

Negro Sitdowners Are Taken To Jail In S. C., Georgia

(From Daily News Wire Reports)

Negroes staged mass protests against discrimination in two deep South cities today and were carted off to jail by the hundreds. Tear gas and fire hoses were turned on about 1,000 demonstrators, mostly Negro college students, when they converged in downtown Orangeburg, S. C., to protest segregation at store lunch counters.

In Atlanta, simultaneous sitdowns were staged in nearly a dozen eating places at bus and railroad stations, city hall, courthouse, the state capitol and several other cafeterias. At least 79 were arrested. There was no violence in either city.

At Orangeburg more than 350 Negroes were arrested as police used tear gas and fire hoses to put down a massive demonstration against segregation at store lunch counters.

An estimated 1,000 Negroes, most of them college students, took part in the demonstration, one of four in South Carolina during the day. Seventy Negro students were arrested in Rock Hill, 90 miles north of Orangeburg.

Officers turned the tear gas and fire hoses on the demonstrators at Orangeburg after groups of 100 or more young Negro men and women converged on the downtown section.

Those arrested were charged with breach of the peace, carrying a maximum \$100 fine or 30 days in jail. They were taken to the county courthouse.

Reach Agreement

After attorneys for the demonstrators had conferred with state officials an agreement was reached about 8 p. m. to release the entire group on surety bonds of \$10 each.

The plan at first had been to try them immediately in small groups.

"It will probably take all night," Magistrate D. Marchant Culler said before the surety bond agreement was reached.

After the initial arrests, another marching demonstration by an estimated 80 Negro youths was broken up at the court house.

They had gathered on the sidewalk in front of the jail and had carried bags of grapefruit, apples, doughnuts and other food for their friends inside the jail.

County police advised the group to return to their Claflin College campus. The Negroes continued to march but disbanded as officers gathered to make additional arrests.

Except for the tear gas and fire hoses brought into play by officers, there was no violence. Officers at the scene said there were no fights and very little heckling by white spectators.

Tactics Attacked

The mass arrests brought from a state official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) a charge that police are using "strong-arm, fascist-like tactics."

He said the arrests, and any resulting convictions, would be appealed "to federal agencies."

The spokesman, the Rev. H. P. Sharper, a Florence Baptist minister and president of the state NAACP conference, said that because of the "strong-arm, fascist-like tactics of peace officers... we conclude that appeal to fed-

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Sitdowners Carted Off To Jail

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eral agencies is our last resort."

In Atlanta 79 Negro students were arrested by fast-acting state and city police when they made a concerted effort to integrate 10 Atlanta cafeterias and lunch counters, including one at the Georgia Capitol.

The Atlanta incidents, obviously well-coordinated, marked the first large-scale sitdown attempt in Georgia and were met with firm but notably cautious action by police.

Gov. Ernest Vandiver personally ordered from a sick bed the arrests of six students who tried to integrate the state capitol cafeteria. He issued a statement charging that "these mass violations of state law and private property rights definitely are subversive in character."

Gives Warning

Vandiver warned that "if local law enforcement fails for any reason the state will provide such forces as are needed to protect the people, their property and to preserve order."

The students were arrested under a law passed hastily by the recent session of the 1960 Georgia General Assembly. The law makes it a misdemeanor for persons to refuse to leave a private establishment after being ordered to do so by the manager or owners.

Five young Negroes were arrested at a Columbia, S.C., bus station and five others at a pharmacy near the campus of two Negro colleges. At Sumter, 45 miles east of Columbia, about 30 Negroes marched to the courthouse yard and sang "America" but there were no arrests.

At Rock Hill, S.C., seventy Negro students from Friendship junior college were arrested after they picketed City Hall in protests against segregated seating at store lunch counters.

Sixty-five were charged with breach of the peace, five for trespassing. All were jailed in lieu of \$100 bonds. Plans are to bring the cases to trial Wednesday.

Mayor John A. Hardin ordered the arrests, saying "In view of the present racial unrest in the South, and in the interest of the citizens of our community, we cannot tolerate demonstrations of this type which jeopardize the general public safety."

The Rev. C. A. Ivory, a Negro minister and the NAACP leader in Rock Hill, said after the arrests:

"This was anticipated, expected and hoped for. The machinery was already set up for this situation."

He said the Negro students would have lawyers when brought to trial. Whether bonds would be furnished the students depends on what the students want, he said. "After all, that's a lot of money," he added.

About 40 of the students gathered in front of city hall shortly after noon. They sang patriotic songs and carried placards decrying segregation.

Officers started arresting the students after they refused orders to disperse. The officers first began arresting male students, but also took girls into custody when the girls and boys began pairing up on the placards.

Six Convicted

At Richmond, Va., six more Negroes were convicted and fined \$20 each on trespassing charges growing out of a lunch counter protest in a department store last month. The Negroes said they would appeal.

In North Carolina about a dozen well-dressed Negroes of high school age tried unsuccessfully to be served at S. H. Kress, New Bern's largest variety store. They sat for a few minutes at the lunch counter and then left quietly when they were denied service. Police were sent to the store but there were no disturbances.