

Teacher Groups Oppose Integrating NY Schools

BY GEORGE BARNER

A Harlem housewife told the Board of Education last Thursday that if the police department can send a "flood of cops to Harlem, the Board of Education should be able to send experienced teachers there as well." Mrs. May Mallory, representing the PTA of PS 10, Man., made her remarks in a 6-hour executive session of the Board at 110 Livingston St., Brooklyn, at which more than 100 Negro parents heard the views of community leaders clash with those of teachers groups on proposed plans to achieve full integration in public schools.

Of nine teachers' organizations represented, only the Teachers' Union and the Negro Teachers Association gave unqualified support to the integration plans.

The opposition of the majority of teachers was termed "shocking and incredible" by Edward S. Lewis, executive director of the Urban League of Greater New York.

The reports most strongly resented by the teachers were those of the Board's Commission on Integration calling for a revision of the zoning laws to allow greater flexibility in assigning children to schools, and for teacher rotation in "difficult" schools.

Claim Disruption

The teachers who urged rejection of the re-zoning reports attacked them as disruptive of

school services, tending to destroy teacher morale and cause mass resignations from the school system.

They unleashed their most concerted assault on the proposal that would necessitate their teaching in Harlem or other "difficult" areas.

Mrs. May Healy, chairman of the Joint Committee of Teachers Organizations, declared that the integration recommendations, if carried out to the letter, will produce new hostilities, conflicts, resentments and separations of peoples.

As the long hearing drew to an exhausted close the out-numbered anti-integration teachers got support from isolated Queens residents. One of these, Herbert Rothenstein, charged support for the integration proposals to the Communists and "their stooge groups."

Denies Segregation

William A. Pfeffer of the Cambria Heights Assn., denied the existence of segregation in New York schools and pointed to "many great Negro leaders" who

are products of the South's segregated schools.

Mrs. Rose Shapiro, chairman of the zoning commission report, backed the Urban League's indictment of the teachers' groups and declared that New York's teachers could "learn courage from the teachers of Clinton, Tenn., where the difficulties are far greater than ours."

Mrs. May Mallory, who spoke late in the hearing as the representative of PS 10, Man., received heavy applause when she remarked that "if the police department's 'Operation 25' could send a flood of cops into Harlem, the Board of Education should be able to send experienced teachers there as well."

Act Feb. 28

The Board announced that its consideration of the sub-commissions' reports would be ready for final action probably at the meeting of Feb. 28, 1957.

Following is a list of organizations which accepted and rejected the integration plans:

Accepted

- 1. Public Education Assn.

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| 2. Community Church of N. Y. | 12. N. Y. Jewish Conference. |
| 3. Citizens Committee on Children. | 13. Brooklyn NAACP. |
| 4. United Parents Assn. | 14. PTA, PS 51, Brooklyn. |
| 5. Intergroup Comm. on N. Y.'s Public Schools. | 15. Hamilton Grange Mothers Council. |
| 6. Socialist Workers Party. | 16. 369th Vets Assn. |
| 7. American Jewish Comm. | 17. PTA, JHS 136, Manhattan. |
| 8. Citizens Union. | 18. Flushing NAACP. |
| 9. Assn. of Asst. Supts. | 19. American Demo. Action. |
| 10. Jamaica NAACP | 20. PTA, PS 10, Manhattan. |
| 11. Anti-Defamation League | 21. United Neighbor'd Houses & |

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N. Y. State Comm. vs. Disc.
in Housing.

22. Negro Teachers Assn.
23. N. Y. Catholic Interracial Council.
24. PTA, JHS 258, Brooklyn.
25. PTA, PS 129, Brooklyn.
26. East Harlem Citizens Committee (with qualifications).
27. PTA, PS 108, Manhattan (with qualifications).
28. PTA, PS 194, Manhattan.
29. Inter-Denom. Ministers Alliance of Brooklyn.
30. NAAC, New York.
31. Abyssinian Baptist Church.
32. Urban League, Brooklyn.
33. Urban League, Queens.
34. Urban League, Greater New York.
35. Sub-Comm. on Zoning.

Rejected

1. Bronx Boro-Wide Assn. of Teachers.
2. High School Teachers Assn.
3. Teachers Alliance.
4. Joint Committee of Teacher Organizations.
5. Henry Miller, instructor, CCNY.
6. Policy Consultation Committee.
7. Cambria Heights Assn.
8. Brooklyn Catholic Teachers Assn.
9. Brooklyn Federation of PTAs.
10. Queensboro Teachers Assn. (with qualifications).