



MOVEMENT SOUL  
The complete text plus background notes.

## MOVEMENT SOUL

1. We're slaves. We're really slaves. Go out work all day for two dollars. White man take that if he want to.

2. I want us all in this building to sing "Go Tell It On The Mountain, To Let My People Go."

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, OVER THE HILLS AND EVERYWHERE  
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, TO LET MY PEOPLE GO.

PAUL AND SILAS BOUND IN JAIL  
LET MY PEOPLE GO  
HAD NOBODY FOR TO GO THEIR BAIL  
LET MY PEOPLE GO

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, etc.

PAUL AND SILAS BEGAN TO SHOUT  
JAIL DOOR OPEN AND THEY WALKED OUT

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, etc.

3. Freedom (Freedom)  
Freedom (Freedom)

4. Freedom (now now now)

5. Freedom now  
Freedom now  
Freedom now  
Freedom now

6. OH FREEDOM, OH FREEDOM, OH FREEDOM OVER ME  
AND BEFORE I'LL BE A SLAVE, I'LL BE BURIED IN MY GRAVE  
AND GO HOME TO MY LORD AND BE FREE.

NO SEGREGATION (ETC.)

NO MORE BARNETTS (ETC.)

OH FREEDOM (ETC.)

7. I know that there are those who will be critical of us because we want to be free. But it seems to be a natural gift to want to be free. On tomorrow morning your servant will go to trial. I'm going to have to stand possibly before unjust judges. And the accusers will point their finger at me. And I will probably be convicted. But I know that they convicted Paul, Peter and John, oh Jesus, and You took care of them. We just want You to walk with us as we go into the courtroom. Don't let us go by ourselves.

8. WALKED WITH PAUL AND SILAS  
COME ON AND WALK WITH ME  
YOU WALKED WITH PAUL AND SILAS  
WALK WITH ME  
OH WHILE ON THIS TEDIOUS JOURNEY  
I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

## NOTES

1. Americus, Georgia. August 1963. From an interview with Willie Ricks, SNCC field secretary.
2. Washington, D.C. Thanksgiving 1963. SNCC conference, a gathering of SNCC workers mostly from the deep South. Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer speaks and sings. She worked on a plantation in Rulesville, Mississippi, and was fired from her job for trying to register to vote.
3. Selma, Alabama. October 1963. Mass meeting.
4. Hattiesburg, Mississippi. February 1964. Mass meeting. Aaron Henry, Negro candidate for governor of Mississippi in 1963, leads a freedom cheer.
5. Selma, Alabama. October 1963. Mass meeting.
6. Jackson, Mississippi. November 1963. Voter registration rally. Willie Peacock, organizer in Greenwood, Mississippi, lead voice. NO MORE BARNETTS Ross Barnett, Governor of Mississippi in 1963.
7. Selma Alabama. October 1963. Mass meeting. A minister opens the meeting with a prayer. He had been arrested for voter registration activities.
8. Selma, Alabama. October 1963. Singer is a local resident.

(MORE)

(cont'd)

I'M WALKIN FOR MY FREEDOM  
COME ON AND WALK WITH ME (ETC.)

WALKED WITH MY MOTHER  
COME ON AND WALK WITH ME (ETC.)

I WANT JESUS  
JUST TO WALK WITH ME (ETC.)

I WANT JESUS  
JUST TO WALK WITH ME (ETC.)

