

Sitdown Inside White House Protests Selma



Associated Press Wirephoto

The Rev. Anthony de Cesare leads civil rights demonstrators in prayer in front of North Portico of the White House

Police Eject Youths —Pickets Continue March Outside

By CHARLES MOHR
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 11—A group of youthful civil rights demonstrators staged a sitdown in the White House for almost seven hours today demanding Federal intervention in Selma, Ala.

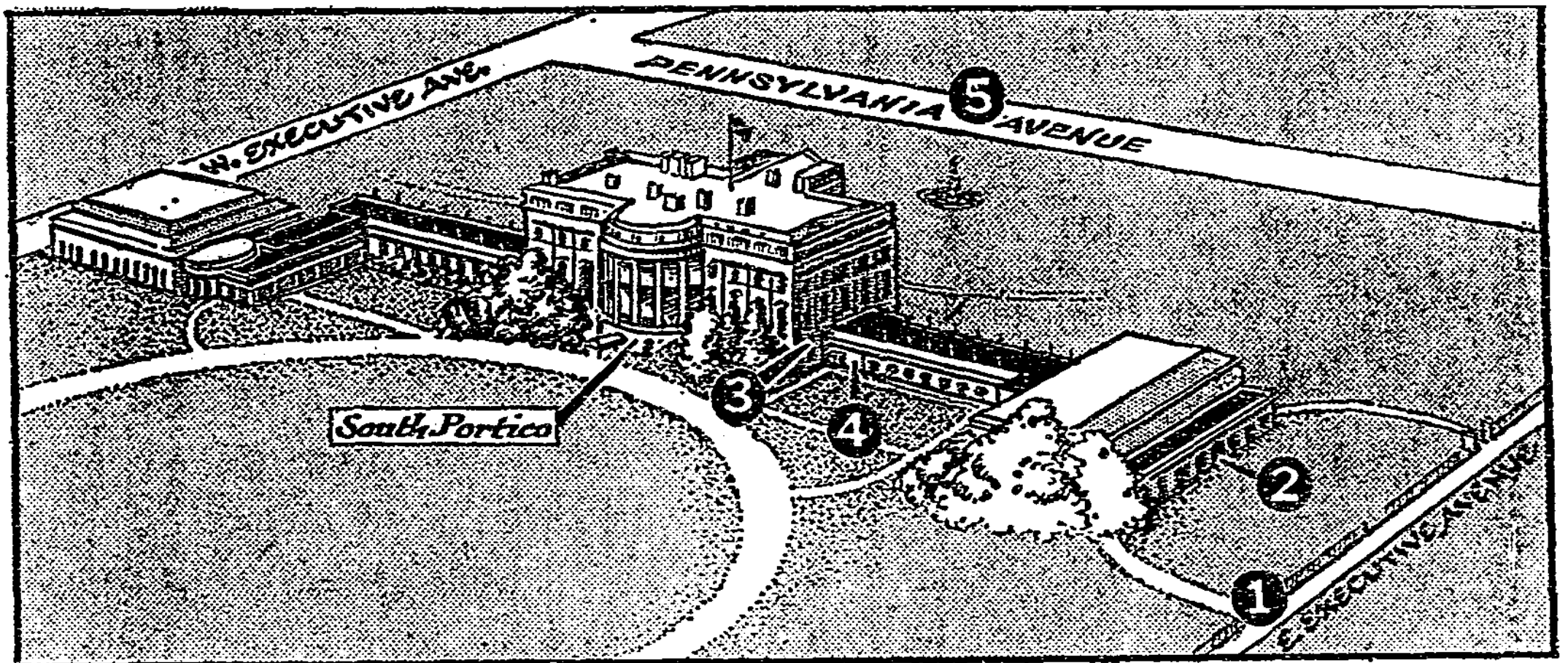
It was the first such demonstration inside the White House, although for three days and nights pickets have been marching on the north sidewalk of the mansion outside the fence.

