

## King Says Picketing to Grow Here

Atlanta Negroes' boycott and picketing of a shoe store chain "is going to grow" to include other Atlanta retail merchants, Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. predicted Thursday.

Dr. King was among pickets marching around in front of the Peachtree store of Thompson-Boland-Lee, a shoe store. With him on the picket line were State Sen. Leroy Johnson and City Alderman Q. V. Williamson.

"We believe that stores that sell to Negroes should use Negro personnel," Dr. King said. "We want some Negro salesmen up on the street floor here."

Oscar Thompson, vice president and manager of the shoe chain, said that his company had 25 Negro employes out of a total employe force of 125.

"My business is selling shoes," Thompson said. "I can't let a bunch of ministers tell me how to sell shoes. We have had Negro employes for years, but I'm not about to fire some white employe with 20 or more years experience just to hire a Negro salesman."

Thompson said that he was sure his percentage of Negro employes was higher than many other Atlanta stores.

King complained that Negro sales people at the shoe store were "down in the basement" and not on the main sales floor. Thompson said that all personnel in the sales force started "in the basement" and moved up as their experience warranted.