

Freedom Certificate

157

Freedom Certificate

On the 17th day of May, 1957, the Third Anniversary of the United States Supreme Court Decision declaring racial segregation to be unconstitutional,

did take part in and contribute to the success of the
PRAYER PILGRIMAGE FOR FREEDOM

held at Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., to arouse the conscience of the Nation to the urgent need to move "with all deliberate speed" toward the implementation of that historic ruling and, in the spirit of non-violence, to work for the elimination of racial discrimination and segregation.

A. Philip Randolph Martin L. King Jr. Roy Wilkins A No 7410

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

ROY WILKINS



As I stand here and look out upon the thousands of Negro faces and the thousands of white faces intermingled like the waters of the river, I see only one face. That is the face of the future...

— Rev. Martin Luther King, Washington, April 18.

NEW YORK Amsterdam News

Vol. XLX — No. 17

New York N. Y.
200 West Ave.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1959

Entered as Second Class
March 10, 1907, Postoffice No. 100

CITY EDITION — 15c

They Went To The White House

30,000 In March

DELEGATIONS FROM 37 STATES
RALLY FOR INTEGRATED SCHOOLS

IN WASHINGTON, APRIL 18

Over 400 buses come in to Washington... Drop passengers on mall in front of White House... Go to side to park... Banners from all over country... Boston, Chicago, Durham, Montgomery... slogans and signs... Guitars and singing as lines formed... Bands lead off; leading, Rev. Martin Luther King, A. Philip Randolph, Mrs. Daisy Bates, Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, William Bowie, Dr. Jean Noble, Joseph Overton, Roy Wilkins... March to Washington Monument... people from buses still arriving break into line... At meeting, after almost an hour, people still marching in.....

The Marchers gathered at the open-air theater at the foot of the Washington Monument, where they were addressed by A. Philip Randolph, Charles Zimmerman, Roy Wilkins, Tom Mboya and the Rev. Martin Luther King.

Randolph said, "We have come again to Washington to demonstrate that the

PETITIONS WITH 400,000 SIGNATURES
PRESENTED TO
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS

Diggs Exhorts Marchers to Carry on
the Fight Back Home

400,000 people signed their names to the Youth March Petition which reads in part: "Therefore, we petition the President and Congress of the United States to put into effect an executive and legislative program which will insure the orderly and speedy integration of schools throughout the United States."

Congressman Diggs of Detroit said he was thrilled to be chosen to present the petitions to Congress. "I think these petitions... will make your numbers felt... my own experience attests to the fact

(Continued on Page 6)

fight against segregated schools is the fight for human rights all over the world... Let us not be discouraged by the long hard struggle ahead, for we will win." Randolph read greetings from George Meany, Walter Reuther and Senator Paul Douglas.

(Continued on Page 2)

Greetings to the Marchers (Cont'd)

Charles Zimmerman, Chairman of the AFL-CIO Committee on Civil Rights, asserted that there has been "too much temporizing and too much delay." Roy Wilkins, Exec. Sec. of the NAACP, spoke of the importance of the fight for integration in Little Rock in the eyes of the world.

Tom Mboya, Sec. of the Kenya (Africa) Federation of Labor, told the Marchers, "This is a great day for me... I want to assure you that many millions of people throughout the world in spirit are here with you today... The struggle for human dignity... knows no boundaries of color, race or nationality. The success and achievement of people in any part of the world is the success and achievement of all mankind... I join you in solidarity for success...."

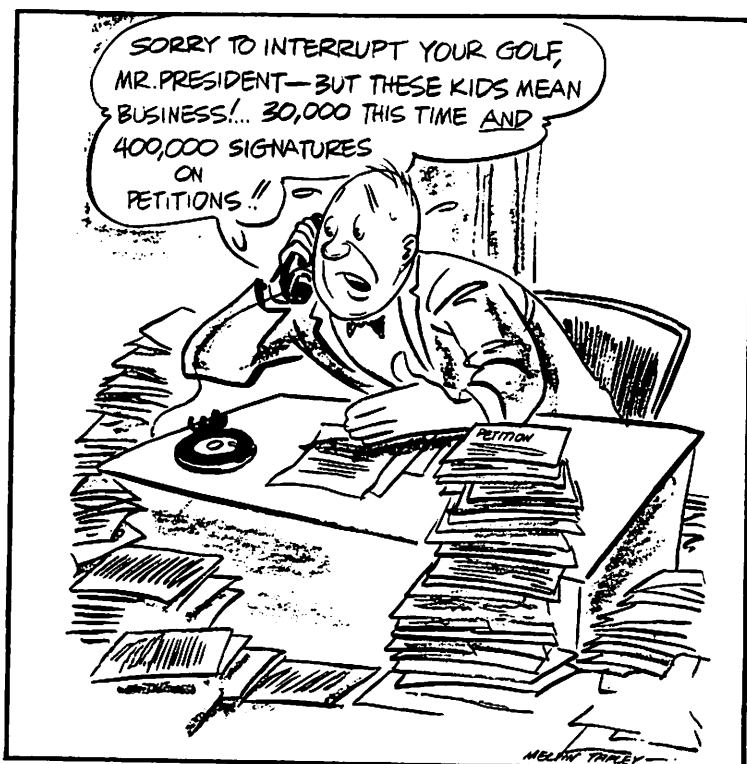
Rev. King said future historians will not call this generation the "beat generation," but "the generation for integration, a generation that will not take no for an answer, not take gradualism for an answer... Instead, you young people have discovered the central fact of American life--that democracy for anyone depends on integration... Whatever career you may choose for yourself, doctor, lawyer, teacher... Commit yourselves to the noble struggle for civil rights."