9. And you know what happened in Poplarville six years ago. Charles MacParker got lynched. And you had a voter registration worker walking the roads of Poplarville this morning. (Look out.) Walkin for freedom.
10. Certainly George Green and MacArthur Cotton and Jesse Harris, Frank Smith have to face by themselves the decision whether they're going to go into these small towns like Natchez, and McComb and whether they're going to organize in these towns. Because what's involved in that decision is the problem of overcoming fear.
11. Say, gimme a gun. I'm gonna shoot the nigger right now, pointing at me. Then he said, if I see you on the street one more time, say, I'm going to kill you dead. You understand that, nigger, you understand that? And I said, I hear you, you know.
12. Well, uh, I lives here, and gone die here. I said, ain't a peckerwood in Mississippi can run me away from here. He can kill me but he can't run me away from here.
13. Say we want our freedom. I want mine and I'm willing to die for mine, I don't know about the rest of you all. If it take demonstrating to get my freedom I'll demonstrate.
14. You can send us to the state penitentiary, you can send us to the county farm, your county jails, and hit us across the head with your sticks, and let your dogs bite us (Talk about it), but we don't care. Because we ain't scared of your jails now, cause we want our freedom.
15. AIN'T SCARED OF YOUR JAILS 'CAUSE I WANT MY FREEDOM  
I WANT MY FREEDOM, LORD, I WANT MY FREEDOM  
AIN'T SCARED OF YOUR JAILS 'CAUSE I WANT MY FREEDOM  
LORD, I WANT MY FREEDOM NOW.

AIN'T SCARED OF PENITENTIARIES (ETC.)

(MORE)

## NOTES

9. Greenwood, Mississippi. November 1963. Mass meeting. James Forman, at that time executive secretary of SNCC.
10. Washington, D.C. Thanksgiving 1963. Bob Moses, organizer in Mississippi and later director of the 1964 Mississippi summer project.
11. Selma, Alabama. October 1963. From an interview with Carter Neblett of Carbondale, Illinois. He was arrested by Alabama state troopers during a local demonstration.
12. Greenwood, Mississippi. November 1963. Mass meeting. A local resident speaks. "Peckerwood" = woodpecker = redneck = local white person.
13. Hattiesburg, Mississippi. February 1964. Mass meeting. Local resident.
14. Jackson, Mississippi. November 1963. Voter registration rally. Sam Block, a native Mississippian who served as a SNCC field secretary in Greenwood, Mississippi.
15. Washington, D.C. Thanksgiving 1963. SNCC conference. Sam Block sings.

(cont'd)

GONNA BE A REGISTERED VOTER (ETC.)

I'LL NEVER TURN BACK (ETC.)

I TELLS EVERYBODY THAT (ETC.)

GONNA KEEP ON FIGHTIN TILL I GET (ETC.)

AIN'T SCARED OF YOUR DOGS CAUSE (ETC.)

I AIN'T SCARED OF YOUR STICKS (ETC.)

YOU CAN THROW ME IN JAIL BUT (ETC.)

I'M GONNA TELL MY FRIENDS THAT (ETC.)

YOU CAN TALK ABOUT ME BUT (ETC.)

I DON'T MIND DYING BECAUSE (ETC.)

I TELL MY FRIENDS THAT (ETC.)

I AIN'T SCARED OF YOUR JAILS (ETC.)

16. Everybody seemed to have that shine in their face of liberation.

17. Did you hear her say how that little 15-year-old girl suffered? How they beat her and put her in a cell and put the light out? And she say, I got the light of freedom.

18. These are the things that we're about tired of. We want to bring the truth to light and let it shine, you see.

19. THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE  
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE  
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE  
LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE.

TELL GOVERNOR WALLACE (ETC.)

TELL JIM CLARK (ETC.)

TELL JUDGE MOON (ETC.)

EVERYWHERE I GO (ETC.)

MY GOD GIVE IT TO ME (ETC.)

TELL MAYOR HINZ (ETC.)

## NOTES

16. Greenwood, Mississippi. November 1963. From an interview with Willie Peacock.

17. Greenwood, Mississippi. November 1963. Mass meeting. A local resident speaks.

18. Jackson, Mississippi. November 1963. Voter registration rally. Dave Dennis, a CORE volunteer, speaks.

19. Selma, Alabama. October 1963. It is night-time at a mass meeting inside a large church. About 300 people are led in song by a young high school girl named Betty Fikes. The words mean a great deal to Selma residents. JIM CLARK is sheriff Jim Clark, whose posse stands outside the church just at this moment. The week before, as people were leaving a similar mass meeting, the posse, swinging their clubs, chased people off the streets and into their houses.

