

# Can't Be Isolated

There is great danger that the so-called passive resistance of Negro lunch counter demonstrators will lead to active violence. And the danger is steadily mounting as the demonstrations spread over the South, with their sympathetic offshoots in other parts of the country.

With a few exceptions, the demonstrations have been met with nothing more salutary than police action. Some 500 Negroes were arrested Tuesday in mass crackdowns, notably in Orangeburg, S.C., and Atlanta. This was the busiest day for law enforcement agencies since the movement against segregated eating facilities began several weeks ago.

Police action has failed to stop, or even slow, the lunch counter movement. In fact, the agitation is spreading almost daily, and there is seemingly no inclination of Negro leadership to relent in its protests against segregated lunch counters. In Atlanta, the demonstrations, described as the largest simultaneous sit-ins yet staged in the South, involved even cafeterias in the Georgia capitol, county courthouse and two building housing federal offices. The protests con-

tinue despite police and court action against demonstrators.

This cannot continue indefinitely without somebody getting hurt, if not killed. As a matter of fact, there have been instances of bodily injury, mostly minor. Quick police action has undoubtedly prevented other and more serious outbreaks of violence. As the demonstrations spread and feelings are heightened, law enforcement officers will find it increasingly difficult to keep things from getting out of hand.

Greensboro, where the lunch counter movement began, is still in a state of suspense as the committee named by Mayor George H. Roach solicits and weighs community sentiment on the subject. The appointment of the committee implied a serious purpose and intent to face up to a complex and vexatious issue. It certainly carried no inference of official or civic belief that the problem would go away if it were ignored.

While those of us who live in the South are more immediately involved in the situation than anyone else, we can hardly ignore the far-reaching implications of what we do about the situation. Whether we like it or not, the fact is that the South has become a showcase of race relations. We cannot isolate our problem or problems from the mainstream of human affairs in which the currents of minority unrest are moving mightily—and ominously.