

UNANIMOUS RECOMMENDATION

Lunch-Counter Mixing Is Voted In Winston

(Compiled from Daily News Wire Reports)

WINSTON-SALEM, May 23
Variety store merchants in this tobacco city voted today to integrate lunch counters "in the near future."

The action came at an afternoon meeting of Mayor Marshall Kurfees' "Good Will Committee." The committee issued this statement:

"At a meeting of the mayor's committee with merchants it was unanimously recommended that the lunch counters be desegregated. The merchants agreed with this recommendation and with the committee are working on a plan to put this into effect in the near future."

Mayor Kurfees said, "I have no statement to add to the com-

mittee's. This is a delicate situation . . . and we all are trying to work things out amicably and without fanfare . . . undue publicity and such. Everything we know now is in the committee statement."

Herman A. Warren, manager of the F. W. Woolworth Co. store at Fourth and Liberty Streets, said tonight he had asked to be retired rather than desegregate his lunch counters.

He said he had telephoned his decision to C. M. Purdy of Atlanta, Ga., manager of the company's Atlanta district, and requested that his retirement papers be "put in proper order."

Warren, 58, has been with the company for 37 years. For 21

years, he has managed the Winston-Salem store where Negroes have staged demonstrations against separate eating facilities.

"Before I will desegregate my lunch counters, and subject my many thousands of customers and friends to something they do not want I will retire from the company," he said.

Warren said the company's policy until recently was to leave the operation of its various stores to the local managers, who could make decisions in the light of local conditions.

"I have enjoyed my association with F. W. Woolworth Co. for these many years," he said. "My

(Continued on Page 12, Col. 4)

Merchants Vote

(Continued from Page One)

working relations with the company have always been enjoyable and satisfactory."

However, Warren added, "if my choice lies between desegregating against the wishes of my customers and retiring from the

company's employ, then I must choose to retire."

H. B. Thompson, assistant manager of the company's Atlanta district in charge of luncheonette operations at the store, appeared before the mayor's goodwill committee at a meeting today.

Thompson committed the three Woolworth company stores here to an agreement that desegregation of lunch counters would be effected "in the near future."

Warren said he told Thompson before the committee meeting that he could not, (in good conscience go along with segregation. He said he telephoned Purdy of his feelings then.