

Race Picket In Shelby Beaten

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three white youths grabbed a placard from a Negro picket in Shelby, N.C., Saturday, broke the sign in two and struck the picket several times with the broken staff.

This was North Carolina's only violent incident as Negro student protests against white-only lunch counter service moved into their fourth week with demonstrations in several Carolinas and Virginia cities.

But signs of impending interracial trouble and tests of strength multiplied.

The flareup at Shelby came while Negro students carrying placards picketed both sides of the street on two downtown blocks. Earlier they had visited two drug stores in the area, demanded service at their lunch counters and were refused and asked to leave.

Draws Throng

The picketing by about 50 Negroes, some 20 of them carrying placards, drew a throng of Saturday shoppers to the area.

The Negroes demonstrated peacefully for about 20 minutes, but then large groups of whites, mostly youths, gathered and began heckling, jeering, jostling and shoving the demonstrators.

At an intersection near a large department store not involved in the sitdown, three white youths grabbed a Negro youth, took his sign and struck him several times with it. The youths then kicked the Negro.

Officers nearby quickly broke up the melee but no arrests were made. The demonstrators disappeared from the area shortly afterwards.

Police Called

Police Chief Knox Hardin, who called the situation tense, especially between white and Negro teen-agers, called every available police officer to duty in the downtown area.

The officers had their hands full keeping the crowd moving. No other violence was reported.

The Shelby demonstrations came on the heels of a conference Thursday night in which Negroes met with druggists, members of the City Council and the Shelby Ministerial Association. The druggists were urged to integrate their counters, but refused.

After the meeting, the Negroes

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indicated there would be further demonstrations.

At Henderson, a 2x3½-foot kerosene-soaked cross was burned near Kittrell College, whose Negro students have taken part in lunch counter protests. Police said they could not determine who set the cross afire shortly after midnight.

At Winston-Salem, city leaders pondered a Negro vote to boycott stores operating segregated lunch counters, but no boycott was in evidence Saturday. The vote by 300 Negroes came Friday night at a meeting sponsored by the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People. The meeting was told Negro ministers would speak for the boycott from their pulpits Sunday.

Other Developments

—More than 500 Negro students of Hampton, Va., Institute walked quietly down Queen Street in Hampton. Some carried signs saying: "Khrushchev can eat here but we can't."

—In Richmond, Va., Negroes continued picketing a department

store, Thalheimer's, where store officials had 34 students arrested on trespass charges. The pickets carried signs urging Negroes to buy elsewhere.

—In Charlotte, 300 Negroes picketed in the downtown area for the first Saturday since the protest began Feb. 1 in Greensboro. The Charlotte students previously had said they could make their point without risking incidents in crowded Saturday businesses. Lunch counters were closed after the students appeared with such signs as:

"equality is our right," and "Negroes prepare food, why can't we eat it without."

In Durham, 15 Negro pickets appeared early in the day in front of Kress, Walgreen drug store and Woolworth's stores. They were followed by Negro students and adults who sought service at the lunch counters.

The Walgreen store closed its counter immediately, Kress shortly afterward. Woolworth's closed half of its counter but continued to operate the other half.