Gov. Albertis S. Harrison Jr. of Virginia has disclaimed the power to open and operate schools in any county where public education has been stopped to avoid desegregation.

"People who lightly say that the state should take over and operate the schools don't realize the extent of the problem," Harrison said Wednesday at a news conference. He referred specifically to possible state operation of schools in Prince Edward or Powhatan counties.

Harrison said it wasn't within his power or that of any other state official "to open and operate schools in Powhatan or other counties under existing law."

State operation of such schools would require drastic change in Virginia's tax and school structures, he said.

The state's Pupil Placement Board meets today with the Powhatan case on the agenda.

In Florida, Gov. Farris Bryant has ordered the suspension from office of Taylor County constable Henry P. Sauls, indicted by a federal jury in the fatal shooting of Joe Dumas, 19-year-old Negro.

Sauls was indicted Tuesday by a federal grand jury at Tallahassee on a charge of willfully shooting and killing Dumas. The federal investigation was asked by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People after a county grand jury cleared Sauls.