

30,000 Roar

(Continued from page one)

malcy that led to the police brutality in Marion and the bloody murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson by state police officers. It was normalcy that was the death of four little girls on a Sunday morning in a Birmingham church. It was normalcy on the bridge on highway 80 with the tear gas and the billy clubs. It was normalcy for the brutal slaying of the Rev. Jim Reeb.

"No," King shouted, "we shall not allow Alabama to return to normalcy."

"The only normalcy we shall settle for is the normalcy we shall be satisfied God's children. The only normalcy we shall be satisfied with is the normalcy of brotherhood . . . The normalcy of justice . . . the normalcy of peace."

His words brought a standing ovation from the crowd, 300 of whom had marched the 50 miles, from Selma in five days.

Others have joined them, three miles outside the city to stream through downtown Montgomery.

In a procession more than 20 blocks long, they sang freedom songs, and chanted their slogans of brotherhood, and carried flags and banners extolling human rights.

The elite 300 wore bright orange plastic vests. Most of them were from the Black Belt counties which had suffered the worst of the racial upheaval. Their five day pilgrimage to present their grievances to their governor is an epic of drama and pathos.

Yesterday's mass rally in front of the State Capitol building was the climax of the trek and of the voter registration drive in the Black Belt counties which Dr. King started in January.

He had expected only about 10,000 to answer his appeal to attend the demonstration.

It marked the end of the pilgrimage, but the beginning of massive drive to bring an open ballot box to Alabama where 34 percent of the residents are colored.

"We will march on the schools. We will march if necessary."

"We are not marching for a vote bill — we are marching for a fact . . . the actual working of the law," one of the rights leaders, the Rev. C. T. Vivian, had told the AFRO prior to the rally.

Dr. King cited Wallace's previous slighting of Federal Rights Laws—the 1954 school decision—"and still there are no integrated schools in Alabama"—and the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

"So we can't depend on Wallace to pay any attention to a vote bill," he said.

KnitonxOrR The Rev. James Bevel, a King aide and a principal organizer of the Selma civil rights drive, promised a march on the schools come September.

"We will march on every courthouse in every county in Alabama, if necessary, and on the schools in September," he added.

"Right now we're out here and Wallace is in there. But he'd better remember that

pretty soon some of us will be in there and he may be out here, because 34 percent of those state legislature seats are ours," he said.

Well-dressed figures could be seen standing on the upper steps and in the doorway of the Capitol building behind a line of green-helmeted Capital officers, as he spoke.

Undersecretary of State Ralph Bunche, also a Nobel Peace Prize winner, who marched part of the way—15 miles of the hike—said he felt "discomfort" and almost traitorous by addressing a State Capitol building which showed no American flag.

The building sported an Alabama flag — red on a background of white, above the confederate flag.

The demonstrators had to turn to the American flags they carried with them when they opened the rally with the Star Spangled Banner.

"Gov. Wallace and some others in these parts seem to have forgotten that they fought and lost the war over what that second flag stands for a long time ago," Dr. Bunche said.

Describing the poor image Alabama has on the rest of the world, he said that in the United Nations, "we know that the only way to work is through equal rights and status for all men no matter what race, religion, or culture."

He rejected the "outside agitator" label used by Alabama's leaders in denouncing the marchers.

"I am here—and I want Governor Wallace to know it —because I belong here, no citizen of his country can be an outside agitator in his country," the diplomat maintained.

Bunche said the demonstrators were representing America's conscience in writing a new chapter in the history of American freedom.

Whitney Young, executive director of the National Urban League, appealed to the white citizens of Alabama to speak out.

"I would like to know how long the white citizens of Alabama will allow their leaders to afford the luxury of preaching a hate system and urging racism — whose actions possibly cost the bringing in of federal troops, whose actions will possibly cost the people of this state—colored and white—jobs, federal aid, and education."

"How long can they afford to have a Governor who does not have a governor who does her and greet his citizens," he said.

The rally had highlights of the tragic when several Alabamians, told — simply and emotionally—of their efforts to vote and the means used to foil them.

Albert Turner of Marion, Ala., told how voter registrars would close up early and on be around when too many colored persons attempted to register.

Those who took the tests seldom passed he stated. There are 300 registered colored voters in a town and 9,000 whites in Perry County, of which Marion is the coun-

ty seat. There are 14,000 whites and 16,000 colored persons in the county.

The petition which a committee of 20 native Alabamians attempted to deliver to Governor Wallace had asked that these grievances be redressed.

It "called upon him to open registration boards at convenient hours for working people, and to encourage co-operation of county officials, and stop making racist statements, declare himself his belief in the stand that 'all men are created equal.'"

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary for the NAACP, called the demonstration the "greatest thing that has happened in the civil rights field since 1877."

He said that the United States has "decided to use its full power to guarantee the vote for black people in the south."

"We did not march as black men, we marched as the best of America is represented here," he said.

A sudden shower caused a slight flurry of activity among the crowd, but nobody sought to leave. It stopped quickly.

The marchers has set up camp at St. Jude Catholic School three miles from the Capitol building on the outskirts of Selma Wednesday night.

There they were joined by fellow-travellers from as near by as Mississippi and Georgia, and as far as Canada, Japan and London, England.

When they poured into the campsite located in a colored neighborhood nearby resident offered their homes, food and

much needed showers.

A white youth, overcome by emotion when a middle-aged lady invited him into her home, burst into tears.

"My mother would have to think twice before she would do this for a colored man," he said.

Wednesday night they heard 31 of the nation's top entertainers who gave a four-hour show.

Harry Belafonte, organizer and emcee of the extravaganza, was in the march yesterday, (Thursday) his voice rising above the others in the freedom songs.

"This is it — this is the living where it's at," he said.

"If I could sing this song — the song of what's in the hearts and minds of these people who have suffered and are still suffering for the kind of thing the rest of us take for granted, I'd be happy," the popular folk singer said, as the procession passed through a white neighborhood.

One of the marchers, a surveyor from Los Angeles, asked a group of whites — a

young, pregnant woman, an older man and woman sitting on a porch—to "come and join us."

They were silent, their faces noncommittal.

Father Sherrill Smith of San Antonio, Texas — black cloth suit badly muddied from the cuff to the elbow—said a car load of whites had seemingly deliberately swung into a puddle to splash him as he was about to cross the street.

"All the way from Selma and only my shoes muddied until now," he said with a slight smile.

Also in the line were Odetta, a popular folk singer whose hometown is Brimingham—and who said she was paying an "overdue debt"; and Peter, Paul and Mary, Leon Bibbs and Joan Byars, also folk singers; and James Baldwin, novelist.

The entertainers sang freedom songs for 20 minutes until the rest of the marchers arrived at the Capitol.

"I didn't know that many white and colored people knew each other," a local taxi driver marvelled.

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2000 SOCIOLOG TO VIEW RACE

More than 2,000 guests from throughout the U.S. and Canada are expected at the Edgewater Hotel for the 6th meeting of the Sociological Association. Race and Ethnicity is one of the subjects that will be discussed.

Among the speakers presenting papers on racial questions will be Dr. Robert C. Wever, Dr. Ira deA. Reid, and Dr. Oppenheimer.

Weaver To Be

Almost immediately after President Johnson's death, Robert C. Weaver was named as the first director of the Urban Development Administration, as head of the federal government's new level department. He will be the first black to hold the post since