

Integration Of Library Is Ordered

DANVILLE, May 6 (UPI) — Federal District Judge Roby C. Thompson today ordered the City of Danville to integrate its main public library.

Thompson ruled that the city must permit Negroes who hold library cards at a Negro branch library to use the main public library, housed in a building Jefferson Davis once used as a capitol of the Confederacy.

Thompson said the case made it clear that a municipality could not exclude Negroes from municipally operated facilities because of their race.

Now Closed

Thompson said when the main library reading rooms, now closed due to construction work, reopen all Negroes should have access to them.

And he said when new library cards are issued to whites, they also must be issued to Negroes.

Thompson made his order effective 10 days from the time it is officially entered, which will probably be next Tuesday.

The city is expected to appeal the decision.

Five Negro high school students, part of a group which staged a sitdown demonstration at the main library April 2, filed the federal suit asking for an injunction to prohibit the City of Danville from barring Negroes at the library.

Student Questioned

An attorney for the city questioned one of the Negro students today about the origination of the suit, asking if the students consulted with the NAACP prior to filing the suit.

The student replied they had made their own plans, then consulted with the Rev. Doyle Thomas, president of the Danville NAACP.

Judge Thompson interrupted.

"These people are not on trial," he said. "The motive — why they went to the library — is not too material. They can undertake to use public property the same as other persons."