

Police Arrest 50 Sitdowners

[Twenty-two convicted at Winston-Salem. Front Page.]

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than 50 Negro men and women were arrested in Nashville, Tenn., today when they refused to leave a bus station lunch counter in the face of a bomb threat. No bomb was found, however.

The arrests came during new sitdowns in Florida, Tennessee and South Carolina in protest against segregated eating facilities.

Police said the Negroes took seats at the Greyhound bus station in Nashville and refused to leave when the lunch counter was closed.

Management reported receiving a telephone call that a bomb had been planted in the building. Assistant Fire Chief Russell Campbell promptly took over the public address system and asked all occupants of the building to leave while a search was made.

Not Molested

The Negroes refused to leave and police hauled them to jail. Firemen searched the bus station but did not find any bomb. Waiting passengers returned to the building. Among them were about 40 Negroes who had purchased 35 cent bus tickets to nearby Bellevue. They sat down at the closed lunch counter but were not molested.

In Florida demonstrations by Negro groups occurred at variety store lunch counters again in Tampa and also spread to St. Petersburg and Sarasota. No violence was reported and none of the Negroes received service.

An estimated 250 Negroes took counter seats in half a dozen Nashville variety and drug stores during the day. Managers immediately closed the counters and

stopped serving food.

The demonstrations in Tennessee and South Carolina occurred despite snow, sleet and icy rain in many areas.

Wednesday's sitdown in Nashville came as several more demonstrators were fined \$50 each in City Court for taking part in similar action that brought 81 arrests Saturday.

Through Icy Drizzle

Fifty Negroes trudged through an icy drizzle in Columbia, S.C., and made the first such protest in that state's capital city. The demonstrators, students from two church-supported institutions, appeared briefly at F. W. Woolworth and Kress stores. Similar protests occurred recently in three other South Carolina cities.

The South Carolina Legislature received five new bills aimed at outlawing lunch counter demonstrations.

In Montgomery, Ala., the courthouse restaurant was reopened to employes only and their guests. Negroes who have been trying to break the color barrier there made no new efforts.

In another phase of the drive for civil rights, a campaign to register Negroes for voting got under way in Somerville, Tenn. But only about 200 showed up at the courthouse in the west Tennessee town, although a Negro

attorney earlier had said 1,000 Negroes would present themselves for registering.

A separate line had about 70 white residents intent on registering.

Sheriff David Myers and eight deputies stood by to keep order. The Fayette County registrar said 350 Negroes already had been registered in the county and any others appearing would be enrolled.

Twenty-two persons were convicted in Winston-Salem, N.C., growing out of lunch counter demonstrations. They include 10 white students at Wake Forest College, nine Negro students at Winston-Salem Teachers College and three other Negroes.

In Nashville five more demonstrators were fined \$50 for their failure to leave variety stores.