

Sitdown Spotlight Moves To Mississippi Today

By Associated Press

Mississippi's new anti-sitdown law will be given its first test today near Starkville when seven Arkansas Negroes appear in court for entering a white rest room at a gas station and seeking service at an adjoining cafe.

Trial is scheduled at the town of Osborn before a justice of the peace on a warrant charging trespassing on unauthorized property and signed by the cafe operator, Mrs. D. W. Watson.

The arrest of the seven was the first under the new law. Sheriff Tom Cook said the Negroes, who gave Little Rock addresses, were stopped by highway patrolmen Wednesday a few miles from the gas station, taken to the Starkville jail and later released under \$200 bond each.

The sheriff said they were among 18 or 20 Negroes en route to Tuskegee, Ala., in three cars.

The Mississippi law was passed by the Legislature recently in an effort to block any sitdown demonstrations in the state. Conviction carries a maximum of six months in jail and \$500 in fines.

In North Carolina, Negro

students demonstrating against segregated lunch counters in the South won their first major court victory at Raleigh Friday.

Judge Jack W. Hooks dismissed trespass charges against 43 Negro students on the basis of a 14-year-old U.S. Supreme Court ruling that a sidewalk—even on private property—is open to the public.

The students were charged with trespassing on the privately owned sidewalks of Raleigh's Cameron Village Shopping Center.

But the judge told the students that "even though the sidewalk is dedicated to public use, it is not dedicated to public abuse. The law protects people in their property and it is going to continue to do so."

"You are setting up a situation that is dangerous and the whole world is holding its breath," he said. "In my opinion your movement is not a student movement . . . you are only taking directions. . . ."

In another legal development at Raleigh, Hooks issued suspended sentences for two Negro students convicted of trespassing at a white lunch counter in a downtown variety store.

Attorneys said they would appeal to the State Supreme Court and to the U. S. Supreme Court if necessary.

The U. S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals at Philadelphia took under advisement a request to order immediate desegregation of all 12 public school grades in the state of Delaware.

In making the request, Atty. Louis L. Gedding of Wilmington attacked as discriminatory and unconstitutional Delaware's grade-a-year integration plan which started last year with federal court approval.

At Richmond, Va., the U. S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals took under advisement an appeal by 18 Negro pupils seeking assignments to predominantly white schools in Norfolk.

At Orangeburg, S. C., 50 more Negroes were convicted of breach of the peace in connection with last month's mass anti-segregation demonstration. The action brought to 211 the number convicted to date of 388 arrested.

Four young Negroes set up a picket line in front of a Richmond, Va., drugstore after they were refused service at a booth inside.