

Fisk Trustees Hedge On Naming Negro President

NEW YORK—Fisk University's presidential successor remained a mystery this week as New York members of a nominating committee hedged on naming a Negro to head the famous Tennessee school.

Key members of the seven-man nominating committee mulled over the naming of a successor to President Thomas Jones, whose resignation becomes effective July, 1946, despite clear-cut sentiments for a Negro prexy.

Polled on their opinion of placing the first Negro educator in the Fisk presidential chair, members of the New York section of the committee indicated they were unprepared to announce their choice.

Mrs. William Francis Gibbs, chairman of the board of trustees, told the Defender: "I'm for the best man, regardless of color." Mrs. Gibbs would make no commitment as to whether she thought a Negro could successfully run Fisk.

L. Hollingsworth Woods, New York broker, whose opinion weighs heavily with the trustee board, declared:

"I have no preference for either

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a white or colored president. We haven't set up a Negro president as our goal."

Charles Haydock, treasurer of Fisk, told the Defender he was glad he was "not on the nominating committee" but also said he was "in favor of getting the best man. I have no objections to a Negro president," he said.

Wesley Leads

Meanwhile as the hubub over the naming of Jones' successor bubbled, Dr. Charles Wesley, president of Wilberforce University in Ohio remained the top candidate for the post.

Members of Fisk alumni who have spurred the drive for a Negro prexy declared that it was impossible to obtain a competent white president for the Fisk post. They stated that the university needed the same caliber of president as Princeton, Harvard or Yale and that only Negro educators remained who would take the job at the present salary.

Together with Wesley, other leaders in line for the post include Dr. Charles Johnson, head of Fisk's department of sociology; Dr. Rayford Logan, Howard University's history professor; Dr. Alain Locke, professor at Wisconsin University, and Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, head of Howard University's sociology department.