

THE FAIRLINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION & PARENT-TEACHER ASSN.

ASK YOUR HELP IN A RECHECK CENSUS OF CHILDREN
IN NORTH FAIRLINGTON. THE QUESTION:

SHOULD OUR NEW SCHOOL HAVE GRADES 4, 5, & 6?

The Fairlington Civic Association and the Fairlington Parent-Teacher Association ask your help in an emergency spot-check census of children of elementary school age and younger. Its results may help to determine whether the new school for North Fairlington will be adequate for our needs. The School Board is now drafting plans for the school, and is to start construction as soon as the site is acquired. The site is NOT yet acquired, but the Board has hopes of final action within a month or two. We don't think the plans are adequate.

THIS IS THE STORY

Many of you remember the School Census which the Fairlington Civic Association and the Fairlington Parent-Teacher Association made in October, 1947. The findings proved conclusively the need of a school in North Fairlington. As a result, the old School Board gave up its plans for the inadequate 6-room addition to the present school in South Fairlington. The North Fairlington School is the Number 1 on the present School Board's priority list.

However, the present plans are for a school for grades 1, 2, and 3. Grade 4 MAY be provided for. But grades 5 and 6 are NOT included.

Our own census and the official census made last May both show the need for a school having grades 1 through 6. (Incidentally, our census was only $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% short of complete accuracy). But the School Board discounts these figures. It thinks, as far as we can tell, that most families with 10 and 11 year old children are going to move into private houses, and that the present school can take care of grades 5 and 6 for all of Fairlington. The Civic Association and the PTA do not agree with that view.

Our views were presented again in full at the School Board meeting on November 23. An arrangement was made by the Civic Association, the PTA and the School Board for a census of 5 representative blocks in North Fairlington. The results will be compared with our own census of 1947 and with the official census. We will try to see whether a trend is in the making, and what direction it is taking. It may not settle the matter, but it may convincingly support the School Board or us.

We are not against the School Board. It is trying earnestly to provide good educational facilities, without wasting your money on unnecessary facilities. This is in reality a discussion as to what the actual needs will be in terms of the numbers of children to be provided for. The only way to do it with any semblance of accuracy is to go out and count them.

This may be important for the future of your children. Please cooperate with the canvasser, who will be one of your own neighbors.