

Two Stores Integrate Counters

Equal Service Starts Quietly

[Counters Integrated At Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va. A7.]

Integration began here yesterday at two lunch counters where sit-down demonstrations by Negroes first began six months ago.

Both the S. H. Kress and Woolworth stores began serving Negroes at approximately 2 p.m.

Only a few Negroes appeared at the lunch counters. The integration began quietly and without incident.

Through 4 p.m., only nine Negroes had asked for service at the Woolworth store. Although no figures on the number of Negroes at the Kress lunch counter were available, it appeared about the same number asked for service there.

The sitdown movement which began in Greensboro on Feb. 1 later spread throughout the South.

The Democratic Party inserted a plank in its national platform approving of the sitdown movement.

Reports from Chicago where the Republican Party is holding its national convention said the Republican Party would also approve of the movement, but in milder terms than the Democratic Party.

The decision to integrate the local lunch counters came after conferences between store managers and the Greensboro Citizens Association, a group of Negro business and professional leaders.

Greensboro Third

By integrating the lunch counters, Greensboro became the third North Carolina city to serve Negroes on an equal basis with whites in some stores. The other two are Winston-Salem and Charlotte.

Integration of the lunch counters here came less than three weeks before the trial of 45 Negro college students and two white girls from Bennett College on trespass charges.

The 45 students were arrested on April 22 as a result of the demonstrations.

Statements Issued

The managers of the two stores issued a statement shortly after integration of the counters began yesterday.

W. F. Turner, manager of the Kress store, said:

"I'm working in cooperation with the Mayor's Advisory Committee."

C. L. Harris, manager of Woolworth's, said:

"The Mayor's Advisory Committee has recommended that stores selling merchandise and dispensing food serve all customers. We have agreed to abide by this recommendation."

They were referring to a committee which failed to negotiate an agreement between the stores and the Negro students following a month of arbitrating between the stores and the students.

Turner said the Mayor's Advisory Committee promised "no pictures taken."

Police officials said they had not received any word as to whether other variety stores would integrate lunch counters.

Meyer's Department Store here also was picketed for weeks after the demonstrations began.

Woolworth and Kress closed their stores on Feb. 6 after a number of whites went to the stores to heckle the demonstrators and a riot was threatened.

Negro students agreed to a "cooling off" period, and negotiation between the Mayor's Advisory Committee and the stores involved.

The lunch counters reopened shortly after that on a segregated basis. But when the Mayor's Committee and the stores failed to reach agreement, the demonstrations and picketing resumed.

The stores closed their counters again for a brief period. It was after they reopened that the 45 students were arrested on trespassing charges.

A few detectives from the Greensboro Police Department were on hand as the stores opened up their lunch counters to Negroes yesterday.

Dr. Hobart Jarrett, president of the Greensboro Citizens Association, said after the lunch counters were integrated yesterday:

"We are pleased to have had the opportunity to work co-operatively with the mayor's committee and the operators on this matter which is significant to our city. We appreciate the good manner in which the agreement was reached."