

# Sitdowns Are Held Inevitable

## Ex-College Head Talks At Bennett

A belief that student protests against discrimination which began in Greensboro and have since spread to other cities and states, were "inevitable" and a hope that "constructive-minded citizens join forces in resolving the issue," were expressed here yesterday by Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, of New York City, former president of Tuskegee Institute.

Dr. Patterson, now director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, an educational foundation with offices in New York City, and chairman of the Bennett College board of trustees, made the following statement during a visit here:

"To regret that anything happens to disturb the peace and tranquility of a community in its race relations is understandable, but once an issue has been joined or faced up to, there should be no turning back until the issue has been successfully resolved.

### 'Protest Inevitable'

"This protest against discrimination on the basis of race' was inevitable. Unless all that is said about democracy and what it stands for is completely without meaning, this organized and orderly protest is a logical outgrowth of the democratic process.

"Segregation on the basis of race, even without tangible inequities, is morally wrong. It hurts all who are a part of it. For it is a needless and cruel affront to the dignity of one race and an encouragement to arrogance and bigotry in the other. Therefore, both races suffer.

"Unfortunately, custom and traditional relationships between the races in the south have been such as to permit the day-to-day impersonal contacts which are necessary for normal existence to be confused with contacts of a personal and social nature which do not occur unless mutually agreeable. The eating in public places by people who are perfect strangers can mean only one thing, and that is that they are both or severally hungry," he said.

"I hope that this issue will be promptly solved in line with the wise suggestions occurring in the Greensboro daily press. The change in relationships called for is a small one, that I feel confident will be accepted by the citizens of Greensboro if a firm position of no discrimination is adopted and enforced.

"If such a decision is not forthcoming, then the quiet, orderly and dignified protest that was so wisely and courageously begun, of course' will be continued and could not be expected to be otherwise. This, in an enlightened community, can happen completely within the framework of law and order.

"I hope that the constructive-minded citizens of Greensboro will offer to the South and the nation the example of wisdom and decency which many over the nation—both Negro and white—are hoping for."