that have been identified with visual objects.

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