

Rumblings On Sitdown Continue

Local Meeting Is Rumored

Activity yesterday at the lunch counters of the downtown Kress and Woolworth stores was confined largely to underground rumblings.

The lunch counters themselves remained closed.

But reliable sources reported that city officials met yesterday with merchants' representatives to discuss the possibility of reopening the lunch counters, which have been closed since Feb. 6 because of a sitdown protest by Negroes.

It was reported that Mayor George H. Roach, Robert Trosper, executive vice president of the Greensboro Merchants Association, and Clarence L. Harris, manager of the downtown Woolworth store, were among those attending the meeting yesterday.

None of them would confirm reports that they met. None of them denied it, either. They just declined to comment.

Roach Silent

"I have no statement to make at this time," Mayor Roach said.

Trosper said that he had discussed the situation and the possibility of reopening the lunch counters "with a lot of people," but he declined to discuss reports of a meeting yesterday.

Reports were also being circulated yesterday to the effect that both lunch counters will reopen this week.

Students at A&T College voted at a mass meeting on the night of Feb. 6 to call off further demonstrations at the stores for two weeks. Presumably they will continue the sitdown protest if the lunch counters are reopened on a segregated basis on, or before, the Feb. 22 deadline.

No Decision Announced

Harris and H. E. Hogate, manager of Kress store here, were asked yesterday if it is planned to reopen the lunch counters and, if so, when.

Hogate said he did not care to answer the question.

Harris said: "They haven't told me yet." He did not say who "they" are.

Yesterday's meeting—if it did take place—was the first indication that city officials and officials of the stores involved were taking action during the two-week cooling off period.

The lunch counter sitdown began here Feb. 1. Since then it has spread to other cities in this state and to South Carolina and Virginia.