

Public Pulse

"Real Solution"

Editor of the Daily News:

Solicitor Murdock of Durham fancies a simple solution for the variety stores harassed by Negroes requesting service at their lunch counters. He proposes that any Negro who remains seated at the counter after he has been directed to leave the premise can be arrested for trespassing and cites the 1957 N.C. Supreme Court ruling. Needless to say, any such arrest and conviction will be carried to the highest courts of the land.

The legality of a business concern issued a license to serve the public and which arbitrarily practices racial discrimination or exclusion is debatable. Any municipal or state laws that give to private business that privilege and protection infringes upon the Negro's constitutional rights as an American citizen. When a private business offers its goods and services to the public through the media of newspapers, periodicals, radio, television and signs of various kinds, it relinquishes its right to discriminate and exclude part of that public on the basis of race, religion or social status.

It has long since been decided by the U.S Supreme Court that social mores, traditions and customs of a particular locality or area of this country are poor substitutes for the legality of an issue. Thus the legality of the racial discriminatory practice at the lunch counters in Greensboro involves deeper implications of civil rights, rather than empty emotionalism springing up out of a well of racial prejudice.

It is quite obvious to all thinking people of Greensboro regardless of personal feelings that the only real solution to the problem is to serve all people who are orderly, decent and have the money to pay for what they get. Any half-way measures will only meet with continued protests, which will more likely set in motion a series of costly litigations and bad publicity for this state and the city of Greensboro in particular.

JULIUS T. DOUGLAS

Greensboro.