

Whether Weather Or Marchers—

It's Slow Biz

By JONATHAN FRIENDLY.

Anti-segregation demonstrations in downtown Raleigh may be hurting business, some Fayetteville Street merchants said Monday.

Almost all merchants contacted in a survey said that business has not been good during the past three weeks, but many attributed the slump to the unseasonably cool weather that the City has been experiencing.

The demonstrations "haven't been helpful" to business, commented Karl Hudson of Hudson-Belk. He said, however, business "has not been bad."

Hudson said that normally sales here are compared with sales at stores in other large North Carolina cities, but that this would not provide a good measure now since other cities are also experiencing similar demonstrations.

Business Not Good.

E. J. Ellisberg of Ellisberg's clothing store noted "business has not been good downtown for the last three weeks." He said he did not know whether this was due to the demonstrations, the weather or "the stock market."

N. T. O'Brien, assistant manager of the S&W Cafeteria, said

business there is "ahead of last year," but noted that it could be better. He said the situation could not be attributed to the demonstrations. "I couldn't pin it down to any one thing."

"I can't detect any difference" in business at the Sir Walter Coffee House, said Hotel Manager Arthur Buddenhagen. Noting that several Negroes had been arrested for trespass at the restaurant, he commented, "When it got out of hand, it may have deterred some timid souls."

M. E. Hawkins of Ivey - Taylor Co. said, "It must have had some effect." He said sales are "slightly ahead of last year," but he thought they could be better.

At Walgreen's drug store, Assistant Manager L. D. Morse noted that the demonstrations "slowed it down at night." He said that sales during the day are about normal.

"It hasn't helped," stated M. B. Thomas of Efird's, but noted that any decline in business could not be attributed definitely to the demonstrations.

Weather Blamed.

But if the demonstrations have had an effect on downtown business, it has not been one of driving customers to Cameron Village stores, according to merchants there.

Carl Reichenbach of Penney's said "business is off due to the weather." The demonstrations downtown "definitely haven't helped me."

"They're not making any difference to us," said E. C. Webb of Sears. He said sales are running "about the same as last year" except for the sales of hot weather items.