

# Woolworth Policy Is Same

WATERTOWN, N.Y., May 18 (AP)—F. W. Woolworth stores will continue to refuse to serve Negroes at lunch counters in the South, the company president said today, despite sitdowns, pickets and boycotts.

Robert C. Kirkwood, company president, told stockholders at the annual meeting that Woolworth stores would continue a policy of adhering to "local customs established by local people for the conduct of business in their community.

Kirkwood issued a statement after Barbara Broxton, a 20-year-old Negro coed, promised that boycotting and sitdowns would continue unless Woolworth and similar stores opened their lunch counters to all races.

"We Negroes are tired of taking a backseat on discrimination," she declared. Miss Broxton, a student at Florida A&M College, recently completed a 48-day jail sentence for trespassing when arrested at a Woolworth lunch counter in Tallahassee, Fla.

Miss Broxton and 21 other persons picketed the meeting.

Kirkwood painted a bright picture of Woolworth financial operations, pointed out that 86 per cent of Woolworth's eating facilities were integrated, and said the company could continue to go along with Southern customs.

"Dealing as we are with the deep-rooted convictions of the people in the South," Kirkwood declared, "It is hardly realistic to support that any company is influential enough to suddenly change its thinking on this subject."