There have been many demonstrations and many arrests. Everyone knows about JUDGE MOON and about AL LINGO, the head of the Alabama state patrol. Many have been inside two local prisons, CAMP SELMA and CAMP CAMDEN.

(MORE)



(cont'd)

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE (ETC.)

TELL AL LINGO (ETC.)

LET ME TELL YOU THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE (ETC.)

ALL IN THE JAILHOUSE (ETC.)

ALL IN CAMP SELMA (ETC.)

ALL IN CAMP CAMDEN (ETC.)

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE (ETC.)

(End Side One)

Side Two

20. Come on join us. Come on join us because you're not free, either. This is your fight. This is my fight. This is everybody's fight. We gonna keep on fighting and we want you to do one thing. If you gonna fight come on and wade in the water with us, just wade in the water with us, and we all will get freedom together.

21. WADE IN THE WATER  
WADE IN THE WATER, CHILDREN  
WADE IN THE WATER, MY LAWDY  
GOD'S GONNA TROUBLE THE WATER

COME ON AND WADE IN THE WATER (ETC.)

YOU CAN TALK ABOUT PETER, TALK ABOUT PAUL  
GOD'S GONNA TROUBLE THE WATER  
WELL IT AIN'T BUT THE ONE GOD THAT MADE US ALL  
GOD'S GONNA TROUBLE THE WATER

COME ON AND WADE IN THE WATER (ETC.)

WELL THE JORDAN RIVER CHILLY AND COLD  
WELL IT CHILLS THE BODY BUT NOT THE SOUL

COME ON AND WADE IN THE WATER (ETC.)

WELL IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT I'VE BEEN TO HELL  
JUST FOLLOW ME DOWN TO THE COUNTY JAIL

WHY DON'T YOU WADE IN THE WATER (ETC.)

YOU CAN HINDER ME HERE, YOU CAN HINDER ME THERE  
BUT YOU CAN'T HINDER ME ON MY KNEES IN PRAYER

WHY DON'T YOU WADE IN THE WATER (ETC.)

(MORE)

NOTES

(SIDE TWO)

20. Jackson, Mississippi. November 1963. Voter registration rally. Sam Block.

21. Washington, D.C. Thanksgiving 1963. SNCC conference. Lead singer, Willie Peacock.

(cont'd)

WELL THE ENEMY IS GREAT BUT MY CAPTAIN'S STRONG  
I'M FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AND IT WON'T BE LONG

WHY DON'T YOU WADE IN THE WATER (ETC.)

COME ON AND WADE IN THE WATER (ETC.)

22. You can pray until you faint, but if you don't get up and try to do something, God is not gone put it in your lap.

23. HAVE YOU GOT GOOD RELIGION, CERTAINLY, LORD  
HAVE YOU GOT GOOD RELIGION, CERTAINLY, LORD  
HAVE YOU GOT GOOD RELIGION, CERTAINLY, LORD  
CERTAINLY, CERTAINLY, CERTAINLY LORD

WILL YOU VOTE TODAY FOR FREEDOM (ETC.)

WILL YOU PICKET FOR JUSTICE (ETC.)

DO YOU LOVE EVERYBODY (ETC.)

DO YOU HATE SEGREGATION (ETC.)

24. But we told them about Greenwood, and how the people were willing to go down to register and face the dogs, and some people said well if they can do that then we can do this. And that's the way it goes, you see, all over the South.

25. And it's no need of runnin, and no need of sayin, Honey, I'm not gone get in the mess. Because if you were born in America with a black face you're born in the mess.

26. You're not too old, and you're not too young. We got to walk together, children, can't get weary. If that white man look at you and ask you what you're doin this for, tell him he'll understand by and by.

27. TIS THAT FREEDOM TRAIN ACOMIN, COMIN, COMIN.  
TIS THAT FREEDOM TRAIN, LORD, COMIN, COMIN,  
TIS THAT FREEDOM TRAIN, LORD, COMIN, COMIN, COMIN,  
LET'S GET ON BOARD, GET ON BOARD

OK now, we're all here together, and we're saying that the freedom train is coming. Well, a lot of people worry, say, well will there be any Governor Wallace on this train? Will there be any Governor Barnett on this train? Well no. There will be no segregation on this train. This train is known as the freedom train, the freedom train is comin, and it's carryin' nothing but freedom. Now we want you to tell them that.

