STUDENTS PROTEST OUTSIDE CAPITOL

Negroes From Tuskegee Are Joined by White Clerics for Peaceful Parade

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MONTGOMERY, Ala., Thursday, March 11—Nearly 1,000 Negro students from Tuskegee Institute and a handful of white ministers staged a peaceful sitdown yesterday in the street in front of Alabama's Capitol.

They were protesting the action taken by state troopers last Sunday in breaking up a civil rights demonstration in Selma.

About 125 of the protesters

About 125 of the protesters were still seated on the macadam pavement when the one-day parade permit expired at midnight. They sang and chanted civil rights songs.

Police Chief Marvin Stanley said they could stay as long as they wished. He said earlier that police protection might be withdrawn at midnight.

Their demonstration apparently was planned simply as a march from the First Baptist Church (Colored) — Montgomery also has a First Baptist Church (White) — to the Capitol and back to the church. Negro leaders obtained a parade permit for the march from the Montgomery City Commission yesterday morning.

2 Blocks Long

Elaborate plans of the city police department to protect the marchers were put into effect. More than 130 of Montgomery's 180 uniformed policemen were in the Capitol Hill area by 1 P. M. when the march began, six blocks away.

The line of marchers, two abreast, was more than two blocks long. The marchers bore placards saying "Is Washington Dead?" and "Get Rid of Wallace."

The city police showed restraint in dealing with the demonstrators.

Last night, when a policeman' refused to permit a young Negro marcher, who had left the scene, to rejoin the group, the youth angrily wrestled with the officer, knocking him to the ground.

The young demonstrator was not arrested, however, until he had disregarded repeated warnings to "leave the area," and the charge placed against him was one of disorderly conduct, rather than the more serious charge of resisting an officer.

At 9 P.M., after eight hours of alternately standing and sitting on the street, the remaining marchers suddenly grew

ting on the street, the remaining marchers suddenly grew silent. A whispered message was passed and, to the surprise of onlookers, the demonstrators rose in a body and urinated.

The demonstrators did not

sit down again. The police arrested two youths for disorderly conduct but released them later without placing formal charges.

The police had told the demonstrators that anyone who left the area for any reason would not be allowed to return.

At least two agents of the

Federal Bureau of Investigation were among the more than 100 city and state lawmen and mounted sheriff's possemen still milling around the Capitol plaza as midnight approached.

Among the leaders of the march and sitdown was James

Foreman, director of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Confusion and dissension on both sides precipitated the sitdown on the Dexter Avenue Plaza of the Capitol, at the foot of the steps where Jefferson

Davis was sworn in as President of the Confederacy.

There was unconcealed bitterness between city authorities on the one hand and, on the other, Gov. George C. Wallace and his state police chief, Col. Al Lingo of the Alabama Highway Patrol, over the city authorities' decision to "wait them out" and refrain from foreign the dem-

refrain from forcing the demonstrators off the street.

Governor Cites Permit

As the demonstration wore on into the afternoon, Governor Wallace called a news conference in his office for the sole purpose of emphasizing the fact

that "it was the city that gave them a permit."

Colonel Lingo, pacing up and down an area set aside for newsmen in front of the Public Safety Department building, publicly denounced the marchers

as Communists.

There were shouts of "baboon" and "go home, Sambo" from white onlookers, all of

Whites not employed in the Capitol or the state office buildings were kept a block away from the demonstrators by the city police.

