

New Negro Group Tries a Signal Sit-In

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Manhasset—Long Island discovered a new kind of Negro protest group yesterday geared for the suburbs. They call themselves "the New Breed" and they sat in North Hempstead Town Hall to demand a traffic light in their neighborhood.

The sit-in, a tactic employed by civil rights groups but used this time for a more common cause among mothers and civic groups on Long Island, lasted about two hours. The five members of the group left only after a town spokesman promised that the town would do everything it could to persuade the State Department of Transportation to install a traffic light at the intersection of Northern Boulevard and Allen Drive.

Bennie Beck, who gave his address as 89 Pond Hill Rd., Great Neck, said he was president of the New Breed.

"We are not talkers, prayer enthusiasts, head-scratchers and patient Uncle Toms," he said. "We are men of action. We are doers . . . We will apply pressure in any way we can to make the responsible authorities do their job of protecting the lives of the Negro community."

But Beck emphasized, "Our arms and weapons are the truth." He said his group advocated "no physical violence whatsoever." Instead, he said he hoped that by meeting with town and state officials and outlining what he considers a dangerous situation at the spot, a traffic light would be installed.

The group came intending to speak with Supervisor Sol Wachtler. But Wachtler was out campaigning with Gov. Rockefeller yesterday and the group finally spoke with Mrs. Carol Hauptman, a Wachtler aide who said she had his authority to pledge that he would do everything

possible to aid the group in obtaining a traffic light. She said that although a traffic survey two years ago by the state showed there was no need for a light, the town would recommend a new survey.

Irwin J. Landes, Democratic candidate for the North Hempstead Town Council, said he had been asked to counsel an ad hoc community group last week on the traffic light problem. Landes said the group complained that a school bus picks up children at the intersection for an Office of Economic Opportunity program. Landes said he advised the group to feel that the town council was like "their mayor," and urged them to present their problem to the board. He said the group was a "general community representation," and added that he did not know if any of yesterday's demonstrations were the citizens he had counseled.