

Oklahoma City Told It Cannot Ban Segregation

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 9 (AP)—The Oklahoma City Council was advised by City Attorney Ed Moler that it does not have the authority to outlaw segregation in public places.

The council immediately adopted the opinion yesterday.

Moler said, "It is my opinion the city does not have the power to enact a 'civil rights' ordinance prohibiting discrimination in restaurants and other places of public accommodation by reason of race, color or creed."

He said the power of regulating such matters can be exercised by a municipality only if properly delegated by the Legislature.

The Oklahoma City NAACP had asked that the council ban all segregation in public places. White and Negro churchmen had supported the plea.