

ARKANSAS NEGROES RAISE FUND TO PUT HER THROUGH COLLEGE

RESENTMENT against mixed classes at the University of Arkansas has waned rapidly in the state despite the initial blast of Governor Ben Laney against the idea. The state's white dailies supported the end of segregation. The Arkansas Gazette, leading state newspaper, hailed the step as "an epoch in race annals" that "has spiked the guns of the South's constant critics and of those impatient radicals who seek to batter down the whole institution of segregation at a blow." A small railing which had been placed around the single Negro student at the University of Arkansas law school to separate him from other students was removed because it was a "physical inconvenience for all students."

When Edith Irby reported her first day at school, the liberal Dr. Chenault "wished her well." In the many letters of congratulation she received, many came from alumni of the Arkansas medical school.

But perhaps greatest enthusiasm over her admission was among Negroes in Little Rock and Arkansas, who have been chipping in dimes and quarters to a fund to put her through school. Funds collected by Hot Springs alumni of her high school pay for her tuition while a similar Little Rock movement sponsored by a Negro newspaper, the State-Press, takes care of her living expenses.

Edith works hard to justify the faith of these loyal supporters. "I need 24 hours more to the day," she says. She sleeps only five hours a night and gets up at four in the morning to cram on her homework. She finds the courses not "too tough."

"Medical training calls for plenty of work, but it's loads of fun," she says. The five-foot-tall girl finds no time for dates. Her only recreation, as she puts it, is a single letter to her fiance in Hot Springs every other day.

She works with a white classmate in anatomy lab sessions and says: "I've had no trouble. My partners are fine to work with. There's very little difference in going to school with white students than with Negroes."