MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM
170 West 130 Street
New York 27, New York
Filmore 8-1900

MEMO

To: Bayard
From: Courtland
Re: Southern Freedom Trains

I have communicated with the various railroads asking for a written reply which would give the reasons for the lack of the transportation facilities for the March. I also included in the letter a statement concerning our intentions to send copies of their letters to the I.C.C.

When they send their replies I suggest that a statement be released to the press and/or a telegram to Robert Kennedy stating the following:

1) Participants will be travelling through the South for long distances and much of the travelling will be done at night through areas that have been known to be dangerous for travel when buses or cars transporting Negroes or an integrated group have risked travelling through these areas.

2) If we are not able to secure the transportation facilities of the railroads we have no choice but to use buses and cars for transportation to Washington.

3) The possibility of injury to our participants is therefore greatly increased and if this possibility becomes a reality, as we know it will, the United States government would be placed in a very embarrassing and dangerous position.

4) Therefore, we are asking that you inform the railroads as to the possible dangers involved in not making trains available to the March Committee.

P.S. You might call Martin King and ask him if he has secured the train from Coastline Railroad. If he has not impress upon him the importance of reserving that train.