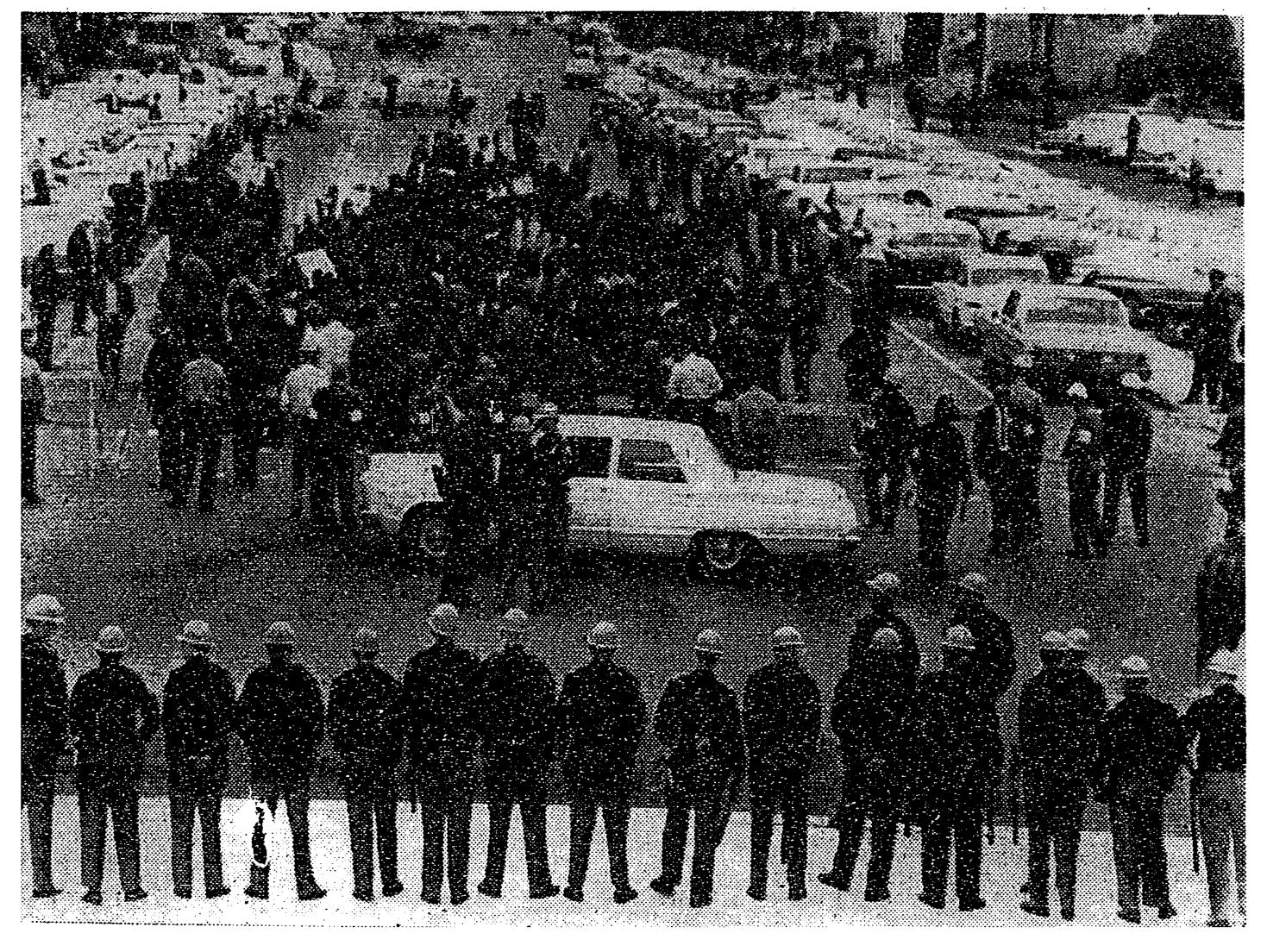
city police.

The sitdown began tentatively at first. Shortly after the marchers reached the foot of the Capitol steps—with 20 city policemen, 20 mounted Montgomery County sheriff's possemen and 80 highway patrolmen between them and the brass doors of the gleaming white rotunda—they were denied permission to send a petition to

The petition asked the Governor to take action to guarantee the right to vote to Negroes in Selma and elsewhere

D. H. Lackey, the soft-spoken assistant chief of the Montgomery Police Department, explained at the barricade to George Ware and George Davis, the student leaders of the march, that their parade permit did not authorize him to allow them on state property. "I would let you in," the police official said, "but Colonel Lingo

will not."
The two student leaders then sought to walk the 40 feet to the cordoned-off press area. As they moved, however, state



SITDOWN DEMONSTRATION: Civil rights demonstrators sitting in the street in front of Alabama State Capital in Montgomery yesterday. They were refused permission to present a grievance petition to Gov. George C. Wallace.

troopers lunged forward, directing them to "stay back."

A few minutes later, Lieut.

A few minutes later, Lieut. Bud Gordon of the state highway patrol, a special investigator for Colonel Lingo, confronted the two students as they talked to a reporter a block away. He threatened to arrest the newsmen and placed both Negro students in custody for "failing to obey an order."

Mr. Ware is a 24-year-old graduate student in chemistry from Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. Davis, 23, is a junior from Boston. They described themselves as co-chairmen of the Tuskegee Institute Advancement Laegue, a student protest group.

While Lieutenant Gordon was shoving the students into a police cruiser, Chief Lackey intervened on their behalf. He explained that he had authorized their meeting with the reporter. Colonel Lingo ordered Lieutenant Gordon to "let them

Half an hour later, when Chief Lackey finally arranged an interview with newsmen for the students, they said that it had been the Governor's refusal to receive their petition and, later, the denial of access to reporters that had trigggered the sitdown.

A spokesman in the Governor's office, barely 100 yards from the demonstration, said Mr. Wallace was "just sitting there cleaning his nails."