The sitdown demonstrators said they had been dragged out, gently but firmly, by White House and District of Columbia policemen after they had spurned pleas by the President's staff to leave.

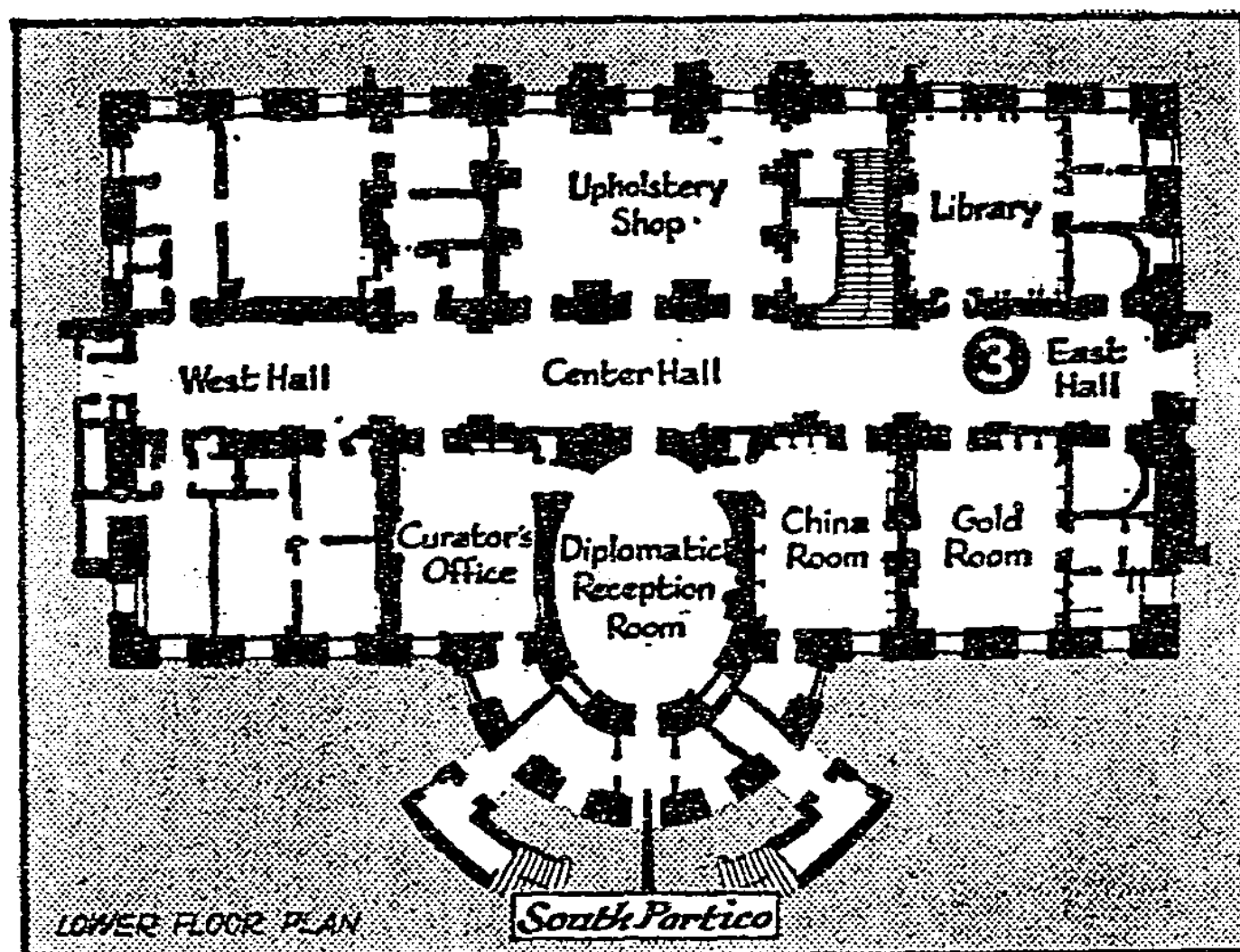
Ten girls and two boys were booked on charges of illegal entry and then released tonight on their own recognizance. Two other boys had left the White House voluntarily.

