

# Should Demonstrations Be Supervised?

(From The Carolinian)

Somehow, it seems that many cities of North Carolina and other states in the South, where sit-ins, boycotting, picketing are taking place, are in responsible positions, but they are letting their slips show. We are concerned with the handling of sit-ins and picketing at theatres, restaurants and other public facilities.

We admit that many cities have handled the problem in a legal way, but we are not sure that they have handled the demonstrations in a mature way.

We cannot see how mass arrests is a mature way of handling the situation. Governors in some of our other states have proved beyond a shadow of doubt that it does not take much brain power to do this. The situation in Birmingham also points out that this method of approaching the situation often backfires and instills hate on both sides of the fence.

We take this opportunity to suggest a solution which is at least a start toward the mature way of handling it.

Would it be so sinful for the CORE and NAACP leaders to notify the police in advance of a proposed rally? The police department could then assign special officers to help organize the demonstration on the scene. Perhaps the organizations could even pay for the service by the police department, as we do when they perform duties at athletic games. In their organization of the situation, the officers and demonstration leaders could line everyone participating up along the curb in such a manner that neither pedestrian nor motor vehicle traffic would be obstructed.

Finally, we would like to add: Students partici-

pating in the demonstrations should withdraw from school the semester, quarter, or trimester in which they are demonstrating. Too often students miss too much time out of class in jails and in trial courts. One thing is certain, a person cannot demonstrate and go to school at the same time. One or the other will suffer.

Certain by now towns and cities should realize that jailing participants by the hundreds and thousands does not solve the problem, for when one group is put in jail other groups will follow.

In addition to enforcement of the law, administrative and police officials of various municipalities should consider the employment of some practical psychology.

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