

B'ham News

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FROM: CITIZENS FREEDOM RALLY COMMITTEE
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"Interest in the Citizens Freedom Rally on March 26 has mounted beyond our expectations," according to Reverend Joseph Lowery, Chairman of the Freedom Rally Committee. The Rally is being staged to dramatize local citizens' concern over unequal treatment of Negroes in all phases of life of Jefferson County. It is scheduled to begin with a march from Kelly Ingram Park at 12 noon.

Sponsored by several local civic organizations, including the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Birmingham Council on Human Relations, the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, the Birmingham Baptist Ministers Conference, the Birmingham Branch NAACP, and the Birmingham Housewives League, this demonstration marks the first time all of these and several other Birmingham groups have agreed to act together supporting human rights and dignity, and equal treatment before the law.

Specific issues which concern these groups are: 1) The lack of Negroes in the police and fire departments. 2) Mistreatment of Negroes by Birmingham police. 3) Token employment of Negroes by city and county governmental agencies and the business community of greater Birmingham. 4) The apparent satisfaction with token changes on the part of elected and appointed officials of Birmingham and Jefferson County.

Rally leaders are also calling for a Self-Denial Easter to continue the dramatization of concern for these issues.

They feel that officials should be planning school desegregation at all levels and grades to take the burden of transfer off Negro parents.

Although Rally leaders recognize the responsibility of Negroes to encourage full participation in city and county government and employment, they also insist that officials must carry the greater responsibility of recruitment.