

PROPOSED PLANS FOR MARCH

TO: JAMES FARMER

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PURPOSES OF MARCH

(A)

- to arouse the conscience of America to the economic plight of the Negro 100 years after emancipation
- to call on the government to face the fact that minority workers cannot get work unless there is a massive works and training program that puts all unemployed back to work
- to call on the administration and Congress for a Federal Fair Employment Practices Act which will bar job discrimination by Federal, State, and Municipal governments, by employers, by contractors, by employment agencies and by trade unions
- to call on the administration and Congress to broaden the Fair Labor Standards Acts to include those areas where Negroes and other minorities work at slave wages and to set up a national minimum wage of not less than \$1.50 an hour

(B)

- to demand that an effective and meaningful civil rights bill be passed by Congress
- to protest against any filibuster and to demand majority rule in the United States Senate

STRUCTURE

In order to make certain that unity of march policy and implementation is maintained throughout, the following structure is recommended.

I. CHAIRMEN: the leaders of the following organizations:

NAACP, NALC, CORE, SNCC, SCLC AND URBAN LEAGUE.

This group is fully and solely responsible for policy, program and expenditures (Payment of expenditures is to be made by the treasurer and finance committee).

II. VICE-CHAIRMEN: national civic, religious, labor, fraternal leaders, Negro and white.

They will lend their support to policy and program as outlined by the chairmen. They will not be a policy-making group.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: To be composed of one person each from the NAACP.

CORE, NALC, SNCC, SCLC and Urban League, to be appointed by the leaders of the aforementioned groups.

The chairmen will also appoint a woman to this committee whose major base of operations is none of the six aforementioned organizations, and one or two persons from the South to meet the psychological problem posed by the inevitable preponderance of northern people on the committee.

The duties of this committee will be to supervise the director and coordinators, and to see that in the day to day work and the policy, as established by the chairmen, is faithfully and expeditiously implemented. This group can act fully for the chairmen in their absence.

The administrative committee shall have a chairman whose duties shall be to chair meetings of the committee, clear press statements

and serve as a member of finance committee.

All statements concerning policy that are issued to the press must be cleared with the chairmen of the administrative committee.

IV. DIRECTOR: The person responsible for setting up on a national scale the kind or organization required to carry out the project, to help raise funds to finance it, and to assemble a staff and volunteers to see that the work gets done.

V. COORDINATORS: One person appointed by each of the following organizations: NAACP, NALC, CORE, SNCC, SCLC and Urban League. Each coordinator will work full time out of the March National office with the director. The coordinators and the director are directly responsible to the administrative committee and ultimately responsible to the chairmen.

VI. FINANCE COMMITTEE: to be composed of the treasurer of the March and three or four other members.

Their function is to work with the chairmen, administrative committee and director to raise funds, to allocate them and to issue a full and public financial report at the end of the March.

All checks will be signed by the treasurer and any one other member of the finance committee. The director and coordinators will not be empowered to sign checks.

The director will be responsible for petty cash, from which no funds will be expended without proper signed and dated vouchers.

All major expenditures must have the approval of the administrative committee or its chairman.

VII. CHURCH COMMITTEE: to be composed of leaders of the various denominations, Negro and white.

It is hoped that the church leaders will select and finance on the

staff a minister who can travel across the country organizing church group participation. In any event a church secretary is essential. No matter how financed, such a secretary might well, with the approval of the chairmen, become a coordinator.

VIII. LABOR COMMITTEE: to be composed of outstanding trade union leaders, Negro and white. Here again, it is hoped that these leaders will provide a person for the staff who can travel nationally to enlist participation and financial assistance. With the approval of the chairmen, become a coordinator.

IX. LOCAL ORGANIZATION: While every effort will be made to utilize the local structure and branches of the sponsoring organizations, it is well to bear in mind that they have their own activities and cannot give full time to local march committees. It is, therefore, proposed that local ad-hoc March committees be set up across the country. They should include labor, civic, fraternal, church and youth elements as well as the major civil rights groups.

Their functions are:

1. To mobilize people to go to Washington.
2. To raise funds for transportation.
3. To educate people as to the nature of the lobbying and other activities to take place in Washington.
4. To explain in their cities (and on the buses and trains) the full procedure in the Capital, where their state delegations will assemble, etc.

