

Sit-In Protests Are Assailed By Governor

Hodges Cites Threat To Order; Says 'Objectives' Not Helped

BY GUY MUNGER

Greensboro Daily News Raleigh Bureau

RALEIGH, March 10—Gov. Hodges said today he had no sympathy for lunch-counter demonstrators "who deliberately engage in activities which any reasonable person can see will result in a breakdown of law and order."

Hodges commented on the "sit-ins" by Negro students seeking service at previously all-white lunch counters during his weekly news conference. Reading

a prepared statement, the governor said, "As I have previously stated, I do not think these demonstrations do any good, or in the final analysis will even serve to accomplish the objectives of the demonstrators."

Hodges said North Carolina had been "fortunate . . . in avoiding some of the extreme incidents which have occurred in other states."

He then added: "In this connection, and speaking solely for my concern for law and order, I want to make it clear that I have no sympathy whatsoever for any group of people who deliberately engage in activities which any reasonable person can see will result in a breakdown of law and order, as well as interference with the normal and proper operation of a private business."

Exempts Peaceful Acts

In answer to a question by a reporter, Hodges said he was not referring to Negroes who engage in peaceful protests or simply enter a store, but rather to those who "cause disorder or refuse to obey an order to leave either by the owner or a police officer."

(Hodges is joint owner with U.S. Sen. B. Everett Jordan of a Howard Johnson restaurant between Durham and Chapel Hill at which one of the demonstrations occurred.)

(A group of Negroes entered the restaurant and sought service. They left when threatened with arrest for trespassing. A "no trespassing" sign had been posted in the eating place.)

(The governor's private secretary, Harold Makepeace, is one of the operators of the restaurant.)

Hodges also told reporters he had called the attention of heads of all state-operated colleges and universities to a statement on the lunch counter demonstrations by Gordon W. Blackwell, chancellor of Woman's College in Greensboro.

Blackwell made his comments in a talk to WC students on Feb. 9 after several students had taken part in the Greensboro "sit-ins".

The governor directed special

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Hodges Rips Sit-Down Protests

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attention to these paragraphs from Blackwell's talk:

... Your responsibility as students of Woman's College goes beyond personal considerations. Your class jacket is a symbol of the college. On and off the campus you represent this institution. Your actions bring credit or discredit to the college. You are not living in a social vacuum unencumbered by duties and responsibilities. The results of your actions may affect many others in a kind of chain reaction as has been painfully demonstrated last week.

"There is no blinking the fact that participation in this demonstration by several of our students, no matter how high their motives, definitely resulted in increasing the inflammatory quality of the situation . . .

"I strongly urge each of you to weigh carefully the probable consequences to yourself, to the college and to the community of any action that you may contemplate. More specifically, I advise each of you to refrain from any public demonstration in connection with the issue now before the community or any similar issue which may arise in the future. It is only in an atmosphere free from pressure and emotionalism that a fair and just solution may be found."

Copies Sent Out

Hodges said he had sent copies of Blackwell's letter to other college officials because the chancellor "had expressed, from the point of view of the college administrator, the fundamental concerns which college students should carefully take into account."

Hodges also noted that former Attorney General Malcolm Seawell, now a candidate for governor, had said that college heads have the duty of acting somewhat as parents toward the students under their care.

Hodges brushed aside criticism of the increased use of the State Highway Patrol to put down racial and labor disturbances and handle other non-traffic duties.

The governor called it "a nor-