

## First Negro Principal In NYC Junior High

APPOINTMENT of New York City's first Negro junior high school principal will be formally approved by the Board of Education at its next meeting on May 12.

Mrs. Edythe Jones Gaines last week became the first Negro of either sex to be named principal of a secondary school in the New York City system since consolidation of the city in 1898. Four other Negroes have headed elementary schools, with one of them, Mrs. Henrietta B. Percell, presently serving as principal of Public School 24 in Queens.

Repeated charges by civil rights groups that the New York school system practiced racial discrimination in the selection of its 840 principals led to Mrs. Percell's appointment last September.

Of the three other Negroes who have served as principals since 1898, one is retired, one is now a deputy superintendent and the other is an assistant superintendent.

Mrs. Gaines has been in the school system since 1948 and has spent all but 18 months of her 16-year service as a teacher and supervisor at Joan of Arc Junior High 118, 154 West 93rd St. She has been acting principal for five years and will continue to serve at Joan of Arc, which has 1,300 pupils.

Last February, the New York system started eight seminars to help prepare Negro, Puerto Rican and other teachers for license examinations as assistant principals. Mrs. Gaines is currently coordinator of this program, in which about 500 Negro and Puerto Rican teachers out of a total enrollment of 1,650 are taking part.



EDYTHE J. GAINES

Mrs. Gaines was born in Asheville, N.C., one of seven children of a Protestant Episcopal minister and a teacher of Latin and English. Her parents were pillars of the city's Negro society. Her younger brother, Fred, is now New York State education director of the NAACP.

She was married in her senior year at Hunter College to Albert Gaines, an electronics engineer. Their first child, Richard, now a student at the University of Michigan, was born soon after her graduation. A second child, Mallory, was born while she was studying for her master's degree at New York University.

The Gaines live in a brick-and-clapboard house in Montclair, N. J., where Edythe is regarded with some awe by her neighbors because of her energetic house keeping, attending community meetings in both Montclair and the West Side of Manhattan, studying for her own advancement, leading seminars for aspiring assistant principals, and finding time for the beauty parlor, dancing and nights at the Village Vanguard listening to jazz.

## Methodists Pass 'Weak' Plan for Integration

### Proponents See End to Segregation Within Four Years on Basis of Voluntary Action

PITTSBURGH — Methodists Friday finally approved a toothless integration plan largely on the basis of its proponents' claims that it would end segregation in the denomination within four years.

It would do this by "voluntary" action within the next quadrennium, Charles C. Parlin, an attorney, predicted.

He headed the 36-member Commission on Interjurisdictional Relations which worked for four years on a compromise "plan of action" midway between demands for a mandatory end to segregation and the wishes of those who would do nothing about the problem.

#### Would Absorb Negroes

The 850 delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Church argued the plan of action through a day and one-half of sessions before voting approval.

It would seek by voluntary action to absorb the all-Negro Central Jurisdiction of the church into the denomination's five geographic jurisdictions, which are mainly white.

Parlin said he "has reason to hope" that this would be done by most jurisdictions within months and in the hard-core Southeastern Jurisdiction within four years.

Although there was an overwhelming vote for the plan of action, there also was much criticism by delegates.

#### L.A. Man Critical

"I think it is ridiculous," said Dr. Richard W. Cain, Los Angeles district superintendent of the church. "In effect we have done nothing."

He said a memorial, or suggested action, was under study by the Judiciary Committee that would make the closing of a church to any worshipper for reason of race, or otherwise, grounds for a maladministration charge against the offending minister or other official.

This could lead to denominational trial and dismissal.

Another memorial would affirm the right of any Methodist of whatever race

to worship in any church of the faith.

Other statements would add teeth in some way to the plan of action, if approved.

About 150 college-age young people, who said they represented Methodists for Church Renewal, an unofficial organization claiming nationwide membership, demonstrated briefly Friday afternoon for integration.

Carrying signs and wearing armbands, they demanded a constitutional change now outlawing segregation in the church. Their demonstration was orderly and quiet.

Other pickets had been in evidence from time to time during the week, mostly seeking the same goal — immediate integration of all branches of the church.

Floor speakers generally discussed parliamentary details during the long debate, but some spoke to the point.

Dr. Kim-lao Yap, a district superintendent of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, said, "We shall return to our country disillusioned."

"This is not a 'plan of action' but a 'plan of escape' for a wide element of the church — especially those areas where most of the Central Jurisdiction churches are located, in the Southeastern region."

He added that "although this is a program of further delay, yet destiny is on the side of the Negro and he will one day come into full Christian brotherhood."

Dr. Chester A. Smith, 86-year-old New York layman and specialist on the workings of the Methodist Church, spoke on his proposal that all jurisdictions be eliminated, thus solving the problem.

## A TALE ABOUT BARING

There once was a Congressman named Baring,  
Who cared less how Negroes were faring.  
He tried to kill  
The Civil Rights Bill  
By giving the measure a paring.

We thought the issues were clear,  
A Civil Rights law for this year,  
But Baring did holler  
From under his collar  
"Federal control is the thing I fear."

This same Congressman spoke loud,  
Right along with the Dixiecrat crowd,  
"No morals to legislate,  
"Or bigots to regulate,  
"Racial injustice must be allowed."

The United States Civil Rights Commission,  
Asked Congress for its permission,  
To get some power  
If just for an hour  
To carry out a Civil Rights mission.

Up jumped the Congressman Baring,  
Again with his big mouth blaring,  
He let out a roar,  
Upon the House floor,  
"About Negroes we should be caring?"

When the time comes for re-election,  
And each voter must make his selection  
As for Baring,  
And how he's faring,  
Let's cast our votes in another direction.

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

We come to You this week seeking Your love and Your guidance. We come to You this week hoping that You will enter our lives and understand us. Correct us, Dear God, and show us the way to be worthy of Your blessing. We come to You this week because we know that You are the power on earth as You are in heaven. Teach us today, Dear God. . . . for You and only You know just how much we need Thee with each passing hour of each passing day. We come to You because we want to take A Closer Walk With Thee.

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