

## W.P. Commission Okays \$5,000 For City Lakes Research

In its continuing effort to see when or if the city's lakes could become swamps, the Winter Park City Commission has approved a \$5,000 grant to a Rollins College professor for lake research.

The research, which has been going on for a number of years, includes measuring the amount of organic materials that are settling in the lakes.

Dr. James Small is in charge of the research and he reported to the commissioners last week on his findings so far. He said there "is a problem with sedimentation" which could mean the lakes may need to be dredged someday.

"Our studies so far show that the accumulated amount of organic materials measures about one and a half feet annually in various parts of Lake Virginia," Small told commissioners.

Commissioners are using the research data to help them determine the proper methods of

reducing the amounts of organic materials in the lakes. Solutions could be either continuance of chemical treatments or improving the city's storm drainage network to prevent large amounts of nutrients from entering the lakes. The nutrients feed lake weeds such as hydrilla.

"Are we talking about the birth of a swamp?" questioned Commissioner Harold H. Roberts. Small confirmed the commissioner's concern.

Small also confirmed a question asked by Commissioner Jerome J. Donnelly who asked if the amount of sedimentation measured (1½ feet) actually compacts down to inches. "Yes," Small reported, "but it is still a problem."

Although most of the research is being done in Lake Virginia, Small said it could serve as a microcosm for what's happening in other lakes.