

Wednesday
August 28, 1963

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

MEMO

Founding Chairmen

James Farmer
Martin Luther King
John Lewis
A. Philip Randolph
Roy Wilkins
Whitney Young

To: Bayard
From: Courtland
Re: Southern Freedom Trains

Administrative Committee

Cleveland Robinson
Chairman
Courtland Cox
Ann Arnold Hedgeman
Rev. Thomas Kilgore, Jr.
Rev. George Lawrence
James McCain
Dr. John Morsell
Guichard Parris

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.

Director

A. Philip Randolph

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:

Deputy Director

Bayard Rustin

Coordinators

Norman Hill
L. Joseph Overton

Southern Administrators

Dr. Aaron Henry
Worth Long
Att. Floyd McKissick
Rev. Wyatt Walker

- 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~~^{he} has secured the train from Eastline railroad. If he has not impress upon him the importance of reserving that train.