(MORE)

## NOTES

22. Indianola, Mississippi. August 1964. Mass meeting. Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer.
23. Hattiesburg, Mississippi. February 1964. Mass meeting. Lead singer Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer.
24. Greenwood, Mississippi. November 1963. Mass meeting. James Forman.
25. Indianola, Mississippi. August 1964. Mass meeting. Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer.
26. Hattiesburg, Mississippi. February 1964. Lawrence Guyot speaks before a mass meeting. He helped to form the Mississippi Democratic Party (MDP), as a challenge to the all-white policies of Mississippi politics.
27. Washington, D.C. Thanksgiving 1963. SNCC conference. Sam Block sings.

(cont'd)

IT'LL BE CARRYING NOTHING BUT FREEDOM (ETC.)

Well you know a lot of people worry. They say now if the freedom train is coming and you say it's carrying nothing but freedom, say I want to know a little bit more about this train. Say I know I haven't done what I should have done a long time ago, for the cause of freedom, but let me tell you, I don't want to be left with everybody else that's goin on this train. I want to know if there's going to be any room for my little son, is there going to be any room for my little daughter that wants to go on this freedom train? Will there be any room for my husband? Say I know he's worked on the plantation real hard all his life. I know that he hasn't gone to register to vote as he should have done, but let me tell you, say, I want to go on the train, I want to carry my whole family. Say, I know that-- you know all the freedom fighters have come together and they're fighting for the cause of freedom-- say, I don't think there'll be any room for me on this train. But this is the reason why I'm coming to ask you, will there be any room for me on this train? Well yes, you don't have to worry. We know that you haven't done what you should have done. You don't have to worry. You don't have to worry because the train is coming by the thousands, so don't worry about a thing. If you haven't done anything just come on, cause the train is comin by the thousands.

IT'LL BE COMIN BY THE THOUSANDS (ETC.)

You know down in Mississippi, you know, we listen to the people say that the freedom train is comin. You know the plantation owners in Mississippi are so bad and so mean until they just don't want Negroes in Mississippi to become registered voters. And this is why we've been fightin so hard to try to gain the right to vote.

28. They put fourteen of us in a six-by-eight cell. And we couldn't stand up and we couldn't sit up. We just all upon one another. Almost died in there. We just went down to register, that's all.
29. Policemen grabbed me by one hand and one foot and started to beat me in the stomach with their nightclubs and across the shoulders.
30. They beat McNair unconscious. They told him they were gone teach him to respect white state troopers.
31. And all of a sudden we heard people scream, women cryin, 'cause cops were just comin all through everywhere, just beatin people on sight, not asking you, are you in a demonstration, just beatin you just because you're there.

(MORE)

## NOTES

28. Atlanta, Georgia. September 1963. From an interview with a Greenwood, Mississippi resident who spent 43 days in Mississippi's Parchman State Penitentiary. He describes a 24 hour incident from his stay in prison.
29. Selma, Alabama. October 1963. From an interview with Chico Neblett. More than a hundred local residents saw him arrested by the police and beaten. His offense: trying to serve sandwiches to Negroes waiting in line to register.
30. Gadsden, Alabama. October, 1963. Patricia McKeldrey tells of the arrest by Alabama State troopers of Landy McNair, a SNCC field secretary. He had refused to say "Yes, sir" to the arresting officers.
31. Americus, Georgia. August 1963. From an interview with a local resident.

