

RELIGION FLARES INTO OPEN AT COUNCIL MEETING

For the first time in at least 40 years the religious issue flared into the open last night in city council. By 42 to 22 the school-board's plan for rebuilding Gage Park school on its present site was approved.

The Very Rev. J. F. Green and members of St. Rita's parish have for eight years advocated the new school not be located within a block of the parochial school. Council school committee split on the question, 8 aldermen being for the new site and 7 for the present site. Ald. Buck moved to substitute the minority for the majority report. Ald. Lynch moved to lay Buck's motion on the table. Lynch raised the point of order that there could be no debate on his motion. All speeches then were made by aldermen explaining their votes. The main drive of argument ran about like this:

DePriest: I explain my vote tonight because an attempt is made to gag this council. The new site proposed by Father Green for the Gage Park school would put the public school only 250 feet farther north. That distance will not stop the boys of the public school and the parochial from fighting.

Martin: I have been on the schools committee six years and every year this question has come up. A better site nearer the population center of the district can be found.

Merriam: It is almost the unbroken custom of this council to allow debate on a minority report. It is a surprising procedure that an attempt to stifle discussion should be made in a matter such as this.

Bergen: Scurrilous circulars attacking Father Green have been distributed in this district. The Guardians of Liberty are getting so bold in this city that they dare to send out circulars over the signatures of their officers. They are organized for no other purpose than to keep men of a certain denomination out of office.

Buck: I'm sorry the question of religion has entered. If so, perhaps it is best that it be dragged out of darkness. Of 981 parents in the district, 805 have signed a petition for the present site.

McCormick: The public school is not yet put on a level with a pest-house or a garbage plant. The public school is the highest expression of our democracy. Both Catholics and Protestants have signed a petition that the present site be retained.

Cullerton: I have been in this council many years. This is the first time I have seen this issue raised here. We must find a way to avoid this issue.

Lynch: When Father Green was to locate his school he was promised by the school board that a new site would be procured for the Gage Park school. It was a verbal agreement and yet a clear one.

The vote for and against the present site:

Yeas—DePriest, Stern, Werner, Nance, McCormick, Kimball, Merriam, Cross, Tyden, Vanderbilt, Klaus, Fulac, Kerner, Ray, Anderson, Lawley, Rodriguez, Utpatel, Szymkowski, Zweifka, Sitts, Healy, Murray, Krause, Kjellander, Wallace, Haderlein, Gnadt, Captain, Pretzel, Watson, Kennedy, Dempsey, Littler, Hrubec, Rea, Fisher, Michaelson, Buck, Toman, Link, Janke—42.

Nays—Richert, Hickey, Doyle, Martin, McNichols, Pettkoske, Cullerton, Smith, Walkowiak, Bowler, Powers, Fick, Miller, Bauler, Ellison, McDermott, O'Toole, W. J. Lynch, Bergen, Kearns, Blaha, T. J. Lynch—22.

To Get Public Ownership Report

Telephones, street cars and gas and electric light plants can't be regulated and handled right by the city. All real power has been taken away from the city by the state legislature. Well then, suppose the city owns and runs its own telephones, street cars and lighting plants—what then?

These are the propositions in an