Gtn. 'Y' Board Sanctions Bar On Negro Boys: Christans Sidetrack Principles to Maintain Jim C
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Gtn. 'Y' Board Sanctions Bar On Negro Boys

Christians Sidetrack Principles to Maintain Jim Crow Policy

Completely disregarding their motto of putting into practice "the principles of Jesus" and to afford its members an opportunity to help each other live as Jesus lived, the Germantown Y. M. C. A., through the medium of a letter signed by Henry E. Baton, president and sent to J. Gordon Baugh, 3rd, president of the Germantown Spur Society, has gone on definite record as forbidding the use of its swimming pool to Negro candidates for the swimming team of Germantown High School.

This action by Mr. Baton followed a protest several weeks ago by the Spur Society in conjunction with newspaper representatives, who sought an explanation when the Negro boys were not allowed to practice along with the other team aspirants. Dr. Leslie P. Seeley, principal of Germantown High School, immediately disbanded the team, declaring that he would not tolerate any segregation or humiliation of any student at his school.

Mr. William H. Crown, executive secretary, who assumed responsibility for the order against the Negro boys, stated at the time he was interviewed that there was no rule or policy which denied privileges to any racial group, but that he acted on his own initiative, and that the matter had to be referred to the Board of Managers for authoritative action. The communication from Mr. Baton was the 'authoritative action."

Several outside factions have resented the entire procedure, one of which is the National Association of Substitute Post Office Employees. In a letter to Mr. Crown they fully "condemned the Jim crow practices of the Y. M. C. A. and unanimously voted to refrain from holding its future membership meetings at the Central Y. M. C. A." The letter bore the signature of Jules Splayer.

The Spur Society, which is an organization of Germantown High school graduates formed for the purpose of assisting and encouraging Negro students of Germantown, intends to carry on its fight on the premise that any artificial barrier created such as segregation tends to offset the many advantages accomplished in other lines of school work.

The officers of the Spur Society are: J. Gordon Baugh, 3rd, president; Charlotte Ross, vice-president; Adella Byrd Harper and Lucille E. Porter, secretaries; and Marshall L. Tyree, treasurer.

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