

Integration

Stanley Plan For Schools Is Criticized

By Ralph Reikowsky
Staff Reporter

State Senator Charles R. Fenwick (D-Arl.) said yesterday he considered Gov. Thomas G. Stanley's suggestion to abolish public schools in Virginia "premature."

The Governor last week suggested the State Constitution be amended by eliminating the provision requiring Virginia to maintain public schools. He said he will use every legal means to continue segregated schools in the state.

Fenwick said the Governor's suggestion "should not have been made at this time. The success or failure of integration in schools in Virginia will depend on the leadership of state officials and how the problem is handled."

"There should be a period during which children can attend segregated schools on a voluntary basis," he said. During this period the problem of integration must be adjusted in the light of the welfare of the state, the people and the children involved, Fenwick said.

He said the problem should be worked out at a state rather than a local level and that the best minds of both races should be called together to find a common meeting ground in an informal way.

Arlington Delegate Harrison Mann said the Governor's suggestion is "certainly no way to meet the problem. Methods can be developed sensibly without abolishing public schools," he said.

Mann said the greatest danger to the public school system in Virginia comes from the extremists who favor immediate forced integration. He said some Virginians want no co-mingling, others want immediate integration, while the intelligent approach is by those who take the middle position of attempting to work out the problem.

Mann said extremists of both races who "push forced integration could create so much feeling in Virginia as to force those who have taken the middle ground to an extreme position." Only in this way, he said, "could a situation be created whereby public schools in Virginia could be abolished."