

## PROTEST IN WINSTON

# Negro Clerics Back Store Boycott Plan

[Lake to discuss sitdowns on TV. A10.]

WINSTON-SALEM, Feb. 28 (AP) —Winston-Salem Negroes moved their protest against segregated lunch counters to their church pulpits today.

Throughout the city Negro ministers urged their flocks to cooperate with the NAACP's request that they boycott stores which have denied them service at white lunch counters.

The Rev. E. S. Hardge, president of the NAACP chapter here, said he and other Negro leaders are using the word protest instead of boycott. "We don't feel we can tell our people to stay away from a store," he said. "We are just explaining the situation to them and letting them make up their own minds. This is a matter for each individual to decide for himself."

The Rev. Mr. Hardge said he felt the boycott, or protest, would be "100 per cent effective." Early reports indicated that ministers of every Negro church in town complied with the NAACP request.

He said he will be more able to gauge the move's effectiveness Tuesday when the Negro Ministers Alliance meets. The meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue. The alliance is an interdenominational group made up of about 35 ministers.

The NAACP, the Rev. Mr. Hardge said, has scheduled another meeting for 7:30 p.m. Friday at Friendship Baptist Church. Members, he said, will be "informed of progress" in the protest.

Meanwhile, ministers in several white churches mentioned the demonstrations in their sermons.

One preached on the topic, "Is Christianity Practical?" He asked what would happen if Christians practiced the Golden Rule in everyday life.

Another compared Negro leaders in the protest movement to Patrick Henry and other patriots of the American Revolution.