

## PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS TESTING

On Friday, February 26th., local Negro citizens tested the Civil Rights Law. In the morning, a group of five Negro ladies went to Jones Drug Store and Wardell's restaurant in Canton. Three ladies went into Jones Drug Store which has a lunch counter and tables where one may eat. Just before they went in, a white COFO worker went into the Drug Store, sat down at one of the tables and was served immediately. When the Negro women walked into the store, all the chairs at the tables had been removed except two. The waitress asked them what they wanted and they all said they wanted malts. She told them that she could serve them to go, but they could not eat them there. Just before she took their order she quickly removed the last two remaining chairs from the tables and put them behind the counter. When the ladies asked her why they couldn't eat the malts there, the waitress replied, "Because I'm just not going to serve you. Look down at the sign at the counter, don't you see it?" (pointing to a penciled sign which said "closed") The ladies said they saw the sign and walked out of the Drug Store. They then went to Wardell's Restaurant (all five of them) but they only walked in and sat there for about 2 minutes. They saw a man go to the back of the restaurant and pick up what they think was a telephone book. This made them nervous, so they got right up and left the restaurant.

That afternoon eight younger people tested Wardell's restaurant and the public library. The library was locked up when they got there at approximately 4:15 p.m. They then went up to Wardell's restaurant. Immediately preceding them was two white COFO workers who walked in and sat down in the restaurant. The Negro group came into the Restaurant and sat down at two tables. After about 2 or 3 minutes, the manager of the restaurant came over to each of the tables and told them very politely that he could not serve them. When they asked why he replied that it was not because of color or creed but because of the good of his business. He then came over to where the two white COFO workers were sitting and told them that they had better go too. When they asked why, he replied that he reserved the right to serve whom he pleased. When asked if he was Mr. Wardell he answered that he was. The Negro group and the COFO workers all got up ~~and~~ and left the restaurant. There were quite a few white people standing around the streets. A group of five students went into another place, called the Salty Sandwich Shop. (This place has a divided room one side for white and one side for "colored".) As the Negro students walked into this place the woman working there ran out of the shop and went over to talk to a policeman. Finally as the students just stood on the white side, a white man came in and told them that they would have to go over to the colored side to be served. When they asked why, the man replied that the woman just didn't want them in her place. They then left the shop.

There is more testing to be done in Madison county. As of yet ~~no~~ suits have not been filed against any of these places. We have been advised by attorneys to wait until we finish testing all of the places that we want to test so that one suit may be brought against all of these places.