

# Renew Cooperation

Mayor George Roach's masterly appeal for calm and good order should do much to bring about an atmosphere in which a solution to the variety store luncheon counter agitation can be reached.

Greensboro police earned the community's gratitude earlier by the way in which they preserved public order during the week. The Negro students from A&T College—who sat quietly first at Woolworth's and then Kress' luncheon counters, seeking service, were soon surrounded by on-lookers and by rowdies. The situation continued during the week, with the police preventing outbreaks by their presence and making arrests when violence threatened.

Police action could ease the tension, but it could not remove it. College officials from A&T, Bennett, and Greensboro and Woman's Colleges, met with store officials to consider a solution, for other students were on the scene too. By Saturday, when the crowds grew at the stores, no compromise had been reached, despite intensive effort. It was then that the hoax call reached Woolworth's, warning of a bomb in the basement. The store was cleared, and later Kress was cleared too. Police summoned reserves to forestall any violence in crowded Elm Street. Fortunately, the crowd dispersed and by mid-afternoon all was calm.

That night, A&T students accepted a proposal to abandon their peaceful demonstrations for a two-week period in which a solution would be sought. It was a wise decision.

Mayor Roach, in his statement of late Saturday, noted that the Negro students had been "orderly and courteous" and that "they have expressed an unswerving determination to achieve their purpose"—namely to be served at the luncheon counters on the same basis as they are served at the other counters of the variety stores. The local tensions created by events attending this bid to alter local custom offered a threat Saturday to the good will which has marked race relations here. The Mayor rightly declared that order is essential to the preservation of any personal rights, and that "peace and good order will be preserved throughout our city."

Mayor Roach was not content, nor will the rest of the community be content, with a mere call for calm, however. He rightly urged Negro student leaders and the store managements to "place the public interest above personal considerations."

The whole community must do this. It has been seen during the past week that it must at once renew and refurbish the cooperation between the citizens of both races which has done so much to make Greensboro the progressive city that it is in race relations.

Greensboro has moved to keep up with the times in the last two decades. The Mayor cited a number of public facilities which are no longer segregated. The winds of change continue to blow in the South, however. In the past, the city's white and Negro leaders have been able to find agreement on potentially divisive issues.

A solution can be reached in this case which will respect personal rights while it eases the shock of change.

Greensboro community leaders must use the coming two weeks as a time of negotiation, of compromise and of clear thinking. Mayor Roach has shown the way with his declaration that the city

government will use all its powers in the quest for "a just and honorable resolution of this problem."

