

"What Fools We Mortals Be"

North Carolina is fast approaching a major tizzy over stand-up and sit-down lunches in the five-and-dime stores.

The issue, of course, is serious. But isn't it also a trifle ludicrous?

If some Man from Mars came winging down and observed the human race inflamed because certain customers in dime stores could get food sitting down and others could get it only standing up, he would think we were stark loony. North Carolina has too much common sense to get hot and bothered about such foolishness.

Just consider, for a moment, what fools we mortals be!

Until all the current hurrah dies down, why don't the variety stores simply serve

everybody standing up and then gradually provide five- or 10-minute sitting down periods, if somebody gets tired? Or why not put removable rope between certain sections, with a little curtain on it, to start things off, and later, when all customers find they really aren't harmed, quietly remove it?

The sad truth about all this turmoil is apparent: It could have been avoided. If the management had welcomed the handful (only three or four) on the first day and given them double portions of everything, they would have departed happy. Their friends might have come, but not *en masse*. And how can anybody make a *cause celebre*, when nobody pays attention, including the newspapers, TV and radio?

We honestly don't think the five-and-dime stores would have the slightest trouble feeding all who want to be fed, if somebody in the beginning had used a little gumption.