

200 Manual Students Walk Out Of School For Protest March

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Close to 200 Manual High School students walked out of school this morning in an unauthorized civil rights demonstration against the Peoria Board of Education.

They left the school, mostly on foot, but some in cars, and paraded to Carver Community Center where they held a rally which was closed to the press.

After meeting for half an hour many of the students — there were also some non-students, according to police — regrouped and marched to Wondruff High School and then back to the South Side.

Trouble occurred in front of Manual at the Griswold entrance when a youth who did not want to be photographed slammed a \$700 movie camera from the hands of WIRL-TV photographer Bruce Sullivan. The lens was smashed when it hit the sidewalk. Sullivan walked away after picking it up and the youth said nothing further.

A pane of glass in one of the front doors at Wondruff was broken by the crush of the demonstrators, but Principal L. P. McDonald said it looked

to him like it was an accident.

The students left Manual about 9:15 a.m. during a class change. One of them had a sign with the word "Commandoes" written across the top. After chanting and singing for five minutes they formed up and went down Lincoln avenue, turned at Western, at Smith and then Blaine to reach Roosevelt Junior High School.

At the junior high school the singing and chanting brought about 50 more students out to join the parade. None joined at Wondruff.

AT "ROOSEVELT" the marchers formed a large circle, joined hands and sang freedom songs and "Jim Crow must go."

All the marchers were Negroes and just prior to the walk-out at Manual several cars containing Negroes were seen parked in front of the school.

Along with the marchers were Mrs. John Gwynn, wife of the

1205 State 11-4-67 PM
president of the local chapter of the NAACP and several other Negro women. Gwynn himself was not present.

Mrs. Gwynn refused to talk to reporters. One of the youths, who would not identify himself, said the march was organized by the Youth Council of the NAACP.

Public Safety Director Bernard Kennedy sent a message to the marchers that they are subject to arrest for not having obtained permission to demonstrate. A new state law requires such permission for any demonstration or march on public property.

Kennedy's message was relayed to Mrs. Gwynn by Det. Sgt. John Timmes, a Negro policeman. He told Mrs. Gwynn that Kennedy had pointed out that "leaders" of the demonstration are subject to arrest and a maximum fine of \$1,000 and a year in the penitentiary.

Continued on Page D-8

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