

# Store Given Integration Proposal

[Protests spread to High Point, Front Page.]

The F. W. Woolworth Co. has been handed a proposal for total integration of its lunch counters in North Carolina, the Daily News learned last night.

Marvin Rich of New York, community relations director for the Congress of Racial Equality, confirmed a report that his group has proposed "gradual" but total integration of the counters. Woolworth is studying the plan, he said.

Woolworth's southeastern regional manager, C. M. Purdy of Atlanta, Ga., declined to comment on the report.

Officials of the chain, whose stores in North Carolina have been hit in the past week by sit down demonstrations by Negroes protesting segregation at the lunch counters, have said previously that their stores operated according to "local custom."

Purdy reaffirmed this statement last night.

## Only N.C. Involved

Rich, who said he has been negotiating with Woolworth officials in New York on behalf of the interracial group, said the proposal dealt only with the situation in North Carolina.

Asked if he thought it reasonable to assume that Negro groups would press for integration of Woolworth lunch counters in the rest of the South should they be successful in North Carolina, Rich said, "yes, eventually."

"But what happens in Greensboro, or Durham and other North Carolina cities doesn't mean it would immediately happen in Mississippi," he said.

Apparently, Rich and the CORE group will have to deal with Purdy on the North Carolina situation.

## Negotiations Vetoed

The CORE official, however, confirmed a report that Purdy has turned down efforts made by the group to negotiate.

"He told us he didn't feel it could be of value at this time," Rich said last night.

Rich, who said he was a native of St. Louis, Mo., said the CORE proposal called for gradual integration of the lunch counters—"gradual" meaning a matter of weeks, perhaps months.

"The time element isn't the critical thing here. The time could be worked out at the local levels.

"If the company makes a counter proposal which I feel makes sense, then I could recommend it to the student leaders."

In Durham last night, CORE field secretary Gordon Carey said the "plan suggested is one of total integration. No compromise of any kind has been implied or made."