

## More Demonstrations Threatened Unless City Ordinance Is Adopted

New racial demonstrations can be expected in Lawton unless the city council adopts an ordinance by next Tuesday banning discrimination in all places of public accommodation.

This warning was sounded Thursday by Dr. E. A. Owens, president of the NAACP chapter here, in the closing stages of a conference between members of the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission and city officials and members of the Lawton Human Rights Commission.

Initiated by the state group, the meeting produced nothing new in the way of a solution to the Doe Doe Park segregation controversy and developed mainly into a review of accomplishments in the overall integration program and efforts to resolve the pool dispute.

Dr. Guy Bellamy, retired Baptist missionary and chairman of the state commission, headed the delegation which included Dr. Frank Belvin, Okmulgee, general missionary to the Creek and Seminole Indians for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and Bill Rose, commission director.

Dr. Bellamy said the commission wanted to help in the local situation if there was some way of doing it. He later commended Dr. O. L. Parsons and members of the Lawton Human Rights Commission for their accomplishments in this field.

Dr. Parsons reviewed the community integration program which began with eating establishments and later embraced hotels and motels and other public facilities.

He said the local commission,

from the beginning, had excluded any type of pressure in the belief that integration has not occurred until it happens in the heart.

"This might result in a little slower pace, but when it happens, it is final," he said.

The commission has served as a place where both sides could come together and work toward harmonious solutions, he said. "Quiet integration has been successful here," he added.

Dr. Parsons said the commission has met with owners of Doe Doe Park and the stockholders are considering two proposals to resolve the problem. He said an answer has been promised within a short time.

Dr. Parsons also noted that his group had recommended adoption of a public accommodation ordinance several months ago, and again recently, and said he believes the city council should go ahead next Tuesday and pass the ordinance if the Doe Doe Park problem has not been resolved.

A similar ordinance was presented to Mayor Wayne Gilley last Saturday by a group of racial demonstrators. The proposed ordinance was referred to the city council's ordinance committee at Tuesday's city council meeting.

In response to a question, Dr. Bellamy said efforts are being made to get the state legislature to pass an anti-discrimination law.

Dr. Parsons reported a Justice department opinion that Doe Doe Park was not in violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He also mentioned an opinion from the

state attorney general saying any business licensed by the state comes under the law.

Dr. Parsons said a lawsuit could be filed to bring about a decision. However, Rev. Bill Slem, a member of the local commission, reported that park owners had said if a suit is filed, the issue would be in the hands of the courts and appeals might be carried to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Attorney John Doolin, representing the city attorney, said any ordinance adopted in conflict with the federal ruling might also be tested in court.

Lemuel Harkey, commission member, also reported on conferences with park owners to resolve the problem.

Rose, Negro member of the state commission, made repeated references to a "crisis situation" concerning the pool, and urged immediate action to resolve the problem.

Others attending included Mayor Gilley, City Councilmen Ben Flowers, Blunt Zorger, John Griswold, E. C. Parks and T. R. Stephens.