

Judge Condemns Woolworth Lack Of Race Policy

WINSTON-SALEM, May 20 (AP)—Municipal Judge Leroy W. Sams criticized managers of variety stores here Thursday for failure to establish a policy on whether they'll serve Negroes along with whites at lunch counters.

The judge injected his criticism into his hearing of charges of assault — which were dismissed — against the assistant manager of the F. W. Woolworth store.

Herman Warren, Woolworth manager, called to the stand, told Judge Sams he did not know what policy his store would follow. "I take orders from Atlanta," he explained. But he added that he gave the order that assistant manager Bill Oren Speer close the store last Tuesday during an anti-segregation demonstration.

Judge Sams commented, "Until the managers of these stores make up their minds what they want to do, this is going to continue. This isn't accomplishing anything, it isn't resolving anything."

A mayor's committee studying the situation has set next Monday as the day it will make recommendations.

At Watertown, N.Y., on Wednesday, Woolworth Co. President Robert C. Kirkwood told a stockholders' meeting the company will continue to refuse seated lunch counter service to Negroes in the South, in accordance with local custom.

Speer was charged with assault because he allegedly pushed Asha Ralason, Winston-Salem Teachers College student, in closing the store door. Speer said that, on the contrary, he told her and another girl standing in the door they must either come in or go out, and that he held the door to keep it from slamming against them.