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Board of Education Enters Swimming Controversy

Use of Germantown YW Pool to Be Stopped Unless Color Bar Is Dropped

Unless the Germantown YWCA opens its pool to colored girls, the Board of Education will stop members of the Germantown High School swimming club from using it, a reliable source said this week.

The school board, this source said, is waiting the outcome of a membership meeting of the YWCA the first week in December at which time the question of admitting colored girls to the pool will be voted on.

Court Action Threatened

The ban on colored girls was brought out into the open last month when Walter M. S. Tresville, of 6502 Musgrave Street, lodged a protest with school officials over the refusal of the swimming club to accept his daughter, MaChere, as a member.

Tresville declared he would take the matter into court if it wasn't straightened out.

The refusal, Miss Tresville, a senior, was told, was based on the fact that the Germantown YWCA pool did not permit colored girls to swim there.

Graduation Credit Denied

She was advised she could swim at the Southwest-Belmont YWCA in South Philadelphia for her own diversion, but without credits toward graduation such as would be granted for swimming at the Germantown Y under a teacher from the school.

Questioned Tuesday, Dr. Edwin W. Adams, superintendent of secondary education, said that school officials had conferred with authorities at the YWCA and were "hopefully awaiting" the outcome of the forthcoming membership meeting.

He said that the issue had been given "careful consideration" and that "immediate action" would be taken if it was decided not to admit colored girls to the pool.

Takes Optimistic View

He would not elaborate on the statement as to what action would be taken, explaining he would rather believe the members would give the question favorable consideration.

Meanwhile, the Southwest Belmont YWCA's committee of management issued a statement pointing out it had ruled in 1939 that the branch's pool "would not be opened to segregated groups or segregated individuals from groups."

Standards Defended

This policy, the statement added, has been "adhered to rigidly and the committee wishes to clarify implications as to its standards."

The branch's pool, the management body said, is supervised by a trained competent instructor but a pupil could not earn credits toward graduation unless the swimming period was supervised by a public school physical education instructor.

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