

# GIVES ADVICE TO NEGROES

## Councilman Cummings Says They Should Abide By Ordinance.

Harry S. Cummings, colored, member of the City Council from the Seventeenth ward, issued a statement yesterday in which he urged all members of his race to obey and respect the new segregation ordinance passed by the Council last Thursday evening and signed by Mayor Preston. At the same time he advised the negro family to move out of the house at 1324 Mosher street.

"The Curtis Segregation law has been passed," said Councilman Cummings, "and although, in my judgment, as I stated in my remarks before the Council, it is unconstitutional, yet until it is so declared it is as much a part of our local law as any other ordinance, and must be obeyed by both white and colored citizens.

"No colored person should, as the result of the passage of this ordinance, however wrong in law or otherwise he may deem it, resort to unlawful acts or disorderly conduct as a matter of revenge or spite-work," Mr. Cummings went on to say, "nor should any white person, taking the cue from this ordinance, regard it as his right to mistreat and humiliate any citizens because their place of residence has been prescribed by this law.

"The proper thing, in my judgment, for both races is to regard the law as a law until it has been set aside, and let good judgment, fair dealing and due regard and respect for each other govern their conduct. I know how hard it is for people to govern themselves when real or imaginary injustices are heaped upon them, but to keep a cool head and use good judgment under these trying circumstances are the tests of manhood and character, and my advice to my people, under these trying circumstances, is to do just that thing.

"The test of good citizenship, to which we aspire, is to resort in an orderly way to the proper governmental agency when we are denied our rights. In this instance we should, as good citizens, hold our peace until the courts have passed upon this law. In this way we avoid unnecessary trouble and will gain the consideration and respect of the best white citizens who, after all, will allow wrong to triumph only for a season."

"As to the unpleasant happenings of the last few days, where colored tenants have virtually been forced into white blocks by designing real estate men, these colored tenants are but the innocent dupes of these agents. Had they known what they were doing when they were being used, they surely would not have occupied these houses. Now, then, since they see the mistake the very best thing they can do is to correct it and rather than cause more serious trouble vacate the houses both for their own peace and good and for the good of the race in this city. While technically they have a right to stay, this is no time to stand on technicalities. It is a serious condition which confronts us and not a legal technicality."