

# Richmond Is Scene Of Negro Protests

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 20. (AP)—Roaming bands of Negro students, protesting segregated food service, staged sitdown demonstrations throughout the downtown Richmond area today.

Three stores suspended operations, eating facilities were closed in at least four others and two white boys were taken home by police after firing paper clips into crowds.

No violence occurred although bands of white youths—some carrying Confederate flags and wearing Confederate hats—followed the Negroes. Several of the whites, accused of making remarks, were asked to leave some of the stores.

In Norfolk and Portsmouth on Virginia's seacoast Negroes occupied counter space in variety stores. The S. S. Kresge Co. store in Norfolk closed almost immediately, while the demonstration at Portsmouth's F. W. Woolworth store broke up in about half an hour.

No disturbances were reported at either store.

### Picketing Halted

Picketing of the S. H. Kress store in downtown Raleigh, N.C., by Negro students was halted after the store served coffee and doughnuts to whites and Negroes

standing side by side at a lunch counter.

Police broke up a sitdown strike at the white lunch counter of a downtown store in Tallahassee, Fla., taking about a dozen of the demonstrators to the police station for booking when they refused to leave the counter. A group of whites who had gathered cheered as the police, headed by Mayor Hugh Williams, shepherded the Negroes out the door.

The Richmond demonstrations began shortly after stores opened for the day and spread by the middle of the afternoon through three variety stores, a drug store and one of the city's two major department stores.

President Samuel D. Proctor of Virginia Union University said the students from the school who took part were acting as individuals and no disciplinary action was planned unless the students were disorderly.

"We look at this as part of a total protest on the part of Negro people against the whole pattern of segregation," Proctor said. "This is one fragment of the total protest. I suppose we can expect one form of protest or an-

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# Richmond Negroes Protest

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other perpetually until racism is gone.

"The university would not be involved unless the students were disorderly or in some way misrepresenting what we consider to be good decorum."

At Raleigh the lunch counters of the Kress store had been closed since an earlier demonstration. Today the upstairs counter was opened with the stools removed and Negroes and whites were served standing.

A statement was issued by students from Shaw University and St. Augustine College. They were halting the picketing, the statement said, because the students "and other colored people are now being served at the lunch counters of Kress' store indiscriminately."

Store manager D. C. Johnson said "this is no departure from policy. We're doing what we have always done."

By tradition, Negroes are served standing at the lunch counters and then take the food from the building.