



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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EMERGENCY NEWSLETTER

N A A C P ACTS DESPITE ALABAMA BAN

— Your Association and the Birmingham Crisis —

- MAY 11: NAACP sympathy demonstrations in 100 key cities protesting "Alabama brutality" and voicing indignation and outrage over "barbarity in Alabama." Posters read: "We Want Rights Not Bites" "Birmingham Sends Tots to Jail" "Alabama, Capital of the Dogs," etc.
- MAY 8: New York (Harlem) NAACP branch held first of national series of protest rallies, this one called by Rev. Richard Allen Hildebrand, local president. Held on New York City Hall steps. Addressed by Executive Secretary Wilkins who said that a people who wait one hundred years for their rights can hardly be called extremist. NAACP rally also addressed by A. Philip Randolph and Mayor Robert Wagner.
- MAY 7: Committee from Great Neck, N.Y., NAACP branch journeyed to Washington seeking a conference with Attorney General Kennedy on Birmingham. Conferred with John Doar of the Justice Department who is handling voting cases in southern states.
- MAY 6: Following week-end actions of Birmingham police, Executive Secretary Wilkins urged national "demonstrations to show sympathy with Birmingham citizens" by NAACP chapters in 100 selected cities. Announced May 11th as target date.
- MAY 3: Secretary Wilkins deplored "police-imposed reign of terror" in Alabama in urgent wire to President Kennedy. Challenged "arbitrary arrest of Freedom Walkers." Demanded that President Kennedy speak "directly both to Alabama authorities and to the nation as a whole, calling for an end to" Birmingham injustices, and for "commitment of that state to the rule of law and of moral principle."
- Secretary Wilkins insisted that Attorney General Robert Kennedy have the Department of Justice "promptly extend federal protection to Birmingham's Negro citizens."
- NAACP branch presidents in 100 selected cities were urged to immediately wire President Kennedy "to speak out and the Justice Department to intercede, using all power of federal government . . . and to protect those who seek to exercise their constitutional rights in Alabama."
- APRIL 30: Vernon Jordan, NAACP Georgia field secretary, made final arrangements for securing "NAACP Freedom Canteen" to provide food and nourishment for "Freedom Walkers," bound for Chattanooga, Tenn., to Jackson, Miss., across Georgia and Alabama.

- APRIL 29: Lawrence Curry, member of the Chattanooga NAACP branch, volunteered to escort "Freedom Walkers" in "NAACP Freedom Canteen."
- APRIL 28: Vernon Jordan assumed full-time coverage of route of "Freedom Walkers" and worked with NAACP units along the way in preparing their communities to receive the Walkers.
- APRIL 27: Association represented by Rev. Latta V. Thomas, chairman of NAACP New York State Church Work Committee, at funeral of slain Freedom Walker William Moore in Binghamton, N.Y.
- APRIL 26: NAACP grieved by murder of William Moore. Secretary Wilkins wired widow saying his loss "was our loss also."
- APRIL 25: Secretary Wilkins conferred with Revs. Martin Luther King, Ralph Abernathy and Fred Shuttlesworth in Birmingham, addressed packed mass rally at 16th Street Baptist Church (command post of current demonstrations). Pledged full NAACP support despite injunction.
- APRIL 20: Association joined national one-day picketing protest against Woolworth, Kress, Green and Newberry stores for the rigid bias practiced by their Birmingham affiliates. NAACP branches in more than 40 cities acted on 36-hour notice.
- APRIL 15: Secretary Wilkins suggested to Attorney General Robert Kennedy that federal grounds exist for intervention in behalf of Rev. Martin Luther King and other Negro leaders arrested in Birmingham. Mr. Wilkins said: "14th Amendment to U.S. Constitution is binding on the states and includes the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech." He added that "18 U.S. Code 242 makes it a crime under federal law to deprive any U.S. citizens of constitutional rights under color of state law."

The above has been done with our resources outside of the State of Alabama since the NAACP is under a "temporary" injunction imposed on the parent body of the NAACP by Alabama authorities in 1956. This injunction is still in effect although we have taken this case to the U.S. Supreme Court twice and another petition to get the Federal courts to take jurisdiction was filed on April 22 of this year.