Image: “200,000 March in Capital”

Armed Forces in the Far East, Pacific Stars and Stripes, August 30, 1963.
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09976.01)
WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 200,000 Negroes and whites staged a giant, orderly “march for jobs and freedom” Wednesday—a demonstration they hoped would lead to a historic breakthrough all along the American civil rights front.

In balmy 84-degree weather and a friendly breeze, they walked from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial, enshrining the marble statue of the man who freed the American slaves 100 years ago.

As they went, they softly chanted the familiar civil rights hymn:

“Deep in my heart I do believe... some day we shall overcome.”

And a forest of placards moved with them. Some placards struck a religious note:

“God of wisdom, God of power, can America deny freedom in this hour?”

Others were more down-to-
(Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)
(Continued From Page 1)

Fighting and sherry

By U.S. dough to help Jim 

The estimate of more than 

200,000 marchers that came from 

Washington Chief of Police 

Robert Y. Murray. He made 

the assessment in midafternoon 

and added: “Up to now it’s 

been a very orderly crowd, a 

very safe gathering.” 

A holiday atmosphere pervaded 

the city. Many government 

workers took the day off and 

many business offices closed. 

Shades in the downtown area 

were largely deserted. 

William H. Fier, executive 

vice president of the Washington 

Board of Trade, said that 

while he had no actual figure of 

“Imagine business of 20 to 50 

per cent...there’s nobody in 

the store.”

The marchers had streamed 

into the capital in early 

morning hours on trains, 

more than 60 buses, 2000 

chartered places, and by car 

and foot. Over 700 miles from Chicago on 

the Shiner line.

They came from hundreds of 

clubs and bands in groups 

that represented nearly every 

state and territory. And when 

they were in town they were 

welcomed by a crowd that they said was 

the highest point of the march rights battle.

Even before the close of 

the ceremony they started sending out 

the advice of their leaders and 

marchers to marchers from the 

day, headed toward Washington’s 

Lincoln Memorial and the two 

bravely, for the trip home.

As the rally broke up, police 

reported that 133 had re-

ceived treatment at first-

aid stations, none with 

serious injuries. Many fell 

over tent poles and down 

steps. There were two 

epilepsy seizures. 

Two arrests were re-

ported new. Arrests were 

made. 

The police also arrested 

George Lincoln Rockwell’s 

New York. He was arrested 

at the Lincoln Memorial. 

He was arrested at 

the Lincoln Park. 

The Lincoln Memorial, 

the vast audience 

stretched far back toward 

the east end of the 

magnificent reflecting pool.

They heard many speeches, 

many songs and prayers. 

They heard speakers say passing 

President Kennedy’s civil 

rights bill and March 

March. 

A Philip Randolph, 

free and proud 

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WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Kennedy said Wednesday’s massive civil rights demonstration in Washington advanced “the cause of 20 million Negroes” and all mankind.

The President issued a statement after meeting for an hour and 15 minutes with 10 leaders of the more than 200,000 marchers.

The President pledged that the federal government “will continue its efforts to obtain increased employment and to eliminate discrimination in employment practices, two of the prime goals of the march.”

And he said the Administration also will keep up efforts to have Congress enact not only a civil rights bill but also “a number of measures to strengthen the economy and to make it possible for more people to work and to get better jobs.”
He praised leaders of the march and all who participated in it “for the detailed preparations that made it possible and for the orderly manner in which it has been conducted.”

“History has seen many demonstrations of widely varying character and for a whole host of reasons,” the President asserted. “As our thoughts travel to other demonstrations that have occurred in different parts of the world, this nation can properly be proud of the demonstration that has occurred here today.”

The President said there had been remarkable progress this summer “in translating civil rights from principles into practices.” But he added that “we have a very long way yet to travel.”

“One cannot help but be impressed with the deep fervor and the quiet dignity that characterizes the

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thousands who have gathered in the nation's capital from across the country to demonstrate their faith and confidence in our democratic form of government,” the President declared.

Kennedy said that tens of thousands of Americans, Negro and white, had exercised their right Wednesday to “direct the widest possible attention to a great national issue.”

“Efforts to secure equal treatment and equal opportunity for all without regard to race, color, creed or nationality are neither novel nor difficult to understand. What is different today is the intensifyed and widespread public awareness of the need to move forward in achieving these objectives—which are older than this nation.”

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(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09976.01)
WASHINGTON (UPI)—Leaders of the march on Washington said Wednesday they got assurances from House Speaker John McCormack (D-Mass.) that a fair employment practices program could be passed by the House if added to President Kennedy's main civil rights bill.

A. Phillip Randolph, chairman of the integrationist march, said after a meeting of 30 civil rights leaders with McCormack that the speaker “assured us” if a fair employment practices commission were put into the package, it “will get through the House.”

The 50-minute meeting with McCormack completed a round of three Capitol conferences by the demonstration chiefs. It followed earlier meetings with Senate majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and the minority House and Senate leaders, Rep. Charles A. Halleck (R-Ind.) and Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.).

The proposal to outlaw racial job discrimination in private business, now is in a separate bill. House civil rights leaders already have promised to try to get it included in the main civil rights measure now before the House Judiciary Committee.