

SCUFFLE DISRUPTS NEWARK HEARING

White Man's Remark Stirs Negroes at Site Hearing

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NEWARK, June 12—A remark by a white man touched off a near fight between whites and Negroes at a hearing in City Hall tonight on the selection of a site for a medical college.

The remark, made after two hours of debate in the City Council Chamber Hall, led young Negroes among the 200 people in the audience to jump across seats and over the backs of benches crying, "That's it, brother!"

Women screamed as policemen—40 of whom had been assigned to the hall—moved in to separate members of the milling throng in the center aisle.

But before any blows could be struck, the Rev. William Hedgebeth of Mount Olives Church of Christ's Disciples, 100 South Orange Avenue, stepped into the center of the group and quieted its members.

The remark that stirred the outbreak at the hearing came after Negroes opposed to the proposed site for the college had begun a filibuster against it.

"You Negroes want your way!" an unidentified white man in the audience shouted.

The young Negroes then jumped up angrily.

Three weeks ago violence broke up a hearing by the Central Planning Board on whether the 14-block area in the Central Ward, proposed as the site for the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, should be declared a blighted area. An affirmative decision is necessary under Federal and state laws if the city is to receive urban-renewal funds for the area.

The seven-man board was unable to hear a full report tonight on the condition of the 50-acre site selected for the college in the city's predominantly Negro ward, because Negroes opposed to it decided to tie up the hearing with a discussion of other issues, such as education and housing.

Those opposed to having the school built in the Central Ward said that 22,000 people would be ousted from their homes and that no arrangements had been made to relocate them.

The city has insisted that 3,000 would be displaced. It said that contracts had already been signed for the college to be built and that a \$15-million bond issue was being floated to raise the money for purchase of the property.

"There must be proof that it is a blighted area," an official explained, "so that we can get money back through urban renewal."

Louis Danzig, executive director of the Newark Housing Authority, reported briefly on that agency's findings in the area.

Relief Speaker Arrested

Then George C. Richardson, a former Democratic State Assemblyman who is active in the United Committee Against Negro Removal in Newark, took over the lectern and began an unending speech.

As Mr. Richardson showed signs of tiring in the room, which was cooled only by two fans behind the members of the planning board, Duke E. Moore Sr., who is also on the committee, attempted to relieve him by asking for a point of order.

Alfred C. Booker, chairman of the board, ruled Mr. Moore out of order and asked that he return to his seat. Mr. Moore refused. The crowd encouraged him to remain, shouting, "No, no." After attempting for 15 minutes to get Mr. Moore to yield the lectern, Mr. Booker ordered him arrested.

As Mr. Moore was being escorted from the room, the crowd formed a solid block in the aisle, forcing the policemen to wedge their way through. Others stamped their feet and chanted, "We shall not be moved."

Two Negro women in the last row of the hall edged their way out another door, one of them commenting: "It's dangerous in here."

A woman in a polka dot dress screamed: "It's just like the C.I.A."

Harry Wheeler, a friend of Mr. Moore's, shouted at Mr. Booker: "You're asking us to abdicate our rights."

After order was restored, Mr. Booker resumed the hearing and asked Mr. Richardson to continue his talk.

Shortly after midnight Mr. Booker interrupted Mr. Richardson to announce an adjournment. The meeting broke up quietly, to resume at 10 A.M. tomorrow.