U. Of M. Accepts Negro Under New Policy

Hiram T. Whittle will report at College Park next Monday morning as the first Negro undergraduate student to be admitted to the University of Maryland.

The acceptance of Mr. Whittle as a student in the college of engineering results from the pronouncement of a new policy on racial segregation by the board of regents of the university.

Negro students must be admitted to the schools of the university on an equal basis unless the State provides "substantially equal" facilities for whites and Negroes, the board ruled yesterday after considering the Whittle case.

Byrd Calls Attorney

After the board decision yesterday, Dr. H. C. Byrd, president of the university, called Donald G. Murray, attorney for the student, and asked him to have Mr. Whittle report Monday to the office of the dean of the College of Engineering.

"The regents also, in what Judge William B. Cole, chairman, termed a reaffirmation of policy, directed the university to make a study of schedule changes that would allow Seventh Day Adventists to enter the medical school.

Applications by two members of that faith had been rejected by the dean of the medical school on the ground that they would be unable to attend Saturday classes.

Put Up To Assembly

The board left the future of segregation in the hands of the Legislature.

The question, it stated, is "whether the State is willing, or the people wish, to appropriate sufficient funds to establish substantially equal facilities for Negroes to the facilities that are now available for white people."

Court decisions on the matter make it clear that the bi-racial system cannot be continued unless the State provides the equal facilities, the board said.

The board, and Dr. Byrd, acknowledged that no facilities exist at Princess Anne (Negro branch of the university) in engineering education for Negroes equal to the facilities for white people at College Park."

Consent Decree Signed

Mr. Whittle had filed a petition for a mandamus to require the university to admit him. Earlier this week, Kenneth C. Proctor, deputy attorney general, signed a consent decree in the case which would allow the student to enter the university.

The board said it had been advised by the attorney general that no legal grounds exist on which to contest the petition.

Dr. Byrd, asked today if the regents' ruling would change university administrative policy with regard to the admission of other Negroes, refused to elaborate on the statement of the board.

Judge Cole, on the other hand, said he assumed that "in parallel cases" university authorities would admit Negroes with the necessary qualifications.

Four Cases In-Court

Four other cases, brought by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, are pending in Baltimore City Court. They involve mandamus petitions brought by Negroes whose applications have been rejected by the university.

Two of the petitioners applied for admission in the School of Dentistry, one in the School of Pharmacy and one in the College of Home Economics.

Judge Cole said the board's order on the admission of Seventh Day Adventists should not be interpreted as criticism of Dr. H. Boyd Wylde, dean of the Medical School, who turned down the applications of the two students of that faith.

Called Only Factor

He said it was clear that class attendance, and not religion, was the only factor that influenced the dean's decision.

The regents pointed out that both under the law and under the university charter, "no applicant can be denied admission to the university because of his religious beliefs."

They ordered Dr. Byrd to have the dean "make a study as to possible schedule changes such as might enable applicants in question to enter the Medical School and complete all the work" and to advise the board as to the steps other medical schools take to meet such problems."
NEGRO IS GIVEN DORMITORY ROOM

Hammond Says U. Of M. Must Provide Accommodation

Hiram T. Whittle, first Negro accepted by the University of Maryland for undergraduate work at College Park, is living in a college dormitory this year, Dr. H. C. Byrd, president of the university, reported yesterday.

Whittle, an engineering student, was admitted to the university last winter at the start of the second semester.

Dr. Byrd said he was the first Negro to live in a College Park dormitory and the only Negro student in dormitory residence.

Whittle's application for a dormitory room this year, accompanied by a deposit check, brought a ruling from Hall Hammond, attorney general, that he could not be denied the desired accommodations because of race.

Geary Eppley, director of student welfare at the university, asked Mr. Hammond whether the university was under legal compulsion to honor the application.

The attorney general's answer: "You must make dormitory space available to Negro students under the same conditions and on the same terms as those accommodations are made available to white students.

Not Preferential, However

"On the other hand, the Negro is not entitled to preferential treatment. For example, if under uniform regulations a dormitory is used only for freshmen, and there are no Negro students in the freshman class, then a Negro would not be entitled to admission in that dormitory.

"In every case the test must be objective, uniform and not based upon race."

Mr. Hammond said the bar against race discrimination applied not only to the use of dormitories but also "to any other facilities which the State supplies the university for the use of students."