

Big Crowd Dispersed By Police

Unrest Continues At Portsmouth

[Integration leader arrested,
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PORTSMOUTH, Va., Feb. 17 (AP)—Racial tensions triggered by Negro efforts to gain admission to white lunch counters flared again today in demonstrations at a suburban shopping center and a Negro high school.

Police broke up a crowd of more than 500 persons at the Mid-City Shopping Center, scene of violence yesterday, with the arrest of between 25 and 30 youths, both white and Negro.

Shortly after the milling crowd had been dispersed, more police were dispatched to Norcom High School, about a quarter of a mile away, to halt a demonstration by several hundred Negro students during which several bricks were hurled at a police car.

Capt. L. A. Broughton of the Portsmouth Police Department said there were no outbreaks of personal violence in either demonstration. He said the youths arrested were about equally divided between white and Negro.

Gives Estimate

He estimated about 300 Negroes and 200 whites, mostly high school students, gathered at the shopping center shortly after 3 p.m. There were 40 policemen on duty there at the time.

No effort was made to gain access to any of the stores, but insults were hurled during a peaceful parade by Negro demonstrators. The trouble began, police said, when a second march was attempted.

When the crowd refused orders to disperse, police began arresting those who disobeyed. Police said they probably would be charged with disorderly conduct or refusing to abide by police orders.

A search of cars in the area turned up one pistol, two clubs and a length of chain, police said.

The second demonstration at the nearby Negro high school came to an abrupt halt when reinforcements showed up to aid the embattled policeman who was the target of the brick-throwing incident.

No arrests were made at the school.

Counter Closed

The shopping center was the scene of a series of fights yesterday after Negroes tried to obtain service at the lunch counter of Rose's Department Store in the area. The lunch counter was closed today at 2:30 p.m.

Lunch counters at three downtown stores—Woolworth's, Grant's and a Peoples Drug Store—also were closed about 3 p.m. when managers said they were notified in advance Negroes would show up and demand service.

There was a report about 30 Negro students showed up and then left the stores when they saw the lunch counters closed. Police at the scene, however, said they saw no Negro demonstration at all.

Three Negro boys were arrested in connection with yesterday's incidents.