Students Picket Woolworth's Protest Discrimination in South

by David Villaromero

The fight to stop discriminatory practices at the lunch counters of the South is being waged primarily by students. The battle, which is waged by nonviolent, usually spontaneous demonstrations, has attracted worldwide attention. A hundred and fifty students from the Boston area, almost all of them white, joined in this crusade last Saturday. These students picketed six local branches of Woolworth's, a chain whose southern stores maintain policies against whites and Negroes sitting together as they eat. They were organized under the auspices of the Committee On Racial Equality, which bases its attack on Southern discrimination on Ghandi-like passive, non-violent demonstrations. The students in the demonstrations came from Brandeis, Harvard, BU, and MIT. Many of the students were not happy with the CORE methods. As one demonstrator said: "We were only to have three pickets. The signs had such powerful slogans — "We urge Woolworth's to Change", "End Eating Segregation". We weren't to talk. Only a member of CORE could speak to anyone, and there are only 11 such in the area so we could only have one or two at each picketing. I know a lot of other students want to do something more powerful." Sunday there was a meeting of such students at Brandeis, where most of the students-who demonstrated come from. At the meeting it was decided that each of the schools should organize their own committee, who could decide their course of action. Among the suggested changes from the CORE procedure would be to have pickets out in strength and have them urge people not to buy as long as Woolworth's fostered discrimination.

The present plans for the formation of such a committee at MIT exist for an open meeting Tuesday night, probably in Baker Lounge.

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