

Seawell Answers ACLU

RALEIGH, Feb. 11 (UPI) — Atty. Gen. Malcolm Seawell said tonight he did not "take cautions nor threats nor dictations from the American Civil Liberties Union" which cautioned him against taking legal action in a "sit-down" strike by Negroes against segregated lunch facilities.

The ACLU told Seawell in a telegram "the statement attributed to you in the press may be taken as a threat to prosecute the students for their legitimate assertion that under the 14th amendment, as American citizens, they are entitled to equal treatment."

The telegram quoted Seawell as saying the owner of a private business has the right to sell or refuse to sell customers and that this right has been recognized by the North Carolina State Supreme Court."

Seawell termed the ACLU "outside intermeddlers in something that is none of their business. I stand by what I have said and if the American Civil Liberties Union doesn't like it, they can lump it. What I do in public office is none of their business."

The ACLU called the demonstrations by Negroes in eight North Carolina cities "an exercise of the first amendment of the right of free speech."

Seawell said "there is no free speech connected. No one has stopped anyone from talking."