

Racial Strife Flares In Charleston And New Orleans

By Associated Press

Negro sitdown demonstrations appeared to be diminishing in the South today in the face of mass convictions and firm police action but new racial violence was reported in two cities.

Negro students at Florida A&M University called off their sitdowns protesting segregated eating facilities at Tallahassee. Montgomery, Ala., was quiet and there was one small demonstration in South Carolina.

Courts in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina handed down a series of convictions yesterday in connection with sitdown troubles. Both Negroes and white persons were involved.

At Charleston, S.C., Grady

McMakin, a 24-year-old white service station attendant, told police six Negro youths carved crude "KKK" initials in his back, beat him up and robbed him of \$40.

The incident recalled a somewhat similar occurrence in Houston, Tex., March 7. The victim in that case was a Negro, who said he was mutilated by four white youths.

In New Orleans, Michael Tortorich, 17, told police a Negro teenager stabbed him in the back Sunday night as he waited for a bus. Tortorich's condition was described as fair.

The decision to halt demonstrations at Tallahassee was announced by Ira C. Robinson, president of the Student Government Assn. at Florida A&M

University. He said agreement was reached after Saturday's near riot in downtown Tallahassee and the turning back of a Negro march by tear gas.

At Petersburg, Va., hundreds of Negroes sang hymns outside the courthouse while 11 members of their race were convicted of trespassing at the city's public library March 7. All were released on bond.

Two Negro college students were convicted of trespassing in Raleigh, N.C. They were among 43 students arrested during February demonstrations.

Two white men were given 18-month suspended sentences

in Greensboro, N.C. They were convicted of assaulting a Negro student by holding a lighted piece of paper near him during a sit-in at a downtown variety store Feb. 5.

At Columbia, S.C., two Negro college students were arrested after they took seats at a white drug store lunch counter and unsuccessfully sought service. The brief demonstration was the first in the city in more than a week.

In New York 500 Hunter College students staged a rally on their Bronx campus protesting treatment of Negro students in the South.