

Suit To Open Gulf Coast Beach Unprecedented

Washington—UPI—When the government sued recently to open the Gulf Coast Beach at Biloxi, Miss., to Negroes, it was taking an unprecedented step in the field of civil rights. Justice department officials view the action as an indication of their determination to push hard on civil rights and of the imagination being applied to the problem of eliminating racial discrimination. The Biloxi beach suit, which had prior White House approval, was the first involving racial discrimination outside the area of voting rights filed by the Justice department. Negroes Driven Off

It grew out of a situation which arose several weeks ago when a group of some 40 Negroes tried to use the beach and were driven off following a clash with white bathers. According to officials, the suit opens at least the theoretical possibility of similar cases where federal funds may have been used in beach erosion projects.

Federal money has been used in construction of beaches in Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Florida. The Justice department would presumably take action if it received information that Negroes were being kept off beaches or other recreational facilities designated for public use under contracts with the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Biloxi suit charged that local officials failed to live up to the terms of their contract with the Army. This involves a novel and unique use of contract law. The government's complaint reads like a commercial breach of contract suit—with a difference. Asks 'Injunction Relief'

It does not ask money damages; it asks "injunction relief." In other words, the court was asked to order officials to carry out their contract by maintaining the beach for the use of all the public—not just the white segment of the population.

The federal government contributed \$1,133,000 to build the 24-mile beach and re-build a sea wall which had been badly damaged by hurricanes.

The Justice department has previously taken part in civil rights action involving the use of federal funds, but it has not previously filed suit.

It has negotiated with local authorities in several areas to open federally-financed schools on or near military bases to Negro children. It is still trying to break down local resistance to desegregating the schools at the Redstone arsenal in Alabama and the Dyess Air Force base near Amarillo, Tex.

Local Student Gets Research Stipend

Portland—Richard H. Johnson, junior student at the University of Oregon medical school, has received a stipend to carry on short-term research projects and take part in research laboratory activities during the summer, according to Dr. D. W. E. Baird, dean.

Johnson, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Perry M. Johnson, 819 West 13th st., Medford, will work in the division of medical psychology under Dr. Richard F. Thompson, assistant professor of medical psychology.

A graduate of Medford High school, Johnson received his premedical education at the University of Oregon.

North Dakota Girl Injured by Car

A 10-year-old Linton, N.D., girl was struck by a car Monday evening in downtown Medford but sustained only minor injuries.

Miss Fern Frances Fisher told police she was struck and knocked down by the car while crossing Jackson st., at its intersection with Central ave. She said the driver of the car stopped and asked her if she was hurt after helping her to her feet.

She said she replied no, and the man then got back into the car and drove off. A friend of Miss Fisher later took her to the Rogue Valley hospital where she is being treated for an injured knee.

FIRE WATER DOWNFALL
 Mobile, Ala.—Two brothers were sentenced to 10-year terms after pleading guilty to robbing a state liquor store. Authorities said the two were caught because they stopped to sample the merchandise.



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