

White Parents Sue Almond, Harrison In School Action

"Massive Resistance" Under Fire

Norfolkians Want
Laws Struck Down,
Schools Reopened

By A Staff Writer

NORFOLK — Norfolk white children and their parents Monday named Virginia's Gov. J. Lindsay Almond Jr., and State Attorney General Albertis S. Harrison Jr. among defendants in a suit brought in Federal Court to reopen six schools closed by state resistance to desegregation orders.

The suit strikes out at the "massive resistance" laws under which the schools were closed and asks that a three-judge federal tribunal issue an injunction against the enforcement of those laws.

THE SUIT says that the closing of the six Norfolk schools is in violation of the 14th Amendment because the closures deprive the children excluded from the schools of equal protection of the law.

Attorneys for the white parents ask that the three-judge court be convened "as quickly as possible." They are Attorneys Archie Boswell of Norfolk and Edmund D. Campbell of Arlington.

THE MOVE came as a surprise in local legal circles because it was expected that NAACP counsel would file a similar action naming the governor and attorney general as defendants. They were advised to consider such a move by District Judge Walter F. Hoffman during a recent hearing on school closure matters.

The persons bringing the action filed Monday are parents of 26 children who have been locked out of five of the six schools closed at Norfolk

Named In School Suit



J. LINDSAY ALMOND, JR.
Governor



A. S. HARRISON, JR.
Attorney-General

under orders issued by Gov. Almond.

SPECIFICALLY, the plaintiffs contend that on Sept. 27, the Norfolk school board, acting under order from the Federal District Court, assigned 17 colored students to six schools which thentofore had served all-white student bodies; that the governor then assumed authority over the schools.

The suit seeks to strike down "massive resistance" (See WHITE, Page 2)

White Parents Name Almond Harrison In Suit

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laws passed en masse during
special and regular sessions of
the General Assembly which

permit school seizures by the
governor. The contention in
the suit is that enforcement of
these laws deprives children
forced out of schools "of lib-
erty and property without due
process of law and the equal
protection of the laws in vio-
lation of the 14th Amend-
ment."

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THE SUIT further alleges
that the school closures reduce
property values in that the
local school board and the chil-
dren are being deprived of
ownership, possession and use
of schools."

In view of these conten-
tions, the suit asks that the
governor, attorney general
and other defendants be en-
joined from enforcing massive
resistance laws; that the gov-
ernor and/or his agents be en-
joined from asserting control
over the schools and that the
governor be ordered to return
control of the schools to the
local board.

Named along with the gov-
ernor and attorney general as
defendants in the action are
members of the Norfolk school
board and schools superinten-
dent J. J. Brewbaker.

Those who brought the suit
include: Ruth Pendleton
James, a pupil at Maury, Ellis
M. James and Ruth Wilson
James; Patricia Smyle, Maury,
and Lucille S. Smyle; Virginia
Elizabeth Jones, Granby, and
Joanna Paulette Jones, Nor-
view High and Virginia Harris
Jones.

Also Amy Margaret St.
Clair, and Steven Hapgood St.
Clair, both Blair, and Robert
St. Clair and Elizabeth St.
Clair; Paul Baron, Northside,
and Joseph Baron; Estelle B.
Walker; Sally Wells, Maury,
and Agnes C. Wells; Lynnette
Shepherd, Granby, and Wil-
liam L. Shepherd and Marie
T. Shepherd; William D.
Weston, Maury, and Samuel
C. Weston Jr. and Lydia D.
Weston; Kathryn Harris,
Granby, and Kenneth Harris
and Irene A. Harris.