

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
International President

MILTON P. WEBSTER
1st International Vice-President
3947 Drexel Boulevard,
Chicago 18, Illinois

BENNIE SMITH
2nd International Vice-President
1306 Broadway, Room 305
Detroit, Michigan



Train, Chair Car, Coach Porters and Attendants
AN INTERNATIONAL UNION

Affiliated with the A. F. of L. - C.I.O. - C.L.C.

217 WEST 125th STREET — Room 301
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

MO 2-5080 - 1



ASHLEY L. TOTTEN
International Secretary-Treasurer

C. L. DELLUMS
3rd International Vice-President
1716 Seventh Street
Oakland, California

T. D. McNEAL
4th International Vice-President
11 North Jefferson Street
St. Louis 3, Missouri

B. F. McLAURIN
Eastern Zone Supervisor

October 10, 1958

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

With Governor Orvale Faubus of Arkansas and Governor J. Lindsey Almond, Jr. of Virginia cynically and brazenly gambling with the future of public schools adversely affecting Negro and white children; with a veritable tirade of abuse and denunciation of the United States Supreme Court by prominent southern state officials merely because of its decisions for desegregation and integration proceeding apace; with the so-called massive resistance movement of Virginia against federal judicial power growing more menacing, together with demagogic appeals to the passions and prejudices of misinformed southern people, resulting in explosive outbursts of violence in the form of the bombing of schools and the churches and homes of Negro civil rights leaders; with the strange, amazing and incredible behavior of a governor of a state making a national appeal to America for sympathy and financial support for the maintenance of segregation in schools, in utter defiance of the law of the land, and the reckless police brutality against

The Reverend Martin Luther King who preaches the doctrine of non-violence and love for one's enemies; a few Negro and white citizens in New York City, shocked and outraged by the aforementioned state of affairs, came together in my office to discuss some form of social action to speak to the conscience of the nation in the interest of upholding the law of the land and the principle of interracial brotherhood, and agreed that some form of massive demonstration should be developed for the dramatization of the cause of integration of public schools.

Since both white and Negro youth are the victims of segregation which is deliberately designed psychologically to condition the former to the belief in their superiority and the latter in their inferiority, which can only tend to split our population, with a division of a yawning chasm of human hate, it was felt that whatever type of social action is proposed it should be interracial.

Thus, it was decided to stage an interracial Youth March in Washington, D. C., October 25, 1958, with a view to informing, awakening and arousing public opinion to the grave danger of Faubusism and the specious doctrine of massive resistance and interposition may have in undermining, if not effecting the ultimate destruction of the confidence of the American people in the integrity of the Supreme Court and its role in our governmental system.

Now, it has come to my attention that there is some disquiet in Washington, D. C. regarding the proposed Youth March for Integrated Schools with respect to its purposes, sponsorship and operation.

In order that there may be no confusion in the mind of anyone, may I convey on behalf of the Committee some facts that I am certain will be clarifying and reassuring.

First of all, let me definitively and positively state that the objectives of this March are not directed against you or your administration. It is not to our interest to weaken but to strengthen your hand to uphold the law of the land. This demonstration is wholly non-partisan. You may be assured that I would not permit this March to be utilized to embarrass you or your administration for this would only tend to mar its moral grandeur.

On the contrary, this March is an organized expression of support to your forthright position on the United States Supreme Court decision for desegregation of public schools which will ultimately help to achieve an orderly transition from segregation to integration, despite efforts of some state government personalities who would defy the President of the United States and repudiate the Constitution.

Its further purpose is to express specifically the attitude of white and Negro people in behalf of the principle of integrated schools and particularly to applaud the achievement of such integration in some schools in certain areas of the South.

It seeks to demonstrate that, contrary to the misrepresentation and attacks by Communist Russia to the effect that Negro and white people are in an irreconcilable racial war in this country, Little Rock is not typical of America and that Negro youth and their parents are not marching down the path to first-class citizenship and human dignity alone but they have many friends among the white population in our country in government, in labor unions, the church and business, as shown by this interracial demonstration.

It will also indicate that there are responsible organizations that have welcomed the decisions of the Supreme Court and executive steps of yourself and United States Attorney General William P. Rogers in implementing the federal court decisions to complete the process of orderly democratic change.

Let me also assure you that this demonstration is wholly free from the taint of communists or communism since the leadership of this enterprise rejects uncompromisingly any support or cooperation from that source.

May I say that the finest representatives of our community have joined in the active direction of this non-partisan, non-violent effort. Our leadership includes representatives of the church, labor unions and educational groups.

An executive committee has met weekly in my office, under my chairmanship, superintending all details. Also, a children's committee has met weekly under the personal direction of some of the distinguished women of our community.

In short, our leadership has not merely given expression to the form and method but has maintained administrative direction so that the character of the March will fully carry out the meaning it is intended to express; namely, democracy in education through integration.

In the opinion of our leadership, this March, symbolic of our true democracy, is an opportunity for registering positive, moral and spiritual achievements and enrichment of our great democratic heritage as well as for redefining our next steps in a great struggle for human dignity and our American way of life.

May we suggest that we would welcome immensely your cooperation in this endeavor by receiving a few of the youth at a convenient place in the White House in order that they may express to you their hopes and aspirations and receive your blessings and inspiration, with a brief statement concerning what your administration has done and is doing to give force, effect, reality and integrity to the great decisions of the United States Supreme Court for the desegregation and integration of public schools.

One of the basic and cardinal purposes of the March is to make it unmistakably clear to the South and other parts of our nation, as well as the world at large, that the Negroes are inflexibly determined never to retreat from the position they have taken for complete integration in public schools and other areas of our national community.

We are confident that your personal greetings to a few of the youth will give them heart, hope and faith for future democratic dedication and moral commitment in service to our great American family, of which you are the respected, honored and distinguished head.

If it may be convenient for you to serve us in the aforementioned manner, I will be pleased to get word concerning same.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Philip Randolph
A. Philip Randolph
International President