

## the detroit march...a prelude to Washington

With SCLC President Martin Luther King, Jr. leading the way, some 125,000 persons joined together in a mighty "Freedom Walk" in downtown Detroit on June 23, 1963. It was the biggest demonstration in that city since 1936 when a rally was held for the late U. S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It also gave a hint of the mammoth gathering that would come two months later in the "March On Washington."

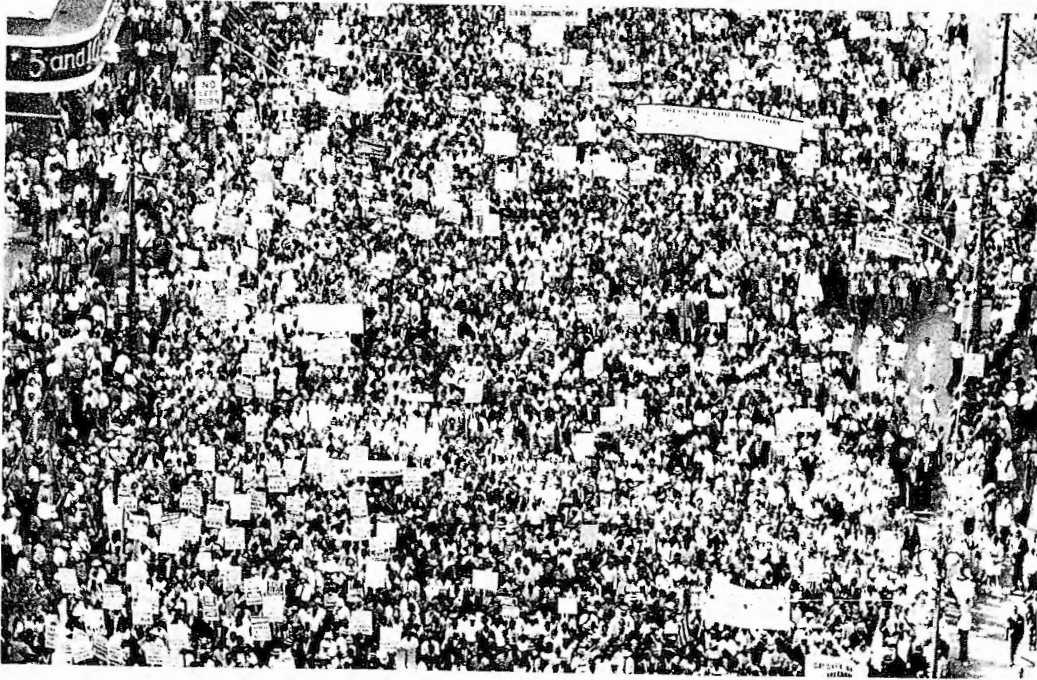
The record-breaking turnout broke all previous marks in terms of crowd size, and was sponsored by the Detroit Council For Human Relations, which had the Rev. C. L. Franklin as its chairman. It was so overwhelmingly successful as an orderly demonstration without incident that Detroit newspapers devoted bold banner headlines and pages of pictures and stories on the historical "walk."

Besides Dr. King in its front line of march, it also had such other Michigan dignitaries as UAW President Walter Reuther, Detroit Mayor Jerome P. Cavanaugh and former Governor John B. Swainson.

At the city's Convention Hall, where the great parade ended, Dr. King addressed a standing-room only audience that spilled out into adjacent smaller halls while others in the multitude heard his message over loudspeakers installed outside the rally hall.

Of the "Freedom Walk," Detroit police commented later that it "was the most orderly, peaceful crowd" that the city had ever experienced.





