Negro Action

Lucky Stores Picketing Set

By Dick Meister
Labor Correspondent

Two Negro groups yesterday announced plans for picketing of the Lucky Supermarket chain after charging the firm with a “clear violation” of its agreement to hire more non-white workers.

Lucky spokesmen, denying the charges by San Francisco’s Baptist Ministers Union and the Congress of Racial Equality, maintained instead that they are being pressured “to engage in reverse discrimination.”

William Bradley, local CORE chairman, said an agreement signed between CORE and Lucky four months ago called for “an equitable number” of Negroes. But of the 320 employees hired since then, Bradley said, “only 18 were Negroes.”

Negotiations to increase this number have failed, Bradley said, and beginning Saturday, CORE pickets will be at all of Lucky’s 60 Bay Area markets.

The Rev. George L. Bedford, president of the Ministers Union, said member ministers would urge their 40,000-member congregations not to buy at the stores.

Howard Phillips, Lucky’s Northern California manager, said he “didn’t know about CORE’s figures,” but that 28 per cent of the beginning clerks hired since the agreement was signed have been non-white.

The Negro spokesmen said they were not seeking jobs for any specific number of Negroes, but for a “reasonable number” of qualified applicants.

Cranston’s Big Decision---He’ll Remain Bald

Sacramento
State Controller Alan Cranston made a major pronouncement yesterday.

“I have decided to stay bald,” he said.

A letter signed by Herbert H. Whitehead of Long Beach suggested, from experience, that “a headpiece has a softening effect on one’s countenance.”

“I think that a headpiece could materially advance your prospects for the United States Senate or higher State office,” Whitehead wrote.

Cranston, a Democrat, replied that a headpiece is not for him.

“I don’t want to deny the Birch Society the privilege of calling me an egghead,” he said.

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