

500 Are Arrested in Negro Protest at Birmingham

By Foster Hailey Special to the New York Times

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Young Marchers Cheered by Elders in Biggest Series of Demonstrations in City

By FOSTER HAILEY

Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 2
—Hundreds of young Negroes, many of them in their teens or even younger, demonstrated through the streets of Birmingham this afternoon.

By an unofficial count, about 500 of them were arrested after hours of demonstrations against the city's racial segregation practices.

At one time, demonstrations by groups of from 10 to 50 boys and girls were going on simultaneously at four different places several blocks apart.

The police confined most of the demonstrations to the Negro business, church and residential district west of City Hall and north of the main downtown business area.

But one group of 20 youths penetrated almost to the steps of City Hall, the main goal of the demonstrators, before being stopped. Three other groups reached the downtown shopping corners.

Offer No Resistance

There was no resistance to arrest by the laughing, singing groups of youngsters, although some of the smaller participants dropped their signs and ran when the police approached. Most of the marchers fell to

their knees and prayed as the police stopped them.

Half a dozen fire engines were deployed at strategic corners after the first hour of demonstrations. Hoses were strung at one point, but the water was not turned on. The city's squad of police dogs was not used.

Every available police vehicle was pressed into service to haul the young demonstrators to jail or juvenile court. When even those, and some Jefferson County sheriff's cars, proved inadequate, school buses were used by the police.

Cheered by Their Elders

One little girl who said she was 6 years old was seen being placed in a police wagon with other demonstrators. What happened to her was not known. The jail receives only prisoners 18 or older; younger prisoners are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which does not disclose its proceedings.

It was by far the largest series of demonstrations staged in Birmingham since a direct action campaign was begun here a month ago. The arrests made today will probably exceed the total for the four previous weeks.

It was strictly a youth movement today. Elder Negroes stood on the sidelines and cheered.

"Sing, children, sing," called one elderly Negro woman as she followed one group up Sixth

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Negro Girls Define 'Freedom' From Cell in Birmingham Jail

By Philip Benjamin Special to the New York Times

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By PHILIP BENJAMIN Special to The New York Times
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Negro Girls Define 'Freedom' From Cell in Birmingham Jail

By PHILIP BENJAMIN

Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 8 — Anita Woods said today: "My mother told me I had to serve my time."

Anita is a 12-year-old Negro girl, one of the thousand or more juveniles arrested here on Monday for rioting against racial segregation.

She is at the Jefferson County Detention Home, along with about 110 other girls, none older than 13.

Anita spoke with a reporter in a locked room she shares with 20 other Negro girls, all arrested for parading without a permit, a violation of Section 1159 of the General City Code.

The room was hot and steamy; downstairs, the main corridor and offices of the detention home were coolly air-conditioned.

"Do you want to go home?" the girls were asked.

"Yes!" they chorused.

"But I'd do it again," Anita Woods said. "I'll keep on marching till I get freedom."

"What is freedom?" a reporter asked.

"It's equal rights," another girl shouted. "I want to go to any school and any store downtown and sit in the movies." She giggled. "And sit around in a cafeteria."

They were asked why their

parents had not come to get them, since, in a change of policy, Juvenile Court Judge Talbot Ellis had decided to permit parents to call for their children in exchange for signing an appearance bond, instead of the \$500 cash bond that was previously required.

It was then that Anita Woods announced what her mother had told her.

Dale G. Oltman, the chief probation officer of the juvenile court, a soft-spoken former Nebraskan, said the detention home normally accommodated 62 youngsters. With the present population of 110 or so, it was like having guests drop in unexpectedly, he said. The home is doing its best to feed and bed the children, he said, "but of course, it's not like home."

Some of the inmates slept in blankets on the floor, he said.

The youngest person arrested in the riots was a 7-year-old girl. She was picked up by her parents yesterday.

Boys between 13 and 18 were being held in the Jefferson County Jail and the Bessemer Jail. Girls from 13 to 18 were in the 4-H Club building at the State Fairgrounds. There were 594 girls there just after the arrests Monday. Only 200 were there today. Girls arrested last Monday outnumbered boys by almost two to one.