

Sitdowns Take New Twists

Southern Authorities Brace For Further Racial Demonstrations

By Associated Press

Authorities braced for further anti-segregation demonstrations today as the sitdowns developed several new twists.

The governor of one state charged a broadcasting company with planning a sit-in, a charge which was promptly denied by company officials and Negroes.

For the first time, Negroes were served coffee in the Houston, Tex., City Hall coffee shop, and in Atlanta, ministers called for weekend prayers to promote better understanding in the racial crisis.

More protests against segregated eating places in the South have occurred on Saturdays than on any other day in the week, a

fact apparently noted by leaders in several states.

The Florida Board of Control yesterday put white Florida State University and Negro Florida A. & M. University at Tallahassee on notice to maintain law and order.

The board did not spell out what steps the universities should take. Students from both have participated in recent sitdowns and some Florida legislators have demanded they be expelled.

At Montgomery, Ala., the State Board of Education ordered the president of Alabama State College to put on probation 31 Negro students recently convicted of disorderly conduct charges. The motion was offered by Gov. John Patterson, ex-officio chairman of the board. Nine campus

leaders were expelled March 2 for their part in an earlier demonstration.

Gov. Buford Ellington of Tennessee charged at Nashville that yesterday's sit-in demonstrations by Negro students were "instigated and planned by, and staged for the convenience of the Columbia Broadcasting System."

Four Negro college students—three men and a woman—were arrested for failing to move on when a drug store lunch counter closed. The first demonstration in Nashville since early this month was staged after a meeting at a Negro church filmed by CBS news cameramen.

In New York, John Lynch, director of the public affairs department of CBS news, said in a statement, "the public affairs

department of CBS news categorically denies any attempt to influence the demonstration in any way whatsoever."

Rev. James Lawson Jr., who was dismissed from Vanderbilt University for his part in earlier demonstrations, said, "we could not and did not have any arrangement with CBS."

Fifty-eight Negroes held a prayer meeting on the steps of the courthouse at Concord, N.C., and then paraded through the city carrying signs with such slogans as "I am an American, too." They acted two hours after seven students were arrested for trespassing at a lunch counter.

Six Negroes and six white persons picketed Rich's Department Store in downtown Atlanta protesting racial segregation. No af-

rests were made. The pickets identified themselves as members of a newly formed chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Seven college-age white students and about 30 Negroes picketed the Houston, Tex., city hall in a similar protest. Later, however, several Negroes were served coffee in the City Hall Coffee Shop for the first time.

A Negro college student acknowledged at Columbia, S.C., he wanted to provoke arrest when he asked for service at a white lunch counter March 14. Two Negro girls who took part in a sitdown at a Memphis, Tenn., public library last week were fired as food servers at a hospital.

Explosions believed to have

been caused by fireworks were set off on the front porches of two Negro homes near Petersburg, Va., scene of recent sit-down demonstrations. No one was injured.

A group of State University of Iowa students planned to picket variety stores in Iowa City today in sympathy with Negro citizens in the South. But at Las Vegas, Nev., sit-in demonstrations scheduled tonight by the NAACP were cancelled after a conference with the mayor.

At Middletown, Conn., Victor L. Butterfield, president of Wesleyan University, said he will welcome admission applications from qualified Negro students expelled from southern colleges as a result of lunch counter demonstrations.