RIGHTS PROTEST IS HALTED BY GAS

3d Integration Attempt Fails at Arkansas Capitol

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 19 (UPI)—About 25 Negro and white demonstrators were routed from the Capitol basement by an irritating gas and club-swinging state policemen today in a third unsuccessful attempt to integrate the statehouse cafeteria.

Witnesses said the demonstrators had apparently been hit by the gas as they walked down the steps to the basement and again soon after the state police began ejecting them.

It was not clear who had thrown the gas. The state police said they had not thrown it. At least 15 to 20 troopers

At least 15 to 20 troopers began shoving the demonstrators away from the entrance to the private cafeteria, as they had done in the past. But this time, instead of retreating, the demonstrators locked arms and tried to resist.

A spokesman for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee said that eight demonstrators, six of them Negroes, had been taken to a hospital for treatment. Three appeared to have been seriously affected by the gas, it was said. However, the hospital said none had been admitted after treatment.

A half-dozen policemen were also treated at a hospital for after-effects of the gas. A spokesman said the gas was oil of mustard.

What was left of the demonstrators remained about an hour at the south portico of the Capitol while the police gathered inside the cafeteria. Then the demonstrators left.

Capt. R. E. Brown of the state police said that his men had not had any gas with them.

Several state employes said they had seen a white man throw the gas but they were not sure who he was.

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