

YOUTH MARCH FOR INTEGRATED SCHOOLS  
312 West 125th Street  
New York 27, N. Y.

PRESS RELEASE:- Saturday, October 25, after 4 p.m. and thereafter.

(Text of speech by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr which was delivered by his wife, Coretta, before a meeting of 10,000 "Youth Marchers for Integrated Schools" at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C., on Saturday, October 25, 1958 at 4 p.m. Dr. King, who is convalescing from a recent assault, was not permitted by his doctors to attend the meeting.)

Walking for freedom has been an integral part of man's struggle for freedom and dignity.

Gandhi of India began the great, non-violent deliverance of India by a massive people's march to the sea. The people of China, defenseless against Japanese aggression, walked thousands of miles across their nation, and Japan never really conquered or broke the spirit of China. We all know how Moses, inflamed by the oppression of his people, led the march out of Egypt into the promised land.

Walking for freedom has been an inseparable part of the Negro struggle for full emancipation.

Over a century ago courageous slaves broke out of plantations and, despite terrifying dangers, began a long march North, to freedom. This was the underground railroad. This walking to end injustice went on for years and did three mighty things: It shook the slave system to its very roots. It aroused the conscience of this nation. It gave the lie to the myth of the so-called "kindly masters" and "contented slaves."

Many years later, when abuse and insults grew intolerable in Montgomery, Alabama, the tradition of walking in protest for human rights was revived. Bus segregation in Montgomery was crushed under 50,000 marching feet.

Press Release - Speech delivered by Mrs. Martin Luther King. - continued.

Today, in this great and historic demonstration, you, the young people of America, have marched for freedom. Fifty thousand in the fight for a free America.

There is a unique element in this demonstration; it is a young people's march. You are proving that the youth of America is freeing itself of the prejudices of an older and darker time in our history. In addition, you are proving the so-called "silent generation" is not so silent. And the so-called "beat generation" may have been hit hard, but it is definitely not "beat." It is standing up and fighting hard for the rights of all Americans.

Keep marching and show the pessimists and the weak of spirit that they are wrong. Keep marching and don't let them silence you. Keep marching and resist injustice with the firm, non-violent spirit you demonstrated today.

The future belongs, not to those who slumber or sleep, but to those who cannot rest while the evil of injustice thrives in the bosom of America. The future belongs to those who march toward freedom.