

Segregation Protests Held

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—The national wave of demonstrations against racial segregation in schools reached Kansas City this week.

More than 200 persons marched yesterday on the Board of Education Building, where they presented a list of demands to promote desegregation of student bodies and faculties.

The march and an integration rally last Sunday at a Negro church were staged by the Kansas City chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality. Homer C. Wadsworth, president of the school board, promised the organization a hearing in the near future.

Before the United States Supreme Court ruling of 1954 outlawing segregation in state schools, all Missouri schools were segregated by law.

Kansas City promptly desegregated the following year. The city adheres to a neighborhood school policy, allowing open enrollment where classroom space is available.

Segregation Pattern Returns

In recent years urban redevelopment projects have forced shifts in residential patterns. Some segregation has resulted as whites left sections of the city when Negroes moved in.

Today only half of the city's elementary schools and seven of the 10 high schools have any degree of integration. The faculties of only 12 of the city's 100 schools are integrated.

Mr. Wadsworth says the six-man board favors total integration but finds the goal extremely difficult to reach because of segregated housing patterns.

Members of the Negro community, however, say the board can do much more than it has done.

The demonstrators asked the board last week for a policy statement that would make progress toward integration a consideration in drawing of school district boundaries, in the selection of sites for new schools, in the granting of transfers for pupils, and in the assignment of teachers.

They urged the appointment of a biracial committee to aid the board in planning along these lines. There are no Negroes on the board.

The board was obviously the target of yesterday's protests. Signs carried by marchers read "Color is only board deep," "God loves all mankind, does the board?" and "Integrate the School Board."

Robert Farnsworth, assistant professor of English at the University of Kansas City and a CORE leader, said the board had fostered resegregation by permitting white students to transfer out of integrated schools.

He said new schools had been built and boundaries changed without aiming for integration.

The Rev. A. Cecil Williams, another CORE official, said that unless progress was made, sit-in demonstrations would be held at board meetings "until they know us by name."

"If that does not work," he said, "we will begin in September a sit-in with our children."