

Senate Starts Hearing on School Segregation; Pick Trouble Spots

The first hearing on a bill to ban racial segregation in Ohio schools in line with a U. S. Supreme Court decision that such segregation is unconstitutional was held before the Senate Education Committee in Columbus last week.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Joseph Avellone (D-Cuyahoga). Specifically, the bill would prohibit school boards from discriminatory practices in assignment of pupils and it would require all children to attend schools within their district, regardless of race, color or creed.

Spokesmen for the measure were John Francis of Columbus, president of the Ohio State Conference of Branches, National As-

sociation for Advancement of Colored People, and Don Rothenberg, Cleveland, head of the Ohio Progressive Party.

Pointedly disavowing any connection with the other witness, Francis said a kind of "segregation in reverse" is going on in some Ohio school districts where the whites transfer their children to other schools as the Negro population increases.

Francis declared that racial segregation is or has been a practice in many Ohio schools. All are making progress toward integration, he added. He cited Columbus East High as an example and listed other "problem areas" in Hillsboro,

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Wyoming and Glendale near Cincinnati, Chillicothe and Middletown:

Francis cited Hillsboro as the school segregation problem spot in the state. He said the Hillsboro segregation question will resolve itself in about two years with the construction of new schools. Francis later told a reporter at Columbus that about 55 students are not attending school now because of segregation and are being threatened with truancy action.