

# Walls Of Jericho

Editor of the Daily News:

The basic issues involving the legality of the lunch counter controversy shoot up out of the roots of morality. A law when stripped of all its frills and phrases is simply a crystalized moral concept legalized by a legislative act and enforced through judicial procedures depending upon the moral level of a particular society or community. That is why laws vary in states and communities on the same problems.

The two schools of thought regarding the paramount issue of racial segregation in public eating establishments in Greensboro are predicated upon a moral philosophy. The traditional school of thought contends that any private business offering its good and services to the general public reserves the moral and legal right to serve whom it wills. This the owners claim is an inherent right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, regardless of who owns such a business.

Contrary to this traditional concept, there is a rapidly growing school of thought that entertains the strong conviction that any private business offering its goods and services to the public forfeits its right to discriminate or exclude part of that public because of race, religion, social or economic status. Such discrimination, this school contends, reflects upon the dignity, worth and rights of any individual as an American citizen.

Stores where Negroes are permitted to purchase goods but not permitted to sit down for service at the lunch counter or table are obviously the most vulnerable for attack by the rank and file of Negroes throughout the South and our own fair city of Greensboro no exception.

But in my opinion, the basic morality involves the whole system of racial segregation by any private business catering to the public. Racial segregation is so deep-rooted in our societal life, particularly here in the South, that negotiation offers little hope in resolving the problem.

I feel confident that most of the stores would have accepted the Mayor's Advisory Committee's suggestion and desegregated their eating facilities but honestly feared that the prevailing moral concept of the Greensboro community would strongly oppose such action in terms of economic retaliation.

Since these stores accepted what may be termed the lesser evil, Negroes have no other alternative but to continue their protest and to retaliate by peaceful means. Towards this end the Negro is geared mentally and

spiritually to accept all eventualities including insults and arrests.

Since many cases will eventually reach the U. S. Supreme Court, my hope is that the collective moral concept of that august body will strike down racial discrimination for all times. Until that happy day, Negroes will continue to beat against the walls of racial prejudice, with a firm conviction that one day not too far in the future it too will tumble down like the walls of Jericho.

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