

A&T Students Call Two-Week Recess In Protest Here

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Students at A&T College, at a mass meeting last night, agreed to a two-week halt to demonstrations seeking service at lunch counters at two downtown variety stores following a racial disturbance touched off by a bomb scare yesterday.

W. H. Gamble, dean of men at A&T, announced the action of the student body, saying that the students had agreed to allow the stores two weeks in which to set policies regarding food service for Negro students.

The action of the students came after an announcement by C. L. Harris, manager of F. W. Woolworth Co. store here, that the store's lunch counter would be

closed Monday. "In the interest of public safety," Harris said, "it has been decided to close the counter temporarily."

There was no announcement from officials of S. H. Kress Co., the other store involved in the disturbance.

Bomb Scare

The two downtown stores, scenes of lunch counter integration attempts all week by Negro students, closed abruptly yesterday afternoon. A hoax telephone call reporting a bomb planted in the basement of the Woolworth store, brought about the initial closing.

Minutes later, officials of the Kress store, half a block away, closed their doors "in the interest of public safety."

Highlighting what police called a "powder keg" of racial tension, Mayor George Roach late yesterday issued a statement calling on Negro students and business concerns to place the public interest above personal considerations, even to the extent of foregoing, for a while, individual rights and financial interests.

Mayor Gives Warning

He warned that "peace and good order will be preserved throughout our city."

The evacuation of the Woolworth store was ordered by police at the request of store officials, who received a telephone call at 1:09 p.m. from a woman who told them that "there is a bomb planted in the basement of your building."

The woman said the bomb was set to explode at 1:30.

Police had everyone out of the building by 1:10 p.m., but a thorough search of the store failed to uncover a bomb.

Officials of both stores, however, decided to lock up for the remainder of the day.

Negroes Claim Victory

Spokesmen for the large group of Negro demonstrators hailed the closings as a victory in their efforts to be served while seated at the lunch counters.

The bomb-inspired closings averted, at least for the weekend, what many police officers had viewed as an "extremely dangerous" situation.

Several hundred A&T College students, a large group of whites staging a counter demonstration and hundreds of patrons and bystanders of both races were in the store when the evacuation was ordered.

At the time of the phoned bomb threat, tension between the two opposing groups had climbed to a high pitch, with both factions parading in the aisles waving American and Confederate flags.

The Negro students set up a wild round of cheering as the announcement of closing was made.

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Two Stores Are Closed

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and carried their leaders out on their shoulders.

The group then moved to the Kress store, and officials there promptly closed it.

H. E. Hogate, Kress manager, said "They moved in on us in greater numbers than we could handle. We closed because of the demonstrations in the store and in the interest of public safety."

Following the Kress closing the Negroes assembled in a body on South Elm Street and began marching east on Sycamore Street in the direction of the college.

They chanted "It's all over! It's all over!" and "A&T! A&T!"

Police struggled to prevent whites from following the Negro demonstrators down Sycamore, blocking the street with re-enforcements hastily summoned to bolster the already large group of officers stationed in and around both stores through the morning hours.

After the bomb report, it was decided at first to reopen the store, except for the lunch counter, when a search failed to turn up a bomb in the building, but officials later decided to keep the doors locked.

At the Kress store, Hogate said, "We assume that we will be open Monday but we don't know as yet."

Officials of both stores were consulting yesterday afternoon with their New York offices.

Officials of four local colleges, their student leaders and representatives of the two chain stores had met at the YWCA Friday night in an attempt to come to some agreement on the potentially explosive situation.

Cooling-Off Plan Rejected

The Daily News learned that a two-week "cooling-off" period had been proposed during which the demonstrations would be halted.

A&T students, however, voted early yesterday to reject the proposal and turned up at the downtown stores in greater numbers than they had mustered during the previous four days of their demonstration.

The Negro students managed to occupy the great majority of seats at both lunch counters during the day. As before, waitresses in both stores ignored them, but served whites who managed to find a seat.

One Negro waived a five dollar bill at a Woolworth waitress, calling out that he would "give five dollars for a drink of water."

Members of several white teenage gangs roamed the aisles of the store and stood in groups



(Daily News staff photo.)

AFTER BOMB SCARE—EMPTY AISLES

Two Greensboro police detectives stand in the deserted aisle of the F. W. Woolworth Co. downtown store after a bomb scare prompted the evacuation of the building.

around the Woolworth counter, waving Confederate flags and shouting at the seated Negroes.

At one point, just before the bomb call was received, a tall Negro waving an American flag led a parade of students around the aisles to mounting jeers and catcalls from the white group.

Sporadic bursts of applause and shouts came from the solid line of teen-agers and white adults of both sexes standing in the aisle nearest the counter. A firecracker exploded in the crowd at one point.

Following the twin-closings, large crowds milled about in the street in front of both stores for more than half an hour, backing up traffic for several blocks down South Elm Street and on cross streets in the area.

As was the case on Friday, police made several arrests of persons taking part in the demonstrations.

One arrest, that of Grady Lester Hockett, 18, of Route 1, Pleasant Garden, on a disorderly conduct charge, took place in the Kress store. The others took place at Woolworth's.

They were: Robert Carlton Reddick 22, Negro of 919 Moody Road, and Guy Walter Richman, 16, white, of 214 Florence St., arrested for engaging in an affray; Bernell Edison Free, 23, Negro of Route 1, Guilford College, drunk;

Robert Changeman Creed, 53, white, of 2935 McCuiston Road, disorderly conduct; Carsee Hunt, 20, white, of 414 S. Edgeworth St., affray with Ulyssess T. Barksdale, 21, Negro of 301 Huffman St., charged with affray, disorderly conduct and drunk.

Man Wires Governor

A white man, C. W. Wright of the New Garden Road, told a reporter that he had telegraphed Gov. Hodges at midday protesting police action in the dispute. He said he told the governor that

police were refusing to uphold the law.

In Raleigh, Governor Hodges said he had received the Wright telegram.

"I have been informed of developments. I have been in touch with local authorities and I am confident they will be able to handle the situation."

White college students, several of whom had actively supported the Negro movement earlier in the week, did not show up at the stores yesterday.

Dr. Gordon Blackwell, Woman's College chancellor, said his students "have been strongly urged not to go down to the stores," but have not been formally prohibited from doing so. Greensboro College president Dr. Harold Hutson said "no formal restriction has been placed on the students, but we have explained to them the possibility of violence and suggested that they exercise considerable care.

"We personally consider it advisable to stay out of the area," he said.

Police Call Reserves

Backing up their feeling of concern over the situation, police at midafternoon ordered the department's auxiliary force on active duty.

Dr. Blackwell, in a statement issued yesterday, said that although "no satisfactory solution had been reached" in discussions between the colleges and store officials, "discussions are continuing and each of the groups involved is giving careful study to the problem."

Schools involved in the talks are A&T, Bennett College, and Greensboro and Woman's Colleges.

Negro college students began an attempt last Monday to obtain service at the Woolworth lunch counter. Negroes presently are served if standing, but not while seated.

The Negroes took seats, but

were not served. Subsequently, groups of white youths, most of them high school students, began