The demonstrators entered the mansion along with hundreds of other tourists taking a tour of the public rooms, conducted between 10 A.M.

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Adapted from rendering in "The White House, an Historic Guide" (White House Historical Association)



Adapted from "A Tour of the White House With Mrs. John F. Kennedy" (Doubleday)

Demonstrators entered the White House grounds at the East Gate (1), then the East Wing (2) and walked through corridor into the mansion itself, sitting down on lower floor at (3). At request of guards, they moved back into corridor (4), where they sat again. Meanwhile, pickets paraded on Pennsylvania Avenue (5).

SITDOWN STAGED IN WHITE HOUSE

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and noon, except Sundays, Mondays and holidays.

The possibility of a new sit-in attempt tomorrow was indicated when the White House announced the tours would be held and the group of demonstrators said some of their friends might imitate their action.

The group first sat down at 11:15 A.M. in the main first-floor corridor near the White House library and began to sing, "We Shall Not Be Moved."

They said later that a White House policeman remarked, "You are ruining an old tradition."

They later moved voluntarily to a corridor near the White House theater in the East Wing, just outside of the "mansion" proper.

They said that Bill D. Moyers, perhaps the most important member of the White House staff, and Lee C. White, a special counsel to the President, had come to talk to them shortly before they were ejected at 6 P.M.

Those arrested were identified as David Hunt Whittlesey, 21 years old, of Washington; Robert Edward Wooten, also of Washington; Marta Kusic, 18, of Howard University in Washington; Jessie Winifred McQueen, 21, of Howard University; Carol Lawson, 20, of the Bronx; Pamela Haynes, 22, of Washington; Sheila Patricia Ryan, 20, of Braintree, Mass., and three juveniles who were not identified. One of them may not have been booked.

Miss Kusic, Miss Ryan and Mr. Whittlesey are white, the rest Negroes.

Miss Haynes quoted Mr. Moyers as asking, "How would you like it if someone came into your house and refused to move?"

'Owner Hasn't Asked Us'

She said they answered him that "the owner of the house hasn't asked us to move."

She said that Mr. White told them the President "is having 60 couples in tonight" and that they should move. This was a reference to a reception for Congressmen and their wives.

Finally, they said that Maj. Ralph Stover, chief of the White House Police Force, said "You have overstayed your welcome."

They said they mostly had been pulled out with their heels dragging but that one demonstrator had been carried by a policeman. They were hurried off the White House grounds in police cars.

Mr. Johnson never saw them. One source said, however, that Mr. Johnson ordered or approved their forcible expulsion. An hour earlier the White House press secretary, George E. Reedy, had said "we have no plans" to move them.

Miss Haynes and Miss Lawson said that the group was photographed by security officers during their sit-in and asserted that microphones were set up to record their conversations. At various times, they said, screens were set up around them.

Press Kept From Scene

The White House refused to allow the press to see the sit-in and was generally uncommunicative about it.

After the demonstrators had been removed, the assistant press secretary, Joseph Laitin, said that White House police and District of Columbia police had approached the demonstrators "and asked them to leave and walked them to cars."

Asked if this meant they had been forced to move, Mr. Laitin said "the statement speaks for itself."

Meanwhile, a member of the American Nazi party also picketed the front of the White House, separated by police from the Negro and white civil-rights pickets on the north walkway.

He carried a sign saying "Who Needs Niggers."

There was a brief scuffle between a Nazi party member and a Negro this afternoon when the Negro attempted to take away the sign.

The civil rights pickets have been marching day and night since Tuesday demanding Federal protection for Negroes in Alabama.