

2/1/1964

WHY WE PROTEST

WE ARE PICKETING TODAY not only in commemoration of the 4th Anniversary of the sit-in movement but also because the city of Atlanta must realize that there are people in this city, both black and white, who are not and will not be satisfied with segregation.

THE CURRENT SIT-IN MOVEMENT began four years ago today in Greensboro, North Carolina when four Negro college students sat down for their rights at a segregated dime store lunch counter.

THEIR ACTION TRIGGERED PROTESTS across the South and the Nation, and began the nonviolent struggle of black and white Americans to bring democracy to this country.

SINCE FEBRUARY 1, 1960, hundreds of lunch counters in hundreds of cities have integrated; jobs for Negroes have been won; school integration has come to every state.

IN ATLANTA, THE COMMITTEE ON APPEAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS has won many gains for Negroes through direct action protests, negotiations, and the courts.

BUT AS IMPORTANT AS THE LISTING OF lunch counters integrated and jobs filled is the involvement of thousands of people, young and old, in the nonviolent movement.

YOUNG WORKERS FROM THE Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the group that grew out of the leadership of the early sit-ins, have carried the message of protest and hope to the millions of disenfranchised and depressed Negroes of the South.

ON THIS DAY WE REAFFIRM OUR BELIEF in the dignity of man and the right to peacefully assemble and to petition for a redress of grievances, and state that in 1964, WE SHALL OVERCOME.

JOHN LEWIS  
CHAIRMAN,  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE

LARRY FOX  
CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON APPEAL  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS