

RACE LAW IN COUNCIL

New Segregation Ordinance Reported By Committee.

AIMS TO END NEGRO INVASION

Follows Line Of Old Ordinance, But So Changed As To Meet Decision Of Court Of Appeals.

A new ordinance designed to prevent the invasion of white neighborhoods by negroes was reported to the Second Branch of the City Council by Councilman Curtis, chairman on the part of the Second Branch of the Committee on Police and Jail.

The new measure follows in a general way the Dashiell segregation ordinance, but is revised so as to make it conform to so much as is known of the Court of Appeals' decision holding the West ordinance invalid, and also to fully protect the rights of all citizens, irrespective of color, acquired prior to the passage of the ordinance.

After prohibiting the occupancy of any house in a "section" of any block by either a white person or a colored person, if the remainder of the "section" is occupied by persons of the opposite race, and defining a block as both sides of the longitudinal part of any street of the city lying between the two nearest streets completely crossing it at each end, and a section as either side of such block, the ordinance provides that:

"No new residence shall be erected in any section of the city unless a declaration be made in the application for permit to build stating whether said residence or residences shall be occupied by white or colored people, and that a permit shall not be issued unless at least a section occupied nearest to one end or the other of the section desired to be built upon shall be occupied partly or entirely by the race the building or buildings are to be occupied by."

Violations of the provisions of the ordinance are to be punished by a fine of from \$5 to \$50 for each day the violation continues, or imprisonment in the city jail from 30 days to a year. It is expressly provided in this connection that the owner or agent of a building who shall permit it to be used in violation of the ordinance shall be deemed to be equally guilty of a misdemeanor with the person occupying the building and shall be subject to similar penalties.

It is also provided that whenever a majority of the leasehold owners resident in any block shall declare in a written and signed statement filed with the Police Board that they desire their block to be relieved of the preventive provisions of the ordinance then such block shall be open to the occupancy of both white and colored persons and shall so remain until the residents of that block shall be constituted entirely of white or of colored persons, when it shall again be subject to the preventive sections of the ordinance.

The ordinance is to take effect as soon as passed and signed by the Mayor. The report submitting it to the Council was signed by all the Democratic members of the committee which had it under consideration, but it was not signed by the Republican members.