

Petitioners May Ask Library Reopening

DANVILLE, Va., June 21—Danville's public library problems are not yet over even if both white and Negro establishments have been closed as a result of a public referendum.

It is reported that those who fought to keep the library in the Confederate Memorial running are organizing on a broad basis and plan to circulate petitions asking the council to rescind its recent action in ordering the library closed. The vote was 5 to 4 to close. They thought it possible that one, perhaps two, members might be tempted to change their vote if a formidable petition was presented. The aim of the sponsors of the movement is to obtain 10,000 names.

City Manager Edward Temple has publicly stated that the closing of the library is a tragedy for Danville.

Dave Bowling, director of public works also deplored the action and has come forward with

a new proposal—that all library cards should be called in, and that books should be dispensed across the library desk and taken out.

The scheme also provides that if an applicant for research material appear—either white or Negro—the desired books would be produced by the librarian and the applicant given a card bearing a numeral which would correspond with a booth. In this way, Bowling claims, there would be no discrimination since the assignment of a booth would apply to white and Negro alike.

The proposal, however, has not appealed to many of those objecting to integration and they point to the referendum in which 2,829 voted to close and 1,598 to remain open.

The integration group have pointed out that the referendum result would not be binding on the council and that for this reason a changed attitude could be brought about.