Lake Accepts Offer To Discuss Sitdowns

RALEIGH, Feb. 28 (UPI)—Dr. I. Beverly Lake, an outspoken segregationist, accepted an invitation today to take part in a televised panel discussion in New York City on segregation in stores and eating places.

Lake said his remarks on the question posed by a wave of sitdown demonstrations in the South would be in line with a recent statement in a speech he made at Sanford. At that time, Lake said "A merchant is free under law to select the customers he wishes to serve and should be protected in that right."

A former law professor and assistant attorney general for North Carolina, Lake postponed a news conference scheduled for Monday so he could go to New York to film the televised show for NBC. The news conference, now scheduled for Tuesday, was expected to bring Lake's announcement that he will seek the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in the May primary.

In discussing the Negro protests against segregation at lunch counters, Lake took a slap at officials of state colleges for Negroes. Negro college students have been leading the movement.

Lake suggested "if the administrative officers of any institution operated by this state are either unable or unwilling to exercise over its students sufficient control to prevent organized, group invasion of private property by the students, the state should supply the institution with an administration which can and will do so."

White and Negro panelists will debate the Southern lunch counter demonstrations Tuesday on Dave Garroway's "Today" television show, NBC announced Sunday night.

Panel members include Mayor George Herndon of Fayetteville, N. C.; Barion A. Wright, vice president of the Interracial Southern Regional Council, Linville Falls, N. C.; and two Negro students, Lacey Streeter, 24, a junior at North Carolina College for Negroes, Durham, and Betty Johnson, 19, a junior at Virgina Union University, Richmond.

The debate will be heard in the East and South between 8 and 8:30 a.m. on NBC stations.