(cont'd)

32. People were just runnin. It was just like a nightmare. Just like mad dogs were after them or somethin. And that's when we saw this lady, this Mrs. Thomas, she was on her knees, and she was prayin, you could hear her. They said, move, nigger, move. Just like that, and just be beatin on her. And when she tried to get off of her knees, she would try, and every time she would get up off of her knees, one of them would hit her, and she wouldn't have a chance.
33. That night, jailer went and got about four or five state troopers, and they came into the cell, and they would call us out one by one, you know, and they'd beat us, they kicked us, they hit us across the head with the prodder, and they would stick us with it.
34. That Tuesday when they had our trial, the same policeman that had participated in the beatings was on the jury seat.
35. And we sat there during the trial and heard the man lie, and heard many more men lie before us. We saw justice bastardized before our eyes.
36. Oh Lordy, oh Lord, we need you right now, Jesus. Can't get along without your help, my Father. Oh Lord, oh Lord. Don't leave us right now, my Father. You know what we're goin up against, Jesus. If you don't come, Lord, we can't stand the storm. Come on, my Father. Help us on every weak and leaning side. Build us up where we're torn down. Give us more power, my Father. Able us to go on in Your Name. Oh Lordy, oh Lord. Don't leave us, Father. You know nonviolence has got some who are willing to come. Yet, my Father, gone trust You, Jesus. Able us to trust You for Your Word. Oh Lordy, oh Lord. I know, I know, I know You, Jesus. Done tried You, my Father. Tried You a long time ago. Don't doubt You nowhere, Jesus. I'm going on in this movement in Your Name. Oh Lordy, oh Lord. Bless all in here, my Father. Them that are home, Jesus, all God's children bound in jail, ask You to bless em, my Father. Be a mother and a father for em in jail. You know You helped Paul and Silas, and old Daniel in the lion's den, and the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. Help us right now for Jesus' sake. Oh Lord, oh, oh Jesus. Don't leave us, my Father. Give us more strength, Jesus. Give us the power, my Father. Don't let us be afraid. In Your Holy Name, Oh Jesus.
37. We're down here in a land where we need You. We need You here in Selma, Alabama. We need You up and down the streets of Selma. (Well, well.)

(MORE)

## NOTES

32. Gadsden, Alabama. October 1963. Miss McKeldrey describes police response to a "Kneel-in", a praying demonstration at the Gadsden Courthouse.
33. Gadsden, Alabama. October 1963. From an interview with Eric Rainey, SNCC field secretary. Electric cattle prodders were often used by Southern police on black demonstrators and prisoners.
34. Indianola, Mississippi. August 1964. Mass meeting. Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer talks about her trial in Winona, Mississippi, where she was arrested and beaten by the police.
35. Washington, D.C. Thanksgiving 1963. SNCC conference. Charles Sherrad, SNCC field secretary of Albany, Georgia, describes a trial.
36. Americus, Georgia. August 1963. It is afternoon at a mass meeting in a small church. Outside, the Georgia Highway Patrol is waiting. In the past month, non-violent demonstrations against white-only policies have filled the jails. Demonstrators bear many bruises. Inside, a new group of young people are about to walk to the courthouse and sit down on the front lawn. The whole church is kneeling. A woman leads them in prayer.
37. Selma, Alabama. October 1963. Mass meeting. A local minister prays.



(cont'd)

38. Early, I said early, yeah. Early one morning something happened. This evil system of segregation captured the mind of somebody, it infested their very thinking, it deteriorated their mind, until they got bombs and threw it on the church; and children, four kids, were blown asunder. Yeah. And then I find -- are you with me, children? -- there were two children that were riding down the street. Somebody took a rifle and shot one in the back. An officer killed another. And then a child had her eyes blown out. -- I want to know are you with me, children? -- This is a mean old world in which we live. I say this is a mean old world. I believe if God would speak out of heaven, He would say that Danville, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Nashville in the State of Tennessee are filled with dead men's bones -- are you listening, children? -- God is tired of this system. I say God is ready to move. I say God is ready to move. Ah, the land, oh Lord, the land, Oh Lord, the land in which we live is troubled. The Bible say that this whole world shall reel and rock like a drunken man.
39. God is not pleased at all the murdering, and all of the brutality for no reason at all. God is not pleased at the Negro children in the State of Mississippi, sufferin from malnutrition. God is not pleased that we have to go to the field and work from 10 to 11 hours for three lousy dollars.
40. Now you tell him that I said to stop this movement he got to lock up God and he can't do it.
41. The white people in the country by and large have not as yet made up their minds whether they're willing to grant freedom to Negroes.
42. We believe that it is better to love than to hate. But at the same time we must warn this nation and warn the State of Mississippi that our people are growing tired and they're growing restless.
43. One man one vote is all we ask for. We wash for you, we cook for you, we even sweep your house. Iron your clothes. Now you won't let us in. (Tell the truth.) We go to school down here; we still can't get a good job. You stand there look at me like you haven't ever seen one before. But you have, you got one in your house now. I know, because I've worked for some of you.
44. Three hundred years same thing. What's happening now have been happening for three hundred years. They are going to get tired of it, and they're gone move. They're going to move.

