

# School District Studies De Facto Segregation

PROBLEMS ARISING from de facto (meaning actual, if not necessarily intentional) segregation in the Clark County School District will be studied by a special committee of civic leaders and educators now being formed by School Superintendent Dr. Leland Newcomer.

Creation of the study group proposed by Dr. Newcomer was authorized last week by the school district's Board of Trustees, acting on a request by vice-chairman Dr. C.W. Woodbury.

"We feel it necessary to face this issue squarely at this time before it becomes more acute," Dr. Woodbury told the VOICE. "But we would like to emphasize that it is a community-created problem--largely due, perhaps, to the local housing situation--and we feel that a solution should be worked out on a community-wide basis."

Dr. Woodbury said that invitations to participate in the project would be handled by Dr. Newcomer, but the board official "thought" the committee would consist of about 25 members, all subject to approval by the school board. He said "the sooner the committee is organized and gets down to work, the better, hopefully within two weeks."

"It is important that fair-minded persons be selected for this work," Dr. Woodbury said. "All of us recognize that de facto segregation in the schools is undesirable, but it also should be recognized that this condition is not of the school board's making. We are open to all reasonable recommendations for correcting this condition before it gets out of hand, but the district is restricted by certain practical considerations that cannot be overcome by impractical suggestions."

AFTER THE COMMITTEE submits its report to the school board, Dr. Woodbury said "we undoubtedly will hold a public meeting to discuss the matter thoroughly."

Dr. Woodbury said he agreed with the views expressed recently by Dr. Newcomer at a joint meeting of West Las Vegas PTA groups, at

which time the school superintendent said, in effect, that it was the school district's policy to build schools "where they are most needed." There has been considerable criticism of the district's decision to build new schools in predominantly Negro neighborhoods, thereby increasing the possibility of de facto segregation.

"We are always pressed for money, it seems," Dr. Woodbury said, "and transportation costs could bankrupt us if we built new schools where a majority of the potential students would have to be hauled back and forth to classes."

Dr. Woodbury went on to say that he also had hopes, as expressed by Dr. Newcomer, that

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"open zoning" or registration would be possible in the not too distant future so that parents so desiring could send their children to schools outside their own zone at their own expense.

### Correction

Due to a printing error and through no fault of the advertiser, last week's DEL MONICO HOMES advertisement listed monthly payments as \$79 instead of \$89.50, the correct price.

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