

Stricter Laws Of Trespass Approved

[*Raleigh trials postponed,
Page A13.*]

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 25 (AP)—Tougher anti-trespass laws aimed at curbing the recent outbreak of Negro sitdowns in white restaurants and other places of business, went into effect in Virginia today.

Gov. J. Lindsay Almond Jr. signed three bills rushed through the Legislature as Negroes continued picketing a large downtown department store, scene of a recent sitdown. Negro leaders said they intended to expand their picketing activities and had pledges of support from 2,000 members of their race.

The new laws were passed in an atmosphere of extra security at the capitol, where uniformed state police augmented the normal capitol police force in a watch for any Negro demonstration.

Protect Rights

Sen. Fred Bateman of Newport News, who handled the bills for the administration, said the stricter laws weren't designed to imply that the state would seek to enforce segregation in the stores and eating places. Rather, he said, they would protect the rights of the private property owner to conduct his business as he might legally choose. He said the property owner could serve either or both races segregated or integrated as he saw fit.

The new bills provide maximum penalties of a year in jail, a \$1,000 fine or both for trespass, encouraging others to trespass, or conspiring with others to trespass after having been properly forbidden to do so.

At Chattanooga, Tenn., where fire hoses and the threat of police billy clubs were needed to subdue throngs of angry whites and Negroes Wednesday, the police force was bolstered to suppress any further mass racial demonstrations. Civil defense officers and firemen were pressed into service.

Members of Negro picketing groups have concentrated their efforts on Thalheimer's, one of Richmond's largest stores.