

STUDENT PROTEST MOVEMENT (Continued)
Events of April 1 - April 21, 1960

A. In Locations Where Demonstrations Occurred Before April

Galveston (Tex.). Lunch counters in most downtown stores desegregated April 5. As in San Antonio, conferences which led to new policy initiated by church and civic leaders.

Greensboro (N.C.). Mayor's committee reported April 1 that its recommended settlement rejected by merchants; later, some Negro student leaders denied they had agreed to plan. Proposal was that those stores catering to all customers integrate about two-thirds of their lunch facilities, reserving rest for whites. Merchants' position was (and, presumably, is) that same "rules" should apply to their facilities as to restaurants. Greensboro Daily News commented editorially: "Why have the variety stores rejected this moderate change? They say they do not want to be singled out from any other establishments which sell food. Yet their policy of catering to mixed clientele already sets them apart from establishments which serve food only. Their vulnerability to change lies in the policy of serving to all at nine counters but denying service at the tenth." Sit-ins were resumed and the Woolworth counter - where the movement began February 1 - was closed again April 5. Kress remains open.

Nashville (Tenn.). Here also Mayor's committee had its recommendations rejected. Committee had proposed 90 day trial of plan whereby every store catering to Negro customers would integrate a portion of one of its eating facilities; committee also recommended that, if plan acceptable to all, prosecution of 150-odd persons arrested during the demonstrations be dropped. Negro students on April 9 rejected proposal which, they said, "involves the same stigma;" opinion of merchants seemed equally unfavorable. On April 19, home of Z. A. Looby, Negro member of City Council, largely destroyed by bomb, which also damaged adjacent buildings. Over 2000 people marched that day to City Hall, where written denunciation of Mayor's performance was read to him; he vigorously defended himself. When asked if he would recommend desegregated counters to merchants, he replied, "yes."

High Point, (N.C.). Mayor's committee recommended 60 day trial of desegregated service rejected by merchants. In McClellan's variety store, stools removed on April 4 and desegregated service offered.

Richmond (Va.). Four drug stores in predominantly Negro section near downtown desegregated April 7. Also, Baltimore's two leading department stores desegregated all eating facilities on March 29 and April 16. And in Las Vegas (Nev.), the ban was dropped on Negro guests at hotels and casinos.

Sit-ins for the first time occurred in Charleston (S.C.), on April 1 at variety store.

A South-wide group of student leaders met in Raleigh (N.C.) the week-end of April 16 with the Rev. M. L. King, Jr. and other officials of Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Fighting occurred in Nashville, Raleigh, and Savannah (Ga.).

Attempts at boycott were under way in a number of places not mentioned in April 1st report: included were Montgomery (Ala.); Little Rock (Ark.); Tallahassee (Fla.); Atlanta (Ga.); Jackson (Miss.); Charlotte and Greensboro (N.C.); Chattanooga, Memphis, and Nashville (Tenn.); Marshall (Tex.); Hampton, Petersburg, and Richmond (Va.). In at least two cities (Little Rock and Savannah), there was strong opposition within the Negro community to boycotting, and in several places (e.g. Jackson and Marshall) there was talk of undefined retaliatory boycotts by whites. How effective the boycotts were and are is disputed. According to the Savannah Press (April 14), the boycott in Savannah has taken a "heavy toll." In Pine Bluff (Ark.), NAACP announced on April 2 results of a nine hour check at three stores, two of which are being boycotted: 34 Negro customers in Woolworth's, 72 in Newberry's, and 2085 in Kress' which is not being boycotted because it has no lunch counter. CORE officials in New York sought support for nation-wide boycott of Woolworth.

Picketing has occurred in additional cities: Little Rock; Baton Rouge, and New Orleans (La.); Chapel Hill (N.C.); Chattanooga; Marshall; and Lynchburg (Va.). In a few places (e.g. Greensboro and Norfolk), white segregationist pickets appeared.

Public prayer meetings, rallies, etc. reported for first time in Baton Rouge, Oklahoma City, Chattanooga, Nashville; Houston (Tex.); and Petersburg (Va.).

Tennessee's state Board of Education notified all state colleges that students involved in public disorders must be expelled; the Alabama state Board ordered a weeding out of all faculty members of Alabama State College not "loyal" to the state, and noted that it had reason to suspect eleven. Montgomery revoked liquor license of Negro restaurant which had served touring Northern college group. In Little Rock, four students, two of whom had been earlier arrested after sit-in demonstrations, attended a white church on Easter Sunday. Picketing in New Orleans protested employment discrimination, not seating arrangements. On April 19, the Miami City Commission promised to survey business opinion and report findings within 30 days. Kentucky has established by law a state advisory commission on human relations. Governor Edmondson of Oklahoma undertook organization of a state-wide committee to advise on racial relations; in Virginia a legislative resolution to create a study commission died in Committee.

B. In New Locations

- March 22 - Oak Ridge (Tenn.): newspaper ad, listing grievances.
April 2 - Danville (Va.): sit-in at public library.
April 2 - Frankfort (Ky.): sit-ins at about 20 stores; served at
three
April 5 - Pensacola (Fla.): sit-in at variety store.
April 9 - Augusta (Ga.): sit-in at bus terminal by Negro soldier
from nearby Fort Gordon; arrested.
April 17 - Biloxi (Miss.): physician and party swam at public
beach, and physician arrested for disorderly conduct. Negroes
had earlier petitioned for use of beach.