

This telegram was sent by Martin Luther King Jr., Roy Wilkins, A Phillip Randolph and Whitney Young, who instructed SNCC to refrain from picketing Luci's wedding.

We believe that your position as a leader of one of the national civil rights groups will identify you in that fashion in any protest you may lead in Washington on August 6th in connection with your belief on the Viet Nam War and upon the occasion of the wedding of the president's daughter.

We believe such a protest, making due allowances for the sincere anti-war beliefs of many of the participants, is in extremely poor taste in that it will eject into a uniquely personal ceremony, the political and moral judgement of strangers.

We believe every young woman, including the daughters and sisters of demonstrators, is entitled to the private happiness that accompanies her wedding day.

We believe that the scheduled demonstration is political untenable because the young woman and her groom, who will be subjected to embarrassment, are in no way responsible for the Viet Nam War and have no control over the conduct of our nation in the premises. The protest demonstration, then becomes a futile and unflattering exhibition of the egos of the demonstrators, with no practicable effect upon the objective said to be sought, mainly the ending of the war. Because of your identification as head of a civil rights organization will implant the erroneous idea in million of Americas that this demonstration represents an action by the civil rights movement, we therefore call upon you to withdraw from participation and use you influence to cancel the entire demonstration.

---

SNCC's telegram to King, Wilkins, Randolph, and Whitney Young read:

Gentlemen:

We believe that it took some h\_\_ of a nerve sending that telegram. You have displayed more backbone in defending Luci than you have shown for the millions of black people being brutalized every day in the U.S.

You have displayed more backbone in defending Luci than you have shown for the coloured peoples of Vietnam being napalmed by Luci's father.

You have displayed more backbone in defending Luci than you have shown for our black soliders being exterminated in Vietnam today.

You have displayed more backbone in defending Luci and Pat than you have shown for our black brothers engaged in acts of rebellion in our cities.

As far as we are concerned you messengers can tell your boss that his day of jubilation is also the day that his country murdered many in Hiroshima.

In addition, we believe that your "boss-man" selected this day to divert the news coverage from Vietnam and Hiroshima, which is a national day of protest, to a special wedding.

As so called responsible leaders of so called civil rights organizations we suggest that you check your fact as to what action SNCC is going to take before you bring the message.

Yours for Black Power  
Courtland Cox, SNCC