

# Negro Students Spread Protest To Kress Store

A Negro youth group, partially thwarted in their luncheon-counter sit-down at F. W. Woolworth downtown store, moved a dozen of their members down the street to Kress Store and started a counter-sitting demand for luncheon service for Negroes.

At Kress Store, six Negro youths were seated, unserved, while six more awaited seats.

At Woolworth, a countermove by around 60 white youths, apparently from several county schools, partially blocked the fourth-day effort of the young Negro group to obtain service.

At one time in Woolworth's the Negro sit-down—consisting of occupying a luncheon counter seat, unserved—held approximately 25 seats along the west side of the L-shaped luncheon section, while white youths and adults held the northern wall of around 49 seats.

At noon, four of the white youths milling around the group were noticed wearing hunting knives around their belts. A toy pistol was taken by plainclothes officers from one Negro youth.

A spokesman for the white youths said he knew of students from Rankin, Pleasant Garden and Sumner in the group which started out at 10 a.m. with around 20. Their numbers grew as the Negro delegation grew until at noon each side appeared to have around 60 on hand, neither gaining seats at the counter.

The white youths were giving up their seats to white patrons, but were demanding return of the seat on completion of service.

Meanwhile, the Greensboro

city attorney has stated that there is no city ordinance to cover the situation which started Tuesday afternoon. Attorney General Malcolm Seawell said that as far as he could determine, this state has no law which would prohibit serving members of both races at a lunch counter. But on the other hand, he said, he knew of no law which would force a private business to serve anybody it did not choose to serve.

J. Melville Broughton Jr., attorney for N. C. Assn. of Quality Restaurants, has advised member restaurants that it is "your privilege to refuse to serve anyone in your private place of business." He advised members to use a trespass complaint if persons refuse to leave after being denied service.

A New York spokesman for the Woolworth chain stated that it is the company's policy "to abide by local custom."

Business at the Woolworth counter came to a standstill on the western side, and consisted of coffee, cold drinks and snacks on the north side and dozens of persons milled around watching the jousting for seats. The Negro students were orderly and sat quietly, many of them studying and reading. The white youths conversed with each other and at one time were visited by a dozen or so white girl students.