

# Lunch Areas Integrated By Six Nashville Stores

By Associated Press

Six Nashville stores have begun serving Negroes at previously all-white lunch counters on a partially-integrated basis.

Small groups of Negroes sat without incident at the six counters Tuesday under a previously secret agreement to serve them during slack periods. Others planned a second test of the plan today.

Officials of the six Nashville stores said they reached an agreement with white and Negro civic leaders to serve Negro customers at the previously all white counters during slack periods. The agreement was not announced in advance.

All six stores had closed their counters at various times in recent months during sit-in demonstrations which resulted in the arrest of nearly 150 Negroes.

A spokesman for the merchants expressed relief there had been no incidents but said it would be some time before the switchover to integrated seating could be called a success.

As part of the agreement, Negroes ended a boycott of downtown stores which store officials

said had not been effective. They said the agreement was made to bring an end to the threat of violence which had caused many customers to shift their business to suburban shopping centers.

A demonstration by about 200 Negroes in Winston-Salem, N. C., resulted in two arrests. But a temporary truce was arranged by City Manager John D. Gold who agreed to call a meeting of store managers and Negro protest leaders.

Lunch counters in three Winston-Salem stores and one in Durham, N.C., were closed when the demonstrators crowded in demanding service.

Conviction of Dr. Richard Nesmith of MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Ill., who ate lunch with Negroes in Montgomery, Ala., may have set the stage for a test of a new city law enacted to deal with racial incidents.

Nesmith was fined \$100 and costs on a charge of disorderly conduct. His wife and 10 white students were acquitted. All were charged under a new city ordinance which makes disorderly conduct any act "calculated to provoke a breach of peace."

The separate trial of seven Negroes and another white student who ate with the Illinois party, is still in progress in another court.

In still another court, Kenneth McMillan, 19, was fined \$200 and costs for disorderly conduct and refusal to obey an officer. He was one of 32 Negroes arrested during an anti-segregation demonstration at Alabama State College.

In Monroe, N.C., Robert F. Williams, National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People leader, was sentenced to 30 days in jail or a \$10 fine and probation for one year. He was convicted on a trespass charge that stemmed from a drugstore sit-down protest in which he was the only one arrested.

A group of Tallahassee, Fla., Negro ministers called on the city commission to assist them "achieve equal rights for every citizen."

A group of white and Negro students marched out of the meeting when directed by police officers to sit in segregated seats. Some members of the group were Florida A and M. and Florida State University students convicted last week on charges growing out of a lunch counter demonstration March 12.