"How long," he went on, "shall the strong dominate the weak, how long will justice lie prostrate in our streets?... How long shall justice be crucified and truth buried? I come this evening to say to you, not long."

ACT NOW

Contact all groups in your community who were involved in the youth march to support the DOUGLAS CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION. Particularly important is the writing of letters by individuals to their own Congressmen. Let us know what your community is doing.

Assign a correspondent to the In Friendship Newsletter. We will report your activities to others in future issues.



Reprinted from Amsterdam News

PASS THE DOUGLAS-JAVITS-CELLER BILL S. 810 Provides That:

1. The Federal Government must use all of its powers to uphold equal rights in education as expressed in the May 17, 1954, Supreme Court decision, if the State and local authorities cannot or will not do so.
2. The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare is authorized to take steps to aid school integration through education and persuasion, including grants to school authorities whose state aid has been withdrawn as a result of the start of an integration program.
3. The Attorney General is authorized in the event that education, persuasion, conciliation and assistance have failed, to bring civil suit against local and State authorities and require compliance with Federal school integration plans.

IN FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

Number 3

June, 1959

Issued by In Friendship

312 W. 125 St., N. Y. C.

DELEGATION TO EISENHOWER REPORTS TO THE MARCHERS

Minniejean Brown and Susan Wright
Present Citations

Four young people went to the White House to present the Marchers' statement to Gerald D. Morgan, assistant to the President. They were Reginald Green, 23, of Walla Walla, Washington, Vice-President of the National Student Association; Josephine Boyd, 18, of Greensboro, N. C., the first Negro to receive a diploma from an integrated high school in N. C.; Sally Phillips, 17, first Negro valedictorian at the Hartshorne High School, Oklahoma; and Harlon Joye, 26, of Orangeburg, S. C., representative to the Young Adult Council from the North American Student Cooperative League.

The statement urged the President to commit the full resources of the Federal Government to the achievement of school integration, to support an effective civil rights bill, to intervene in the defense of Asbury Howard, Jr., and to call a White House Conference of youth and student leaders to discuss how youth can help in school integration.

The President expressed his greetings and best wishes, and assured the delega-

tion, (1) he was as anxious as they to see an end to discrimination, (2) that there is a long way to go to reach this goal, but that (3) he was proud that he had done as much as he had in his administration.

Bayard Rustin, who had major responsibility for organizing the MARCH, and who chaired the latter half of the meeting, told the young people they could go home with a victory. "You have had four young people of your own age speak to the power of this nation in the White House and your words will be heard all over the world. . . " But, he said, "the next time a call comes, come back with 50,000 and I'll tell you Ike will be in Washington. . . I'll tell you the time we come back with 100,000, Congress will sit in special session, and I'll tell you when we come back again and again and again — and we can do it — Congress and the President and the Supreme Court will all be in Washington. "

Mr. Rustin introduced Minniejean Brown of Little Rock and Susan Wright of Charlottesville, Va., who presented citations for outstanding work for integration to Rev. Gardner C. Taylor, member of the New York City Board of Education, Mrs. Daisy Bates of Little Rock, Jackie Robinson, Harry Belafonte, Roy Wilkins, for the NAACP, and Rabbi Emmet K. Frank of Arlington, Va.

THIS IS THE YOUTH PLEDGE ADOPTED AT WASHINGTON ON APRIL 18

To continue our efforts for the passage of the Douglas-Javits-Celler Bill that would place the great moral, financial and law enforcement resources of the Federal Government squarely behind the movement toward school integration;

To continue the circulation of the Youth Petition and to ask the Youth March National Office to arrange for the delivery of these petitions to Congress at an appropriate time;

To work for the liberation from jail of Asbury Howard, Jr., unjustly sentenced to the chain gang for the "crime" of defending his father from attack;

To remain alert guardians of the cause of equality and to be ready to respond to the needs that future circumstances and emergencies may bring upon us. We assure our national leaders that we are ready to be called upon again and again until democracy for each one is a reality.

