**Excerpt 2**

**Paul Laprad Fisk University**

*First sign of possible violence came on February 20, a Saturday, with school out and the white teenagers downtown. Some of them jeered at the demonstrators. At Walgreens, the fifth store to be covered, a boy got into a violent argument with a white coed from Fisk. Police were present during all of these sit-ins, but did not make arrests or attempt to interfere with the demonstrators. Between February 20 and 27, however, a merchants’ committee called upon Mayor Ben West to halt the sit- ins. He said city attorneys had advised him that anyone has the right to sit at a lunch counter and request service. However, he expressed the viewpoint that it is a violation of law to remain at a lunch counter after it has been closed to the public. This set the stage for February 27, again a Saturday. Every available man on the police force had been ordered in to the downtown area at the time of the demonstration. I was with the student group which went to Woolworth's. Curiously, no police were inside the store when white· teenagers and others stood in the aisles insulting us, blowing smoke in our faces, grinding out cigarette butts on our backs and, finally, pulling us off our stools and beating us. Those of us pulled off our seats tried to regain them as soon as possible. But none of us attempted to fight back in any way. Failing to disrupt the sit-in, the white teenagers filed out. Two or three minutes later, the police entered and told us we were under arrest. To date, none of the whites who attacked us have been arrested, although Police Chief D. E. Hosse has ordered an investigation to find out why. As might be expected, even the jail cells in Nashville are segregated. Two other white students and I were isolated from the others in a fairly large room, but we managed to join in the singing which came from the horribly crowded cells where the Negro students were confined. There were 81 of us, in all, arrested that day.*

**Sit-Ins: the Students Report**

**CORE Pamphlet, May 1960**