

Delay Denied Arlington on Negro Pupils

By Susanna McBee ,
Staff Reporter

Alexandria Federal Judge Albert V. Bryan refused yesterday to postpone the entry of four Negroes into Arlington's Stratford Junior High School. Their admission is set for Monday.

Arlington School Board attorney James H. Simmonds said he would ask Chief Judge Simon E. Sobeloff of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals today for a delay of that Court's affirmation of Bryan's order pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. Requests for similar stays by other Virginia communities have been denied.

Bryan's decision yesterday came as no surprise to school officials. Superintendent Ray E. Reid announced promptly the Negroes already had been assigned to classes.

The children's parents will meet today with George Richardson, principal of Hoffman-Boston, which the Negroes now attend, and Stratford principal Claude M. Richmond.

The four are: Ronald Des-
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Arlington Denied Negro Delay

kins, Michael G. Jones, Lance D. Newman, and Gloria D. Thompson. All are seventh graders.

Simmonds asked Bryan to delay the admission of the four children until September because, he said, they would suffer "irreparable harm" by the transfer. Also, he said the school system is organized on an annual basis and has no "breaking point" in February.

Judge Bryan disagreed that the Negroes would be harmed by the transfer. He said he had fixed the date of entry "after deliberation and with care." He said he felt that the admission now "was advisable and could be ordered without hur or harm to any party."

The Judge told school attorneys they had shown no "change in circumstances that would warrant the Court's revising its decree."

Transfers "Unwise"

Reid testified that since children in different schools do not cover the same subject matter at the same time, the Negroes might have to repeat certain material or miss it.

He said the transfer would be "unwise" and "would have to be done at the risk of the normal progress which could be expected of these children during the school year."

James M. Nabrit III, one of the Negroes' attorneys, said that the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled already on the issue of the time of entry and that school officials had not raised that issue before.

Frank D. Reeves, another attorney for the Negroes, argued that "for three years these defendants have used every device, every strategy, not to comply with the Supreme Court's desegregation decision."

He said school officials had "sat on" information about the no-semester system and its policy of frowning on transfers. He added that raising objections only when "faced with the imminence of this court order is of itself an indication of bad faith." Meanwhile, Arlington County Manager A. T. Lundberg said Stratford is "under continual police surveillance."

Howard R. Bovee, Reid's floodlights on the roof of Stratford are lit each night. Extra floodlights have been added to the Old Dominion dr. side of the school.



Michael Jones

Gloria Thompson

Lance Newman

Ronald Deskins

Negro students ordered admitted to white Arlington school.