

Mayor Keeps Post; Picketing Continues

Last-minute negotiations with local Negro leaders who sought to end mass demonstrations against segregation at the Ambassador Theater caused Mayor W. G. Enloe to change his mind Tuesday about resigning.

The protests by Negro college students continued Tuesday night, but the mayor said their conduct was "entirely satisfactory."

Some 200 young Negroes gathered near the theater around 7 p.m., but half an hour later the number had dwindled to around 75. The students formed lines which began some 50 feet away from the theater's ticket office. They marched in pairs from the head of the lines to the ticket window, only to be denied admission.

Half a dozen pickets carrying signs paraded in front of the theater.

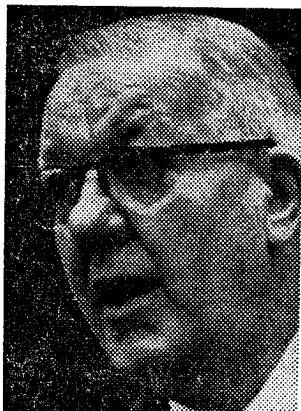
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"Their conduct was far less objectionable," Mayor Enloe said. He noted that the students no longer were blocking the theater's entrance and weren't hindering other patrons entering the theater. There were around 100 people watching the movie inside.

Enloe also observed that the signs carried by the pickets no longer carried references to him or his connection with the theater.

Ten young Negroes also resumed picketing at the State Theater.

At a called meeting of the Council early Tuesday morning, Mayor Enloe said he had decided to stay on as mayor, pending ne-



MAYOR W. G. ENLOE
... Changes mind.

gotiations between a local Negro minister and Negro student leaders at Shaw University and St. Augustine's College.

Enloe had walked into the Council chamber carrying a prepared statement of resignation.

Talked With Minister.

Enloe said the Rev. Oscar McCloud, pastor of the Davie Street Presbyterian Church, "is reasonably certain that the activities that have been going on at the Ambassador Theater will be eliminated." He said the minister planned to talk with student demonstrators at Shaw shortly after the Council session.

The Rev. Mr. McCloud later declined to comment on what decision the students had reached.

He also refused to say whether he had met with the students.

Charles A. Earle, president of the student council at Shaw and one of the leaders in the theater demonstrations, also refused to discuss the students' picketing plans.

Mayor Enloe said last night he had not received any report from the Rev. Mr. McCloud as to whether he had met with the Negro students.

At the emotion-charged Council meeting, Enloe thanked Negro Councilman John Winters "for the effort he has made in the last few hours in contacting the people who were responsible" for the demonstrations.

Enloe talked to the Rev. Mr. McCloud by phone minutes before he walked into the Council room. He said he told the minister he didn't object to "lawful picketing" but "did object to, and would have to fight with every legal means, the conditions that have existed at the Ambassador Theater for the past several days."

Blocked Box Office.

He said the Negro youths had repeatedly acted to "block my box office, block my entrance doors, and prohibit any person—any white person—from entering the theater." The demonstrations were becoming "so objectionable I was going to have to take action," Enloe stated.

Enloe said his purpose in plan-

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ning to resign was "only to avoid embarrassing this City which I love very much. . . Bill Enloe could do things concerning his business that would be of local interest only, but Mayor Bill Enloe would make front page headlines Statewide, if not nationwide."

Thoughts of stepping down were "heartbreaking to me," Enloe said. But, he said, he had no choice in view of the "vicious methods they (the demonstrators) have used to bring about the cause for which they are fighting."

Demonstrations began last week with quiet picketing by a few Negro students. However, the pickets grew in numbers, and daily arrests were made when the demonstrators blocked the box office or went inside.

On Sunday, around 200 Negroes formed double lines to the theater box office and tried to buy tickets, forcing white patrons to buy their tickets at a table near the entrance door. The crowd swelled to about 400 by Monday night.

One demonstrator said the activities were focussed on the Ambassador because of Enloe's connections with the theater.

Enloe has stated several times that the Varsity Theater near State College, one in his chain that was integrated a year ago, has suffered a considerable business loss since then. He also has stated that downtown theaters cannot be integrated until the public is ready to accept it.

Enloe has been a Councilman for 10 years and mayor for the past six years, and is not seeking reelection in the May 7 Council election. His current term expires June 30. Should he resign, the Council would name an interim mayor to take his place.