

*then file in case
Challenger*

BILOXI --- HOLLAND THEATER DEMONSTRATION AND ARRESTS

Members of the NAACP Youth Council in Biloxi began picketing the Holland Theater, on Main St., on Saturday morning, April 4. The theater is white owned, but Negro trade only. The demonstrators ~~presented~~ were asking for better facilities in the theater. They had been insisting for a month that the theater meet all building code regulations in the city.

The picketers carried signs saying "Don't Go To The Theater", "Freedom", "Better Facilities". They planned to picket all day Saturday, Sunday, and Monday every week. The picket line continued successfully all day Saturday and Sunday.

However, at 6:15 pm on Sunday three police cars drove up and fifteen picketers were placed under arrest. All but two of those arrested were minors. They were let out the same evening to their parents. Two other picketers had to post bond of \$100 apiece on a charge of loitering.

Trials were held Monday, April 6. The two who were out on bond were convicted and fined \$25 each. They were James Block, President of the Youth Council, and Clement Jimmerson. The 13 minors have been turned over to Javenile Court and will have to go to Gulf Port at an indeterminate date for their trials.

The theater closed on Sunday when the students were arrested. Only around 7 people had crossed the picket line that day. The theater did not open on Monday and signs displaying the feature were not put out. It was uncertain how long the theater would stay closed or whether the picketers would resume demonstrations.

The complete list of those arrested is:

James Block
Clement Jimmerson
Rabin Brown
Jerry Block
Ernest Johnson
Ellen McGowan
Evon Ford
Edna Baine
Gloria South
Patsy Turner
Lynne Davis
James Jacobs
Ludrich McNar
Henry Turner
Mary Brown