... part of the crowd



... leading the march



... in convention hall

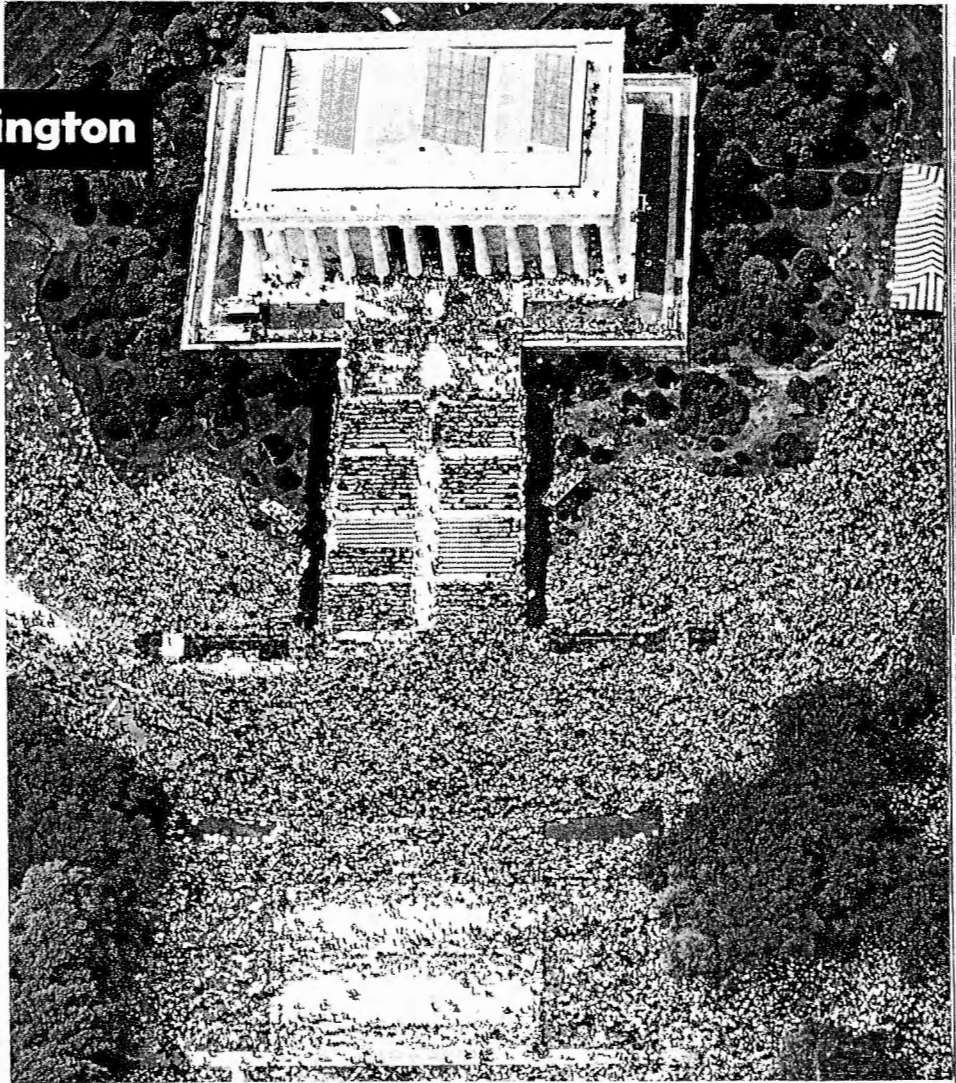


# the great march on washington

A new page in America's history was written on August 28, 1963, in Washington, D. C., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference had an historic role in that writing. Cooperating with nine other organizations, SCLC made available its money, manpower and facilities to help mobilize the South in making the March On Washington the tremendous demonstration that it was.

History will note that it was the most peaceful, orderly assembly of some 250,000 Americans ever organized in mass protest. It will also note that in that massing, the American Negro won for himself a new respect and a new dignity that had long gone un-noticed. The world's news media reported the message of that march, and the people of the world observed that awesome gathering with an understanding sympathy for America's oppressed minorities.

