

Jersey Investigating Bias Case Involving Jewish Negro Family

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MONTCLAIR, N. J., June 4 —The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights is investigating a discrimination case involving a Jewish Negro family whose young daughter attends the religious school of a Montclair synagogue.

A spokesman for the state agency said today that a complaint was being prepared against the owners of the Preakness Pool Swimming Club at Totowa.

The case stemmed from the alleged refusal of the club owners to permit the Negro parents and their four children to use the pool during an outing Sunday by the religious school of Temple Shomrei Emunah. The picnickers then left en masse and held their outing in the backyard of one of their members.

40 Persons in Party

According to members of the congregation, the club is operated by persons of the Jewish faith.

They said that the outing party comprised 40 persons, including a second Negro couple and their four children who were there as guests of a white family.

The congregation members said that at first the club owners refused to permit the Negroes to enter the grounds at all.

Then after an appeal by the synagogue's spiritual leader, Rabbi Jeshua Schnitzer, the owners agreed to admit the Negroes to the area but denied them use of the swimming pool. The synagogue members then left.

The operators of the club could not be reached today.

Rabbi Schnitzer refused today to go into details of the incident. However, he did confirm that it had occurred.

Brief Description

Discussing the outing by the school members, he said: "On arrival, they experienced a discrimination incident due to the presence of Negroes in the party. A complaint is being filed with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights."

Under New Jersey law, all persons are guaranteed all the advantages, facilities and privileges of any place of public accommodation. The Division on Civil Rights has defined swimming pools as such places.

The law states, however, that "nothing herein contained shall be construed to include, or to apply to, any institution, bona fide club or place of accommodation which is in its nature distinctly private...."

A spokesman for the congregation said today that the Preakness Pool Swimming Club rented its facilities to schools, religious institutions and other communal groups.

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