Ohio Town to Keep 'Its Segregated School'

Will Rebuild School White Man Burned

By RAY PAUL

HILLSBORO, O.—Despite rising protests from Negro citizens here, the Hillsboro Board of Education this week voted unanimously to repair the Jim-Crow Lincoln elementary school which was burned on July 5 by County Engineer Philip Partridge, who hoped the destruction of the school would end the town's 100-year practice of school segregation.

The Hillsboro Board reached its decision after accepting an insurance adjustment offer of $4,295.50 for the fire-damaged building. Repair work has already started.

In the discussion which preceded the vote, board members argued that "Negroes are asking the impossible" in demanding an end to the school segregation pattern that has existed for more than 100 years. "Why can't they hold out for perhaps two more years?" one member asked.

Members indicated that they intended to retain the segregated pattern at Lincoln, where Negro children are forced to attend classes from the first to sixth grades before being integrated into the

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REV. RITA LEE . . . she'll lead fight to integrate all Hillsboro schools.

PROTEST FAILS: Hillsboro, Ohio—When Phillip Partridge (lower left) set fire to segregated Lincoln Elementary school (above) he hoped his action would result in wiping out the Jim-Crow pattern of separate school education that has persisted in the small Ohio town for 100 years, but Board of Education officers have voted to repair the school and continue its all-Negro occupancy.

A fight looms, however, as Rev. Mrs. Rita Lee (top left) of the First Wesleyan Methodist church, has organized a citizens’ committee which has served notice that it will fight the decision in Ohio courts.

PHILIP PARTRIDGE .... The fight he started will find supporters in Hillsboro.
Will Rebuild School

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Hillsboro schools at higher levels—until new elementary schools are completed.

Still in Hospital

Meanwhile, Partidge—who hoped his sacrifice would result in the abolition of "inequalities" between white and Negro children, is still being held at Lima State hospital for sanity tests. He has been charged with arson.

His act, however, seems to have stimulated the Negro citizens of the town to fight for full integration in the public schools. They had previously accepted the segregated setup at Lincoln until the white county engineer sparked some feeling among the students.

Mrs. Irma Jean Curtis of 151 Belmont St., has arisen to spearhead the fight against the Board's decision by forming a Citizens Committee for School Integration. Mrs. Curtis reported to the CALY school committee during a recent meeting that she had already approached a number of times by intercessory mothers, but had taken no action previously in the hope that the School Board would end the segregated pattern.

Write to Board

The first action taken by the committee was in the form of a letter to the school board secretary, requesting an audience with the school board. The letter will meet with, the committee will meet with the Board at 8 9 and 7:30 and that time will demand full integration. Further, the following letters are refused according to Mrs. Curtis they will take legal action.

A similar school board will be present with a petition demanding that the school board members be held accountable to the school board. We believe that conditions at Lincoln (the burned all-Negro school) are such that our children cannot receive the proper education...the solution to this problem would be integration of the schools. A NEGATIVE REAS-

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