

IEK47.02

Compromise Seen On State School Program Deadlock

*Victory over Ross p. 1
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JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A compromise in Mississippi's controversial school equalization program today appeared a possible solution to a 12-week legislative deadlock.

Supporters of the plan, designed to equalize white and Negro school facilities, were seeking support for the compromise which would establish the plan for one year instead of the intended two years.

Gov. Hugh White, a strong supporter of the equalization plan, gave the compromise tentative approval. He added that he thought it would settle the deadlock.

But House Speaker Walter Sillers said the program "will not fit" since the U. S. Supreme Court now has before it five segregation cases. Sillers said five bills would be drawn up to delay the program until the Supreme Court rules on the cases.

Gov. White said a meeting of 25 senators last night expressed interest in the compromise, but took no definite stand awaiting developments in the House.

The proposed compromise would require no new taxes, the cause of the deadlock in the Legislature. All tax bills to support the plan have withered because of lack of support.

School consolidation would go forward under the new proposal and teachers' salaries and transportation would be equalized between the races. But no construction of new facilities would begin during the period, pending the decision on the segregation cases.

The program, passed during a

special legislative session last December, is scheduled to take effect July 1.

Sillers said the situation has changed since enactment of the equalization program.

"The segregation issue arose later when Thurgood Marshall (Negro attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) complained that separate but equal facilities violated the 14th amendment to the U. S. Constitution."

Sillers said the Legislature cannot operate the school system intelligently unless we know the rules under which we must operate" and those rules have not been established by the Supreme Court.

The speaker, an ardent opponent of the equalization program, said the bills, which will be drawn up by the attorney general, will urge restoration of the common school fund.

The school program now in effect would cost an estimated 50 million dollars for the next two years should it be re-instated. If 35 million dollars, the amount needed to set up the equalization program for one year, were appropriated, new money would be found to finances most of the second year.

Rep. John Farese of Benton County, another strong supporter of the equalization plan, said the compromise appears to have enough support to pass.

A special session of the Legislature probably would be required to provide money for the second year of the biennium since new tax money would be needed if the entire equalization program were continued at that time.

Most legislators agreed a special session would be necessary to work out a means of maintaining segregation in Mississippi if the Supreme Court outlaws segregation.

The program could begin to roll without new tax measures being appropriated during this legislative session.

Some sentiment to postpone the entire equalization program for two years and adjourn the Legislature to await the ruling of the Supreme Court. But program supporters hope the compromise will satisfy opponents of the program and still maintain the plan.

**NO SEGREGATION
DECISION TODAY**

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court ended its decisions for today at 12:58 p.m. (EST) without making a ruling on cases questioning race segregation in public schools. No decision in these cases is in prospect before April 5 at the earliest since the court is recessing until that date.

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