



## DANVILLE LIBRARY

# Public Library Seen Main Campaign Issue

DANVILLE, Va., May 30—Local observers of the political scene today were about agreed that the public library question dominates all other issues in the councilmanic campaign, which will end June 14 when 12 candidates for five seats will be voted on. On that day voters will also participate in a referendum to determine whether or not the library shall be integrated, closed, or turned over to a foundation financed by private funds.

Only six of the candidates appeared on yesterday's Jaycee panel discussion of the issues and it was apparent then that those running for office are more concerned about the library question than anything else with a divided opinion on slum clearances the second leading issue.

### 4 Prefer Closing

Of the six who aired their views, four said they were for closing the library rather than integrating it. Two said they would be guided by the result of the referendum.

There is mounting feeling on the issue. Dr. Samuel Newman who leads the liberal group preferring integration to no library, has written to City Manager Edward Temple saying that he is "chagrined" over the closing and that the peoples of Asia and Africa will be informed about the Danville situation as all American issues of this type are carefully scrutinized.

Next Tuesday the large civic group which is exploring ways and means of turning the library over to a private foundation to escape integration will meet and examine the charter, expected daily, from the state corporation commission. How the foundation would be financed has not been indicated.

### Old Mansion

The library is housed in the old brownstone Sutherlin mansion where President Jefferson Davis and members of his fugitive cabinet met and penned his final proclamation to the people of the South bidding them to take courage and saying, "I will return."

For that reason Danville has considered the building as the last link with the Confederacy. The building belongs to the city and provides quarters for the United Daughters of the Confederacy. A new wing to give more book space is near completion.