

N.C. Stores Close Down Counters

Action Follows Negro Protest

[Spread of movement
predicted. Page. B1.]

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 9 (UPI) — Lunch counters in a dozen dime and department stores closed today here and in Winston-Salem and Fayetteville as a Negro protest against segregated eating facilities spread across North Carolina.

The sitdown demonstrations by Negro college students began last week in Greensboro at the F. W. Woolworth Co. store, apparently spontaneously. However, it was learned today that young North Carolina Negroes planned such a demonstration in Durham as early as December, and that Durham apparently was scheduled to be first.

In the meantime, representatives from the New York office of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) were in the state to advise the Negroes how to carry out the strike to maximum efficiency. They were being advised to hit one target — Woolworth chain stores—rather than spreading themselves thin at a number of stores.

Sitdown demonstrations began this morning and afternoon at five downtown Charlotte stores and shortly before noon at a Winston-Salem drug store, and late in the afternoon at two variety stores in Fayetteville.

During the afternoon it spread to the big Liggett Drug Store, located at the corner of Charlotte's main downtown intersection, and to four other stores in Winston-Salem.

Store Closes

The F. W. Woolworth Store here closed immediately after the young Negroes appeared. The S. H. Kress & Co., McLellan and W. T. Grant Co. dime stores and the big Belk Brothers Department Store closed their lunch counters in the face of the sit-downs.

A group of about 18 Negroes, believed to be students from Fayetteville State Teachers College, sat at the lunch counter about 5 p.m. at the Fayetteville F. W. Woolworth Co. and later moved to McCrory when the counter was closed.

Woolworth Manager C. A. Foster said the Negroes left when informed the counter was closed. He reported "nothing disorderly" about the demonstration.

When the demonstrators marched into McCrory's they were greeted with placards on the counter that read "Temporarily Closed."

Foster said he did not know if the counter at the Fayetteville Woolworth store would be closed Wednesday. "The people of Fayetteville will have to tell us what to do. Otherwise, we'll have to make the decision," he said.

Separate Facilities

In Charlotte, McLellan, which maintains "separate but equal" facilities for Negroes, kept its Negro lunch counter open and the Belk store kept its cafeteria open but refused to serve the Negroes. A total of almost 100 Negroes appeared at the three stores, but only a few remained on the scene after the counters closed.

J. B. Ivey & Co. and Sears, Roebuck & Co. in this "Queen

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