

The four-way referendum which was to be held here has been postponed.

Mayor Walter S. Weese told a deputation of colored residents at Monday's council meeting, "A vote now would not be in the interests of your group."

In blaming widespread news paper publicity for the postponement of the referendum, he said, "The reason the vote is deferred is because newspaper publicity has reached the point where a vote now would do your cause injustice."

The mayor told the deputation, "The referendum will be held, but this council will choose the time."

Council decided a month ago to send the question of licensing local restaurants to the people in the form of a referendum after deputations had charged that three out of the five restaurants here refused to serve members of their group.

Meanwhile, there were indications that at least one of the questions to be put on the referendum had been settled already.

The mayor, in asking a study of existing by-laws, said he found "parking meters are not acceptable to public opinion."

In making the announcement of the postponement of the vote, the mayor rapped what he called "head-line seekers."

Turning to the reporters, he said: "I want the papers to get this straight. The relationship between the two groups had always been pleasant until this came up."

The mayor made his announcement to the largest deputation yet to appear before council, and an overflow crowd of onlookers.

Mr. Percy Carter, who spoke first for the deputation, said he had heard "a general rumor that the referendum is off."

"As far as this council is concerned," replied the mayor, "the matter is closed."

"The vote is deferred because it is in the best interests of the colored race."

He said he had before him letters from the secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, the Jehovah's Witnesses, a Toronto Legion Branch, and the Inter-Race Council of Windsor.

"We have not yet had representations from anyone in the Town of Dresden," he said.

Interrupted Mr. Percy Carter, "I live in Dresden."

The mayor: "All right, but the Inter-Race Committee is not."

Rev. George Simmons, of Prince Albert Baptist Church, said, "It's not that we don't want to live without folk, but we want to live with folk. I think the equal rights of a group should be adhered to, as well as those of three restaurant owners."

The mayor: "Don't you think the relations between our peoples have always been friendly? You must answer yes."

Mr. Simmons said, generally speaking that was true, although he had heard of "incidents."

Mayor Weese said he had discussed the matter with legal authorities, and others.

"When it comes down to telling what the restaurant owners should do, that is none of our concern. It's a matter of cleansing human hearts - and that's not our business."

He added that he believed "the condition is 90 percent corrected and I don't want to see it get worse."

Mr. Simmons asked why the

(continued on page eight)

Referendum Here

(Continued from page one)
council did not advertise the referendum the required number of times, and go ahead and hold it.

"We've decided on the referendum, but this council will choose the time. We may de-

cide to defer it because of the publicity which is not in the best interests," said the mayor.

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