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Downtown Y's Disclaim Link With Campus Units

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas — Officials of Austin's downtown YMCA and YWCA issued statements Tuesday declaring their organizations have no connection with the controversial University of Texas YMCA-YWCA.

The individual units are all members of the national organization but have complete local autonomy, according to B. Y. Reynolds, general secretary of the Downtown YMCA here.

But an attempt will be made this weekend to change the constitution and by-laws of the Southwest Area Council of Young Men's Christian Associations, he said, so that some control can be exercised over political activities of student YMCA groups.

The council will meet Thursday through Saturday at Ardmore, Okla. Its president is J. Gordon Peterson of Dallas.

Such a change has been under consideration for some time, Reynolds said, as the result of resolutions adopted by student groups on such controversial issues as disarmament, racial integration, abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and admission of Red China to the United Nations.

Reynolds will attend the Ardmore meeting along with Dick

Brown, acting managing editor of the Austin American-Statesman and president of the Downtown YMCA, and Pete Hord, vice-president of the Downtown YMCA.

Reynolds said his statement on the fact the downtown group has no connection with the student YMCA-YWCA was prompted by The Dallas News' current series on the latter.

Mrs. Vera K. Wilkes, executive director of the Downtown YWCA, issued a similar statement.

"We are not affiliated with the student YMCA-YWCA in any way," said Mrs. Wilkes. "And we feel strongly about the use of the name 'Y.' We feel people should be careful to distinguish between the YMCA and the YWCA."

Meanwhile, the University YMCA-YWCA's cabinet of student officers discussed The News' series but decided to postpone any official statement until after all eight articles have been printed.

Present at the cabinet meeting was Clarence Elliott of New York, national YMCA program director, who is making a tour of student YMCA groups in Texas. He plans to visit SMU Thursday.

He said other associations across the country are doing the same things as the university group but "a good many are doing it in a more receptive atmosphere, under less limited conditions."