

Negroes' Protests Still Spreading

[High Point lunch counters closed. Front Page.]

RALEIGH, Feb. 11 (AP)—The wave of sitdown protests by Negro students protesting their exclusion from store lunch counters spread to two other Tar Heel communities, Elizabeth City and High Point Thursday.

Meanwhile, Negro students continued their sitdown drive against lunch counters in Raleigh while students at the Fayetteville State Teachers College voted a one-week truce in their demonstration against two Fayetteville dime stores—Woolworth's and McCrory's.

At Raleigh, Eckerd's drug store reopened its luncheonette section, erected "no trespassing" signs and threatened at least two Negro couples who attempted to enter the luncheonette with arrest. The couples left quietly.

At Elizabeth City, a group of Negroes sat down at the lunch counter of the W. T. Grant Store. The store promptly closed the lunch counter. Chief of Police W. C. Owens said the Negroes continued to sit at the lunch counter, reading books as if studying. Elizabeth City State Teachers College, a Negro school, is located at Elizabeth City.

At Fayetteville, Dr. Rudolph Jones, president of Fayetteville State Teachers College, called a special student convocation today after a tense situation developed Wednesday in connection with a student demonstration there aimed at Woolworth and McCrory stores.

The college reported that all but about 15 of some 550 students present voted to suspend their sitdown activities for one week while a committee seeks to work out a solution of the lunch counter problem with representatives of the stores.

The lunch counter demonstrations began last week at Greensboro and this week spread to Durham, Winston-Salem and Charlotte. Many of the dime stores in these cities have closed their lunch counters.

At Raleigh, where the sitdown drive began Wednesday, Negro students continued their tactics Thursday. Lunch counters at Kress' store, near the state capitol, and Walgreen's drug store, shut down promptly when Negroes came in and sat down. The two stores had resumed lunch counter service after closing the counters.

Two other Raleigh stores,

Woolworth's and McLellan's, did not attempt to reopen their lunch counters today. Counter stools had been removed overnight and the counters themselves were used to display merchandise.

Hudson-Belk, a department store, kept its luncheonette closed to the public, but served food to its employes.

Eckerd's, which closed its luncheon section Wednesday, reopened it today as usual, but "no trespassing" signs had been erected. At least twice, Negro couples started to enter the luncheonette area. However, an employe blocked their way and pointed to the sign. One time he summoned a police officer. However, the couple had left before the officer arrived. A second couple left quietly without an officer being summoned.

Raleigh Mayor W. G. Enloe issued a statement, meanwhile, asserting that the city "is going to enforce" all state laws and city ordinances "in the interests of peace and tranquility without discrimination and with the utmost promptness."

Meanwhile, in Charlotte, a field representative of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), Gordon Carey, said Negro students in the demonstrations were willing to be arrested and that CORE wanted to see a court test of the state law which says, in effect, that a merchant may serve—or refuse to serve—persons as he sees fit.