

Negroes Set Mass Strike At College

By Associated Press

More than 1,000 Negro students planned to stay away from classes at Alabama State College in Montgomery today in mass protest against expelling nine students for taking part in recent anti-segregation demonstrations.

Tensions rose in Montgomery, birthplace of the Confederacy, and scene of sitdowns and violence on the streets.

A boycott of variety stores loomed in Tampa, Fla., and a Negro minister in Nashville, Tenn., was contemplating an order either to leave Vanderbilt University divinity school or be dropped from its rolls.

The expulsions and a number of arrests indicated authorities are taking a firm stand in the face of the massive sit-in lunch counter demonstrations spreading across the South as part of a Negro drive for equal rights at eating facilities.

Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, president of the pro-integration Montgomery Improvement Assn., told the students last night the expulsion order was "one of the greatest blunders in the history of education in Alabama."

But Gov. John Patterson said the expulsion order was necessary "to prevent bloodshed in this city."

"If we ever bow to the threat of a mob," the governor said, "we are on our way out and they'll get more arrogant every day."

The State Board of Education ordered the nine students expelled effective Friday, last day of the current quarter. Twenty additional students were placed on probation.

In Florida 76 members of a youth council of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People staged two sit-down demonstrations at Tampa. One arrest was reported. The president of the state NAACP said if the demonstrations are not effective a boycott of the stores will be the next thing.

Demonstrations also occurred in St. Petersburg, Sarasota and Daytona Beach. The Negroes were refused service at all the lunch counters visited. In Tallahassee 11 Negroes were scheduled to be arraigned on charges of disturbing the peace in connection with a sitdown demonstration at a variety store lunch counter Feb. 20.

In Nashville, Rev. James Morris Lawson, a 31-year-old Methodist minister, was ordered by Vanderbilt University either to leave its divinity school or be dropped from the rolls. Lawson has been identified as an organizer of sitdown protests.

Sit-in demonstrations mushroomed again at Nashville public lunch counters. More than 50 Negroes were arrested in the Greyhound bus station when they refused to leave the closed lunch counter in the face of a bomb threat. No bomb was found, however.