

# Seven Downtown Restaurants To Re-Open Thursday Morning

Downtown Bloomington restaurants, closed this week in protest of a campaign to force them to serve Negroes, are to be re-opened for business beginning on Thursday of this week, serving customers of all colors.

This was the decision reached by the operators of the closed restaurants during a meeting held Tuesday afternoon. The decision was a general decision to which there may or may not be exceptions.

In reaching their decision to re-open, the restaurant operators expressed a strong desire for the public to be informed as follows:

1—State law makes it flatly compulsory for a public restaurant to serve food to all races.

2—The reasons the restaurants have been closed are (A) The operators of these restaurants desired to demonstrate emphatically to the public that they did

not wish, as a matter of policy, to be a party to any civil violence that might result from attempts to force them to serve colored patrons; (B) The operators wished to demonstrate their opposition to any campaign aimed at questioning their right to operate their places of business (in which they have invested large sums and on which they pay heavy taxes) as they see fit.

3—The restaurant operators recognize, and appreciate, that Bloomington's colored townspeople have not participated in the controversy which, the rest-

(Continued on Page Two)

# Seven Downtown

(Continued from Page One)

restaurant operators declared, originated on the Indiana University campus.

There were numerous statements made by the various operators of the closed restaurants during Tuesday afternoon's meeting but practically all of the statements were merely different wording for the foregoing points.

There was concern expressed by the restaurant operators over the attitude of their regular customers toward the ending of the policy of catering to white trade only. There was anxiety expressed that these regular customers might stop eating out and take their meals in their homes or might, in cases, resort to violence. It was decided, however, that these were chances they would simply have to take. The restaurant operators pointed out that they are determined to obey the law but they were utterly frank in stating that they do not like the law which forces them to serve all comers.

There were indications during the meeting that colored customers in a number of local restaurants may find themselves "uncomfortable."

A number of the restaurant operators, however, subscribed to a belief that a great deal of indifference will be manifest by their regular customers when it comes to the matter of colored customers being served. These operators believe their regular customers will not care a great deal—either one way or another.