(MORE)

## NOTES

38. Danville, Virginia. Desember 1963. On a Sunday morning in a small church a local minister preaches the gospel. He was a SCLC member and was active in organizing and demonstrating. He speaks of the church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, that occured in September 1963.
39. Indianola, Mississippi. August 1964. Mass meeting. Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer.
40. Greenwood, Mississippi. November 1963. Mass meeting. Local resident.
41. Washington, D.C. Thanksgiving 1963. SNCC conference. Bob Moses.
42. Jackson, Mississippi. November 1963. Voter registration rally. John Lewis, then chairman of SNCC, speaks.
43. Hattiesburg, Mississippi. February 1964. In a demonstration before the courthouse a line of people are trying to register. A sheriff blocks the entrance door and a woman in the crowd speaks up.
44. Americus, Georgia. August 1963. From an interview with Willie Ricks.

45. Shoot a nigger and watch him run. That's what he was sayin. But this is a new nigger and you tell the old man Hammond down there that we ain't runnin no more (no more).
46. We'll never turn back (never turn back). Those four girls in Birmingham, Alabama, did not die in vain. Medgar Evers did not die in vain.
47. They's gone. They was beat. They was dogged. Now we gone let all of that die? They dead. We gone let all of that die? No. I can't let it die. No sir, I never let my child's work go in vain.
48. And you can tell every white man, every segregationist, every Ku Klux Klanner that if they killed everybody in this house there would be more Negroes to rise up because the little children are singing now...
49. AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY, LORDY, TURN ME ROUND (OH NO)  
TURN ME ROUND, OH NO, TURN ME ROUND  
AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY, LORDY, TURN ME ROUND,  
GONNA KEEP ON AWALKIN, LORDY, KEEP ON ATALKIN, (LORDY)
- AIN'T GONNA LET SEGREGATION (ETC.)
- AIN'T GONNA LET NO CITY COMMISSIONERS (ETC.)
- AIN'T GONNA LET NO PATROLS (ETC.)
- AIN'T GONNA LET NO JAILHOUSE (ETC.)
- AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY LORDY (ETC.)
- AIN'T GONNA LET NO DOGS LORDY (ETC.)
- FREEDOM, FREEDOM NOW, FREEDOM NOW  
FREEDOM NOW, FREEDOM NOW

(End Side Two)

## NOTES

45. Greenwood, Mississippi. November 1963. Mass meeting. James Forman.
46. Jackson, Mississippi. November 1963. Voter registration rally. Sam Block.
47. A few miles outside of Philadelphia, Mississippi. August, 1964. In the open air at the site of a burned-out church a memorial service is held for James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman, three murdered civil rights workers whose bodies have just been discovered. They had been arrested by Philadelphia police while investigating the burning of this very church. Mrs. Chaney, the mother of James Chaney, speaks.
48. Jackson, Mississippi. November 1963. Voter registration rally. James Forman.
49. Hattiesburg, Mississippi. February 1964. It is the evening of "Freedom Day". Earlier that day, a demonstration march around the courthouse was accomplished without incident, and several Negro residents were registered for the first time. Now, just before a mass meeting is to begin, a group of young people begin to sing.

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