

Book 642 May 5, 1968

# Negro History Taught

## At All School Levels

History of African and American Negroes is incorporated into history and social studies classes at all levels of public education in Berkeley, according to Berkeley School District personnel in a recent report to the Board of Education.

Negro History classes at Berkeley High School and East Campus (formerly McKinley High) are offered as electives. The History of the Negro in America is part of the fifth grade curriculum in all elementary schools.

IN ADDITION, African and American Negro history is incorporated into United States History I, II and III in grades 10 through 12; Sociology at Grade 10; World History in the 9th grade at West Campus; U.S. History in the 8th grade; and World Geography in the 7th grade.

The report on Negro history

came in response to requests from Garfield Junior High School students for a course in the topic at their school.

"Since the 12th grade Negro History course is an elective, it is possible that such a course could also be offered as an elective at the 8th grade level for those students who would not be able to take it later," Miss Virginia Thickens, curriculum associate of social studies, told the board.

"AN ALTERNATIVE would be to enlarge the unit on African background in the seventh grade course of World Geography," Miss Thickens said.

"Another suggestion is the possibility of introducing a new unit on the Negro in America in our eighth grade U.S. History classes," she said. "This would necessitate the cutting down of some of the units in civics."

Miss Thickens said she preferred that the board consider a course on minorities for eighth grade students "with no emphasis on any one ethnic group," as either a required or an elective course.

"SOME OF our teachers have expressed a desire for such a course and would be willing to work on a course of study this summer," Miss Thickens reported.

"I favor this latter plan as it would include all minority groups," she said.

Miss Thickens said the Oakland Public Schools plan to have a workshop for teachers this summer devoted to developing a course on minorities in America.

"I suggest that we in Berkeley schools ask the Oakland district if some of our teachers may participate in this workshop," she said.