BROAD ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE YOUTH MARCH

Many national organizations endorsed the YOUTH MARCH. The NAACP, in addition, sent out information to its adult and youth groups, contributed to the National Office budget, and Herb Wright, NAACP Youth Director, was co-ordinator of the MARCH with Bayard Rustin. Their active support gave tremendous encouragement all over the country; in the South and the Southwest, their organization led the way. Two of the delegates to the White House were outstanding leaders in their local NAACP Youth Councils.

The National Student Association (NSA) represents over a million undergraduates with 450 college student council affiliates. The NSA formally endorsed the MARCH and sent out information to its members.

Labor union support was active. The Chairman of the National Youth March Committee is A. Philip Randolph, President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and an AFL-CIO Vice-President. Both Walter Reuther and George Meany sponsored the MARCH, Mr. Reuther as a sponsor of the organization, Mr. Meany as a signer of the petition. Many unions contributed funds, sponsored petition campaigns and organized buses. Along the line of march we noted delegations from the United Furniture Workers, Transport Workers Union, United Steel Workers, Laundry Workers, United Auto Workers, ILGWU, and State, County and Municipal Workers.

A special vote of thanks to the Butchers Union that donated 3,000 pounds of meat to feed the crowd at the Armory. Bill Oliver, the UAW Civil Rights Director, headed up the line of march along with Jackie Robinson and Mr. Randolph.

Religious organizations were an important part of the MARCH. The United

Christian Youth Movement gave cooperation, advice and help. Christian youth of various denominations were actively involved through their youth fellowships. The Baptist Youth Convention, as one example, circulated the Call to the MARCH.

Catholic college youth actively participated. The Presidents of many colleges endorsed the MARCH; the majority of these came from Catholic colleges.

Student ministerial youth from the Union Theological Seminary in New York organized a bus to the MARCH.

Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, President of the National Council of Churches was a sponsor individually. Dozens of buses were sent by local church groups. Young people from many communities said, "My church helped raise money for me to come." A Negro-white church committee was formed in the New York area.

Many Jewish organizations were active. The Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress was especially helpful in distributing thousands of petitions. Many Jewish youth who could not attend the MARCH on their Sabbath, participated in the petition drive.

Important leadership was given by the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhoods. Their cooperation and support encouraged thousands of young people to participate.

THE WORLD LOOKS ON

While the Youth March Committee neither solicited nor accepted the help or support of groups outside the United States, the interest of the whole world in the Youth March is indicated by the fact that youth groups from East and West sent resolutions of support to the Youth March.

SEND IN PETITIONS YOU STILL HAVE.
THE PETITION CAMPAIGN IS CONTINUING TO REACH 1,000,000 SIGNATURES.

THE YOUTH MARCH ORGANIZES

Who was finally responsible for the leg work of bringing 26,000 people to Washington? In some places it was one organization, in some another or several together--sometimes it was a few individuals. We cannot begin to do justice to all the work that went into the MARCH. We can only offer a few examples.

The YOUTH MARCH had functioning committees in ten cities: Baltimore, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, Washington, Cleveland and New York. Some of these committees were organized through the National Office who put interested people in touch with others in their communities. Some were stimulated by church or union or student leadership.

CLEVELAND: At the first MARCH, Jean Murrel Capers, City Councilwoman brought 100 youngsters to Washington. Before the second MARCH, there was correspondence with several groups, but most leadership was furnished by the League of Women Voters. Two buses came to the MARCH at a cost of \$20 per marcher, on money raised from other community organizations.

DETROIT: The Detroit Committee was built around the unions. Mark Soloman called a month before the MARCH, reporting a committee underway with sponsors, letterheads, etc. In an effort to overcome the press "blackout" on the MARCH, 20 Negro and white teenagers paraded down Woodward Ave., carrying a coffin to "Bury Segregation in Education."

WEST COAST: LOS ANGELES and SAN FRANCISCO reprinted petitions. The Southwest Region of the YWCA endorsed the MARCH. In LOS ANGELES, dances with live bands organized with the help of a local disc jockey helped raise plane fare for delegates. L.A. planned its own demonstration before City Hall for April 18.

In SAN FRANCISCO, Harry Avington, member of the school board of the San Pablo School District, was the organizer. The Bay Area Committee held a public meeting on local school segregation.

SEATTLE: The Governor of the State was Honorary Chairman of the local committee.