X. EAST COAST ORGANIZATIONAL WORK: The great majority of those who converge on the Capital will naturally come from the East Coast. Therefore, the first function of the committee is to establish strong local committees in the following cities: Boston, New Haven, New York

New York, Newark, Trenton, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond and key North Carolina cities. It is proposed that where possible chairmen, and vice-chairmen and members of the administrative committee hold themselves in readiness to proceed to these cities immediately.

XI. FINANCES: The second youth march cost approximately \$34,000 dollars. Of this amount about half was raised from contributions. The remainder was graciously given by the NAACP. This of course does not account for the many thousands spent by organizations, churches, labor unions, individuals, etc. for transportation.

On the basis of the time factor for preparations, the number of people we wish to reach, the relative size of staffs, etc. it seems reasonable to assume that the amount needed for the march would be \$65,000, about double that required for the 2nd youth march.

I. NAME AND PURPOSE

A. MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM

The term freedom above implies a call for effective civil rights legislation and a demonstration against any filibuster.

B. CONTEXT AND FOCUS

1. The president and congress must hear just demands of Negro people and by Negro and white unemployed.

2. These March participants must include unemployed workers, black and white, who can raise dramatically and decisively the crisis in our economy.

C. SCOPE

This demonstration is a one day affair. The planning committee takes no responsibility for food and lodging of people. All local committees are to be informed that people should arrive early in the morning and leave Washington by nightfall.

D. TO INSURE PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION

The handling of 100,000 people in Washington will be a prodigious task. A force of at least 500 mature men should receive detailed training in advance in New York for handling all the physical problems that will be involved in lobbying, the parade, mass meeting, etc. It is suggested that as was done in the 2nd Youth March, we ask the Guardians to take the task of finding the core group of 500 and that the committee see that all problems be fully gone over with them to insure a disciplined, peaceful, effective demonstration. Beyond this, each organization should supply 100 persons who also will join the Guardians --making a marshalling squad of 1,000 trained and identified men.

II. ACTION IN WASHINGTON

A. DEMONSTRATION IN REACTION TO FILIBUSTER

1. If filibuster occurs before August 28, march machinery will be used to send daily waves of approximately 1,000 into Washington for duration of the filibuster, in addition to having the March on August 28.

2. If the filibuster has not begun by August 28, March participants will be asked to return to Washington at the time of filibuster. The staff will be retained and the office kept open for filibuster action.

B. WHITE HOUSE DEMONSTRATION

A demonstration at the White House to protect failure of the administration to propose a program to meet unemployment problem.

The Negro community realizes that until there is a massive program for full employment the Negro struggle for jobs cannot be realized, the failure to achieve a full employment program serves only to deepen the resistance of white workers to the struggle for economic freedom by minority groups.

The nature of such a demonstration will be decided by the chairmen.

C. LOBBYING

1. Local community committees should be made the vehicle for setting up the machinery for lobbying with appropriate Congressmen and Senators.

2. There will be up to 50 designated places where each State delegation will report upon arrival in Washington, where its members will obtain final instructions for going to Congress to see Senators and representatives.

3. An alternative possibility: When these locations are established, all congressmen from a given state will be united to meet with delegations from their state to hear the economic and freedom demands of their constituents.

4. Since participants from the south may experience difficulty in obtaining appointments with their congressmen, a difference in tactical approach is recognized. Delegates, therefore, will be free to sit in office of congressmen until time for parade if such congressmen refuses to see them.

D. MARCH

At 2:00 P.M. all marchers will assemble at a selected place to begin parade down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Lincoln Memorial for the mass meeting.

E. MASS MEETING

1. 3:00 to 5:30 P.M.

2. Rally is viewed as the climax to the people's commemoration of the Emancipation Proclamation 1863. Therefore, it is imperative that rank and file participants as well as leaders speak at this rally.

3. Program will include:

- a) Talks by chairmen of March
- b) Presentations by a white and a Negro unemployed worker
- c) Reports by selected persons from delegations to congressmen

The implementation of the mass meeting will be decided upon by the chairmen.