... an aerial view of crowd



leaders at head of march

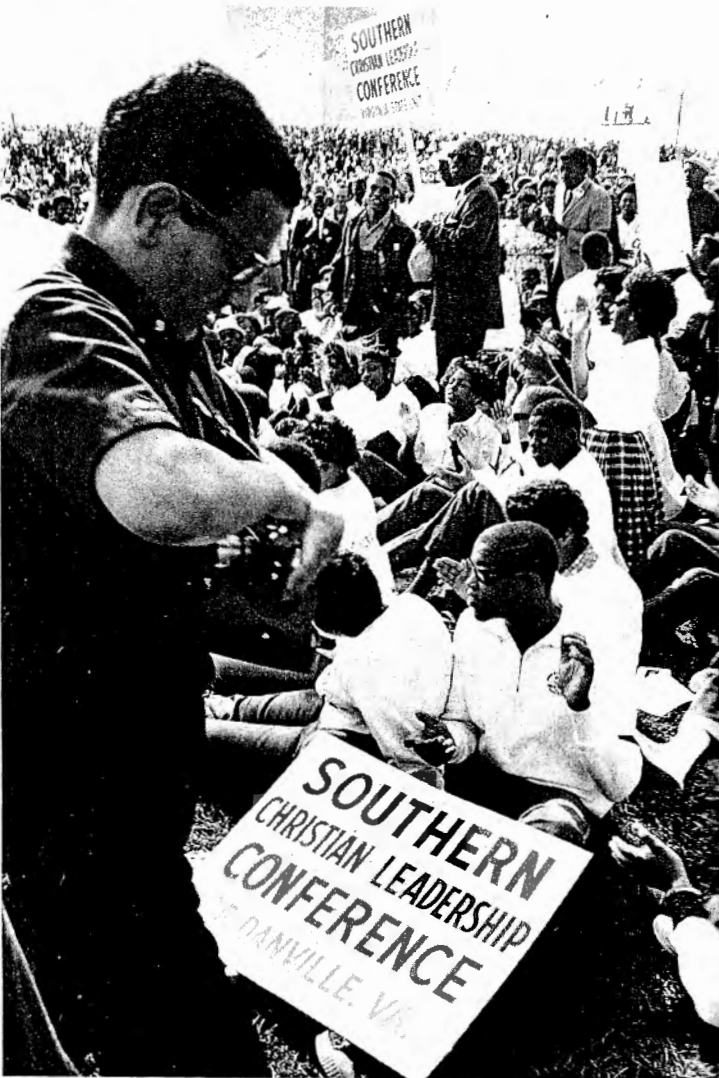




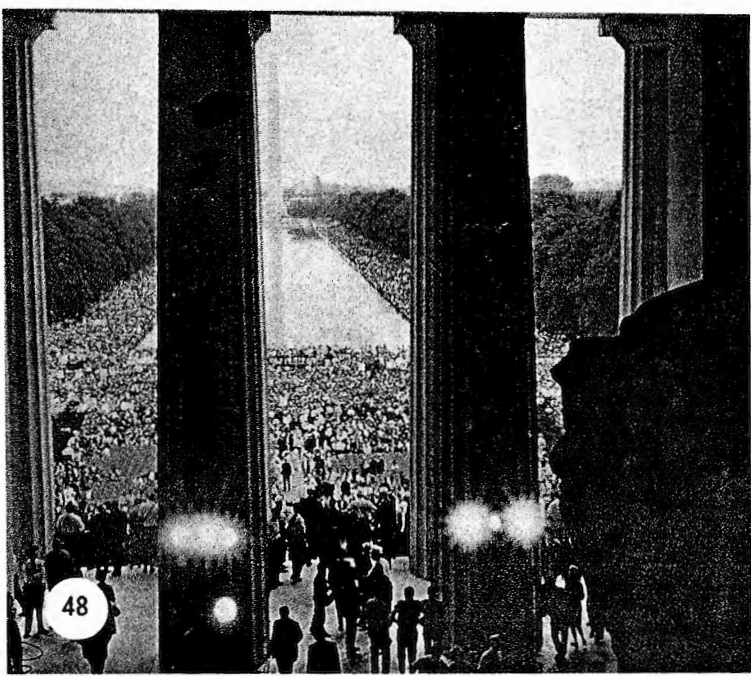
the crowd



march headquarters



an slc delegation



the view from lincoln memorial