In some localities, initiative was taken by teenagers. Two carloads from BUFFALO were members of the "Teen-Age Crusaders," whose President is Annay Yarbrough. They got busy raising money after reading of the MARCH in their local paper.

Working and high school teenagers gathered a bus load from CROTON, PEEKSKILL, OSSINING and MONTROSE N. Y. Henry Tolliver, Carl Stein and Offie Wortham were the main organizers. They had a party to raise money, and asked for contributions from adults.

In other cases, the MARCH involved the entire community. The 600-strong delegation from VIRGINIA was led by Mrs. Theresa French, State Adviser to the NAACP Youth Groups. "Lodges, clubs and business people all helped," she said. "We let the public contribute."

Mrs. Clara Evans, Adviser of the NAACP Youth Council of GARY, INDIANA, brought a bus load of 37, who traveled from 11 a.m. on Friday until 3 a.m. Saturday morning. Money was raised from businessmen, from Senior NAACP Branches and from churches. Mr. Herman John Hunter, President of the Gary Senior Branch, said Gary has a Youth Chapter of 164 members. "We are keeping in step with the march for freedom," he said. "This is a good corporate expression of the soul of America."

(Continued from Page 5)

... came from CHICAGO. Larry Howard of the Maywood Suburban Youth Council reported that it cost \$777 to bring just the Maywood group on one bus to Washington. They raised the money from unions and appeals to the public. The Northside Freedom Fighters, a branch of the Chicago League of Negro Voters, sold chicken dinners and canvassed from door to door to gather signatures on the petitions and raise the money needed for their bus.

Vic Solomon of Brooklyn and Mark Israel of Cincinnati took the lead in organizing a delegation of 38 undergraduates from OBERLIN COLLEGE. The local NAACP Chapter and the Students for Democratic Action on campus helped out financially. Eleanor Holmes of ANTIOCH COLLEGE led 28 students. Herman Perkin reported that 15 students from WILBERFORCE COLLEGE had organized and come together with the Antioch students. Thirty students from the U. of MICHIGAN in Ann Arbor were organized by the Congregational Disciples Church. At the U. of CHICAGO, a special campus committee raised money by holding a concert of folk-singing and dancing, and soliciting churches and faculty. They sent 40 people to Washington.

The NEW YORK AREA delegation represented the high schools, colleges, unions, churches and neighborhood associations with about 175 buses from community committees, teachers' groups, NAACP, and Jewish organizations. Funds for the National Office were raised at a party held in New York at the invitation of Mrs. Ralph J. Bunche to honor Harry Belafonte and Tom Mboya.

Many other areas were represented... PHILADELPHIA had a large delegation. BALTIMORE sent 2,000 Marchers... there was a group from TOPEKA, KANSAS... 15 cars from FLINT, MICHIGAN... 1 car from INDIANAPOLIS, IND., MONTGOMERY, ALA., SHREVEPORT, LA.... A bus from DURHAM, N. C.... 8 delegates from RACINE, WIS., and a carful from SOUTH BEND, IND.... And a half-dozen airplane delegates from the WEST COAST....

PETITION CAMPAIGN(Cont'd from p. 1)

that the only thing public servants respond to is dramatic action of this kind." He went on to stress the importance of carrying back home the fight for "political and social freedom."

The petition campaign has been truly national in scope. Petitions arrived from almost every state in the Union... CHICAGO alone brought in 100,000 signatures... PUERTO RICO collected petitions from members of its House of Representatives and Senate... A junior high school teacher from NEW YORK arrived with a petition bearing the names of her principal and every member of the teaching and maintenance staff of her school... A newspaper in NEW ORLEANS reprinted the petition which dozens of people signed and mailed in--one man stapled four pages of signatures to this clipping... LOS ANGELES and SAN FRANCISCO printed thousands of petitions themselves as demand grew.

FLORIDA: "I did not receive the petitions I requested. Please mail them again. Wrap them in an unmarked envelope and tie package securely with string." ... Teenagers in Settlement Houses in NEW YORK went into their communities and collected impressive numbers... NEW JERSEY: "... enclosed find petitions signed by most of the men on the day-shift of this plant that makes electrical equipment." CHICAGO teen-age girl: "We went house-to-house in two's and filled out hundreds." ... The College of Great Falls, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, sent in petitions signed by the entire administration, faculty and student body... BROOKLYN: "... On the way home on the subway I saw a boy going to all the people in the car asking for signatures. I took out my copies of the Petition and joined him. We have become friends. Please send us 50 more petitions."

SEND IN PETITIONS YOU STILL HAVE TO YOUTH MARCH FOR INTEGRATED SCHOOLS, 312 W. 125th St., N. Y., N. Y.