

# Schools Free Of Demonstrators; Protests Suspended For Week

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY REFERENCE DEPT.

Peo. J-Star 11-15-67 PM

There were no demonstrations today for the first time in more than a week in support of Negro protests against the test integration program planned by the Peoria School Board.

All but 20 of the 120 students suspended after they walked out of Manual High School Thursday were re-admitted to classes today. Three were denied admission and the others didn't report.

Absenteeism was down at Manual today from 460 students to 241. This is considered just slightly more than normal.

Twelve schools with the heaviest Negro enrollments in the city which had a total of 3,600 absences on Monday and 2,600 on Tuesday had only 1,000 today. Most of them reported normal absenteeism, according to the school system.

Unlike the last two mornings, when police and demonstrators clashed outside the school, there were no incidents this morning.

JOHN GWYNN, president of the local NAACP, announced last night that all demonstrations, including night marches, will be suspended for the rest of this week.

Gwynn also canceled last night's march, which would have been the ninth consecutive march to the school administration building.

The reason given by Gwynn for cancellation of the marches and demonstrations was his absence from the city until next week.

Gwynn's absence also caused cancellation of a meeting between School Board members and representatives of the NAACP which had been tentatively arranged for tonight.

**THE MEETING** had been arranged by "The Magnificent Gentlemen," a Negro group, and was to have been moderated by Mayor Robert Lehnhausen.

Gwynn is to be in Washington, D.C., to participate in a conference called by the U. S. Civil Rights Commission. He is one of hundreds invited to appear at a three-day meeting on educational opportunities.

Espey C. Williamson, president of the School Board, said last night that he had agreed to the meeting, and at least half of the other board members had been contacted and also agreed to meet if the meeting were appropriately arranged and preferably at the school administration building.

ver Center last night, Gwynn read a letter he had received from Mayor Lehnhausen. The letter was an answer to the NAACP Youth Council's protest yesterday against indiscriminate use of a disabling gas by police at Manual High School Monday and yesterday.

**IN HIS LETTER** the mayor said that the police department is charged with the responsibility of maintaining peace in the city, and must exercise wise judgment in the fulfillment of this duty.

"It is not the policy of the Peoria Police Department to use any weapon of police work indiscriminately. They will only use the degree of force required to maintain the peace of this city," the letter ended.

It made no direct reference to the use of the spray.

A couple of fights broke out between Negro youths in the Carver Center area last night while they were waiting to begin the march that later was canceled.

**PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**GWYNN CAME** out of the building and broke up one fight,

**REFERENCE DEPT.**

**WILLIAMSON**

## Urged To Meet NAACP

The Bradley University Chapter of the Assn. of American University Professors is urging School Board President Espey Williamson or the entire board to meet with NAACP representatives to discuss the present school situation.

A resolution to this effect was passed at last night's AAUP meeting and conveyed in a letter to Williamson today.

and herded by-standers inside the building.

A brief scuffle started between occupants of a car parked outside the center, and it was broken up by a Center supervisor.

One youth appeared with a golf club, but when Danny Beard, president of the NAACP Youth Council asked why he had it the youth left without answering.

Beard, a junior at Spalding Institute, said last night that he is in agreement with the demonstrations here, as part of the Negro freedom movement.

But he excepted "the few that want to get everybody and want to get in the paper."

"Its just like the early American colonists, who took several hundred years to get their freedom," Beard said. He said that Negroes today are too sophisticated to get violent like the colonists did, and they have come too far to turn back.

Gwynn then rebuked Beard for violating regulations by mak-

**Continued on Page C-14**

One of those not re-admitted this morning was James "Big Daddy" Moore, 19, the senior student who was arrested yesterday just prior to the boycott demonstration, and later found to be carrying a gun.

**THE OTHER** two were Gary Watson, a junior, and DuWayne Smith, a senior, who were arrested Monday morning at the school.

Wilkinson said the school would attempt to determine what happened to the 17 students who received suspensions but failed to report to school today. If they were found to be truant again, they could be given another three-day suspension. If they were found to be ill, they would be readmitted and allowed to make up the work they missed today.

Moore, who was at last night's NAACP meeting, was arraigned in police court yesterday, released on \$1,000 bond, and a preliminary hearing set for Nov. 27.

**THE ROUTE** of last night's canceled march to the school administration building was the same as the previous night except that Hamilton boulevard was to be used instead of Main street.

Hamilton goes by the county jail, where Caesar Stenson, 18, of 130 S. Merriman St., has been held after being arrested follow-

REFERENCE DEPT.