

Integration Fight Lost On Educator

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—From behind what must be the most immaculate desk in New Orleans, a man with a duty-bound purpose handles the problems of the troubled New Orleans public school system and its 93,000 students.

The desk belongs to Dr. James F. Redmond, superintendent of Orleans Parish schools, a man of 45 who believes that public education is "my way of life."

This is the big, quiet man with a shock of brushed-back, graying hair who is embroiled in a court battle over the integration of the city's schools.

This is the man who is the target of an angry legislature because, primarily, he refused to give the names of the four Negro girls who entered white schools last week under federal integration orders.

Jim Redmond's answer to the challenge is free of any emotion save the devotion to his job.

"My job is public education. My job is to educate the children of New Orleans. Integrated or segregated—whatever the law of the land dictates—my job is to answer that challenge and that responsibility."

Another problem arose Tuesday when he had to tell teachers and other school employees they would not be paid today. The legislature cut off funds to the board.

Redmond appealed to Gov. Jimmie Davis, who said teachers would be paid immediately, but the legislature would have to provide the funds.

The 6-2, 210-pounder came to the \$23,500-a-year New Orleans post eight years ago after serving as assistant superintendent in the Chicago public school system. He earned his academic spurs at Kansas City, Mo., Teacher College as an undergraduate and at Columbia, where he worked for his masters' and doctor's degrees.

"The school board is interested only in maintaining a public school system," he said. "It is unthinkable that public education should be abolished."

That was his answer to those who advocate closing the city's schools rather than submit to integration as ordered by the federal courts.

Did the separate but equal theory work in the city's schools before a federal judge ordered integration this fall?

"We were approaching it this year," he said. "It was very difficult to keep up with Negro migration and expansion."

"Two of every three dollars spent in the last 10 years has been for Negro school construction," he said, and pulled a booklet from a nearby file to illustrate his point.

He directs the system with its \$34-million budget and 5,000 employees much the same as a corporation manager, with problems mounting, and other attractive positions available, is he tempted to leave?

"Public education is an obligation, a trust and a challenge. I'm thankful I have had such an opportunity and I'm not about to stop now."

Ex-Con Nabbed In Bank Try

PORTLAND (AP)—A man who had only a week's freedom from prison before being nabbed for trying to rob a bank, today faced another sentence.

A federal district court jury deliberated six hours, then found Robert Jay Tesdahl, 31, guilty of trying to rob the East Portland branch of the Security Bank of Oregon last July 12.

He got nothing, because the teller said she had no money at hand and he left. Minutes later he was arrested.

At the time Tesdahl had been out of prison only a week after serving a year for armed robbery.

Judge John F. Kilkenny said he would pass sentence after getting a report from the probate department.

Ridge Riders Hold Social

The Klamath Ridge Riders and guests were present Nov. 12 at Olene for an evening of dancing and a box social. Music was by Bob Moisio, Earl Sheridan, John Owens and Carroll Hurst.

During intermission boxes for the box social were auctioned by Don Emrick. Judges were Dottie Pool, George Combs and Carroll Hurst.

Prizes for the best decorated and original went to: first, Roberta Axel; second, Jeanne Dixon; third, Ava Becton; fourth, Lorraine Emrick.

Serving on the committee were Albert Trump, chairman, John Owens and Jeanne Dixon.



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