

# Integration Decision Time Draws Near

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**THE MOMENT OF DECISION** has come for the School Board, which this Thursday must declare itself one way or the other on the integration issue.

Particularly, the board must decide whether to continue its plans to establish a Negro junior college branch at Dillard High School this fall or yield to growing demands from the county's Negro population to integrate the existing junior college.



An answer to these demands admittedly has been delayed by the board, waiting to see what the Legislature would appropriate for junior college operations and capital outlay for construction of a permanent center.

Legislative action is no longer a factor. Without the question of inte-

gration entering the picture, Broward has been allocated about \$728,000 for college construction, roughly only one-third of its 2.2 million dollar request. Other big counties fared no better.

The board no longer has any grounds for withholding a decision. Indeed, it now has no choice since at least two Negro students have applied for admission to the present junior college in September.

Following instructions of the board, President Joe B. Rushing has stated simply that their applications will be processed for the Dillard center.

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**THIS SOLVES** nothing when these two prospective Negro students declare they specifically are applying for admission to the white college. Indications are strong that they will be backed in a court suit if they are denied.

Dade County had to come to grips with the integration issue several years ago. Time is rapidly running out for Broward School officials. Regardless of the decision they make, they must make one.

Though board members will not comment on integration at the moment, publicly or privately except possibly among themselves, they are acutely aware that it is a problem they must face.

They are equally aware that the junior college issue is only one segment of the over-all county picture.

Rumblings are growing louder in the north part of Broward where Negroes are expressing resentment at having their children transported to Blanche Ely High School, by-passing Deerfield Junior High on the way.

Integration is a question mark for the proposed South Florida Education Park planned at Forman Field. Granted this project is, at the moment, so far in the future that it doesn't pose an immediate problem. But the question has been raised by a number of individuals already — and the board has not committed itself.

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