

Violence Splits Orleans; Mobs Seek Vengeance

4 Negro Girls Attend Classes Despite Turmoil

(Special to the Tribune)

NEW ORLEANS — Jittery New Orleans braced itself for still more violence Thursday as segregationist gangs darted about the streets creating turmoil in a city already bitterly split because four Negro girls enrolled in two white public schools.

On the one hand, police feared a mob like the one they fought off with fire hoses and nightsticks Wednesday, as it sought to invade

(See Pictures Below)

City Hall and the school board building. On the other hand, they feared that there would be no mob—that instead they would be confronted with frequent outbreaks in remote sections of the city where there are no police squads standing by to head off full-scale riots.

This was no Little Rock. In a sense it was worse. In Little Rock there was one mob, and when it dispersed it went home. Here the mob split into segments, and Wednesday night there were 76 arrests on charges of racial violence — always cases of mobs of Negroes attacking a lone white or mobs of whites attacking a lone

(Continued on Page 14, Col. 3)

Violence Splits

(Continued From Page 1)

Negro.

Many feared to go into the streets. The famed French-Quarter, normally a brassy midway for unquenchable celebrants from dusk to dawn, was all but deserted Wednesday night. The big department stores on Canal st. were sparsely populated Thursday.

After the mob was dispersed, the incidents were what police describe as "minor." But they were major enough to make an individual hesitate to leave home. A Negro man was stabbed by a gang of white teenagers as he walked to his night-shift job. A white man was shot in the hand by a gang of Negro toughs. A Negro woman riding a public bus was knocked unconscious by a chunk of ice hurled at her through a window.

And so it went, all because four little Negro girls had been entered, by federal court order, into the first grade of two downtown white schools.

BLAMES CITIZENS COUNCIL

The mobs had not prevented the Negro child from attending a single class. It was not likely that they would do so in the future. For one thing, the crowds in front of the McDonogh and Frantz schools have been dwindling daily. Instead, the hordes of segregationists roam the city seeking victims for their vengeance.

"It's going to get worse," a weary police lieutenant said Thursday. "And we would have had it licked if they hadn't had that Citizens Council meeting Tuesday."

New Orleans was preparing to accept integration, not gracefully to be sure, but apparently without serious violence, when two factors fanned the dying embers of resistance into a new flame.

The first was a special session of the Legislature which Governor Jimmie Davis called to ram through a raft of futile laws designed not actually to halt integration of the New Orleans schools, but to show the rednecks upstate that their representatives were not standing idle in time of crisis.

The second factor was a rally of the White Citizens Council which 5,000 attended at the Municipal Auditorium Tuesday.