

# Danville Group Planning Action For Reopening Library

BY GERALD TETLEY

DANVILLE, Va., June 23 — Sparring continued here today over Danville's vexatious public library issue. A group which feels that a slow integration will not hurt the library had a meeting attended by 200 pro-library enthusiasts who applauded when Dr. Martin Dowelson, presiding, outlined a plan of action.

This would call for the circulation of petitions in the hope of developing so much sentiment that the City Council, which is split 5 to 4 on the library issue,

might rescind its earlier action closing the establishment, and reopening it on a "modified" plan.

Dr. Dowelson and Dr. Lurton Gray two Danville practitioners, said that the signatures of people ranging in age from 16 to 21 would be solicited as well as those of the adult citizenship.

Those fighting for the resumption of a library service have said that the council could, with propriety, change its mind, since the recent referendum was clearly labeled "advisory and not

binding." Just what the attitude of the Council will be is not known. It is reported reliably that four members of the council are standing for continued closing of the

library. A fifth who voted to close is now noncommittal.

But Danville is not entirely without library facilities in a limited way. The school libraries at Grove Park and Forest Hills

elementary schools have been opened by two volunteer librarians and will remain open every Tuesday morning to permit children enrolled in those two schools to obtain summer reading.

Danville is without a general bookstore. The only concern which sells reading material as its only stock in trade is one which restricts its shelves to religious tracts.

One department store has a limited selection of books. In the meantime the closed

public library in the old Sutherland mansion has completed a new wing and is rearranging the floor plan. A new cork tile floor is also being installed by the department of public works, whose head, Dave Bowling, believes that sooner or later some form of city owned library service will be brought into play. His idea is that books should be called for by readers and taken out while researchers, white and Negro, would be segregated by being assigned to booths in the library.