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By LARRY COHEN

A \$175,000 federally-funded bilingual school program at the Ann Street annex, scheduled to open in September will be detrimental to the Puerto Rican students it is trying to help, teacher union officials claim.

Gordon Hill, president of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, said Wednesday the program will "intensify the problems Puerto Ricans have now."

Some 300 primary grade students in the Barnard Brown School district would be educated in English and Spanish under the program.

"The problem is that they're not learning English," Hill said. English as a Second Language program at the Brown School that stress education in English "seemed to be fairly successful," according to Hill.

He said the new proposal would create a "pocket of Spanish" in an English-speaking society. Hill says the Puerto Rican population needs to adjust more effectively to life on the mainland.

Every Right

"They have every right to come here," he said. "They figure it is an opportunity. It's

their problem to learn English. It's not necessarily our problem to bend over backwards to provide all-Spanish schools."

John Palmerick, president-elect of the federation and a teacher in the English as a Second Language program, said the bilingual proposal has created "a certain resentment from the staff."

Palmerick says the ESL program at the New Park Avenue School uses bilingual students to help the Spanish-speaking and it is proving successful.

"You don't need professional help for that," he said.

Palmerick said a three-to-eight-week program of bilingual help to students is a superior method to the complete bilingual approach planned at the Ann Street building.

"These people are living in a primarily English-speaking society," Palmerick said. "The community had this foisted on them."

Community Pressure

Hill said the Board of Education bowed to "community pressure" in establishing the program and the administration is "running scared."

The bilingual program is to

establish "functional bilingualism," according to Dr. Robert J. Barry, administrator for school operations.

Students will be given class instruction in the language with which they are most comfortable, while learning the other language as a special subject.

The student population of Barnard Brown School is 78 per cent Puerto Rican, 21 per cent black and 1 per cent white.