

MARCH-ON-WASHINGTON (NEGRO)

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
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2ND INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT
2611-13 MICHIGAN AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN



TRAIN, CHAIR CAR, COACH PORTERS & ATTENDANTS

AN INTERNATIONAL UNION

AFFILIATED WITH THE A. F. OF L.
217 WEST 125TH STREET
(ROOM 301)
NEW YORK CITY

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NIGHTS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
UNIVERSITY 4-8262

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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

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11 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

C. L. DELLUMS
4TH INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT
1716 SEVENTH STREET
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

August 7, 1941

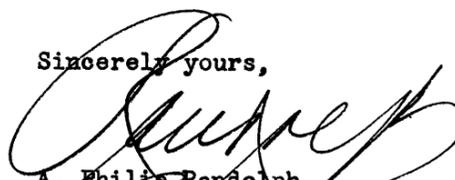
Mr. William Hastie
1707 S Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

Thanks a lot for your letter of July 15th. Pardon my delay in answering same; it was due to my absence from the city. Your suggestion of writing the persons who were asked to speak on the occasion of the Negro March-on-Washington, advising them of the postponement of the March and the reason for that action and suggesting that if the March is necessary in the future I hope they will speak to the assembly of citizens is a fine bit of strategy and I shall do this.

When I am in Washington again, I shall give you a ring to have a chat.

Sincerely yours,


A. Philip Randolph
International President

apr/mf

Handwritten notes:
C. L. Dellums
Collection 1/1/42

1707 S Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
July 15, 1941

Mr. A. Philip Randolph
2289 Seventh Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Randolph:

It has occurred to me that it might serve a useful purpose if you would write to each of the persons who were asked to speak on the occasion of the Negro March-on-Washington, advising them of the postponement of the March and the reason for that action. They might also be advised that if the March is undertaken in the future, it is hoped that they will consent to speak to the assembled citizens. I offer this merely as a suggestion at whatever value it may have.

Sincerely yours,

*Completed
March-on-Washington
7/15/41*

DO NOT DETACH THIS SLIP

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Date June 26, 1941

To _____

..... Adj. Gen. Dir. Personnel.
..... Asst. Sec. of War. Chief, Air Corps.
..... Asst. Chief Clerk. Chief of Fin.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. & R. Div. Q. M. Gen.
..... Chief of Staff. Judge Advocate Gen.
..... Chief of Engrs. Press Relations.
..... Chief of Ord. Chief Signal Corps.
..... Surg. Gen. Supplies & Accts. Div.
..... Panama Canal.

For—

..... Necessary action.
..... Direct reply.
..... Necessary action and preparation of reply for signature of Secretary of War.
..... Remarks and recommendation.
..... Memorandum for Sec. of War.
..... Investigation and report.
..... Notation and filing.
..... Previous papers.
..... Remarks: Mr. Gibson in Judge Hastie's office suggests that this letter be not answered inasmuch as the proposed march has been called off, and a letter will be
By direction of the Secretary of War: sent to the Secretary confirming that fact.

Miss E. C. Neary
Personal Secretary to
the Secretary of War

C
O
P
Y

July 11, 1941

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

In a conference held with Mr. Sidney Hillman, Co-Director of OPM, by Mr. Walter White and myself, Thursday July 10th, we discussed the composition of the Fair Employment Practice Committee which you have indicated your intention to appoint.

Mr. Hillman indicated his interest in having two representatives of labor on the committee, one from the AFL and the other from the CIO. He stated that since this whole question concerns labor it is necessary that these two bodies of organized labor be represented on the Committee.

Since it is impossible to have a representative from the AFL without also having one from the CIO, it appears that two-fifths of the Committee will be represented by members from these two Organizations, and when a quorum of three of the Committee is in session it is not certain that the interest and point of view of the Negro people will be safeguarded. Though we are not opposed to these two bodies of labor having representatives on this Committee, the National Negro March on Washington Committee feels strongly that the ratio of representation from these two bodies may militate against the adequate representation of the Negroes on the Committee since it is expected to consist of only five members. We are hopeful that you will see eye to eye with the National Negro March on Washington Committee in appointing two Negroes to this body.

In order that this may be done without reducing the number of representatives from organized labor, our Committee wishes to suggest and urge that you increase the number of the members of the Committee from five to seven. When this matter was discussed with Mr. Hillman, he indicated that he had no objection to it.

If you feel that the recommendation of our Committee to increase the Fair Employment Practice Committee from five to seven merits your approval, we wish to recommend the following members for said Committee:

*Handled
Hillman
7/11/41
W. W. White*

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Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Chairman

Mr. Wendell Willkie

of

Mr. Mark Etheridge of the Louisville Courier-Journal

Mr. Sidney Hillman has suggested as the labor members of the Committee:

Mr. John P. Frey of the AFL

Mr. Grillo of the CIO

For the Negro members, the National Negro March-on-Washington Committee wish to recommend for your appointment:

Mr. M. B. Webster, 1st International Vice-President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

Mr. Homer Brown, Member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature

It is the earnest desire of our Committee that the above-mentioned recommendations will meet and merit your approval.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ A. Philip Randolph, Director
Negro March-on-Washington
Committee

apr/mf

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
DIRECTOR
EUGENE DAVIDSON
ASST. DIRECTOR

WARREN BROWN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
HENRY K. CRAFT
TREASURER

^{MR}
Negro March-on-Washington Committee

2289 SEVENTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.
EDGEcombe 4-4341

SPONSORING COMMITTEE

WALTER WHITE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT
OF COLORED PEOPLE
REV. WILLIAM LLOYD IMES
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LESTER B. GRANGER
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE
FRANK R. CROSSWAITH
CHAIRMAN OF NEGRO LABOR
COMMITTEE
LAYLE LANE
VICE-PRESIDENT AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
RICHARD PARRISH
PRESIDENT ASSOCIATION OF
NEGRO COLLEGE STUDENTS OF
NEW YORK
DR. RAYFORD LOGAN
CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL & STATE
COMMITTEE FOR PARTICIPATION
OF NEGROES IN NATIONAL
DEFENSE
J. FINLEY WILSON
GRAND EXALTED RULER
I.B.P.O.E. OF W
REV. ADAM C. POWELL, JR.
ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
NOAH A. WALTERS
LAUNDRY WORKERS JOINT BOARD
OF GREATER NEW YORK, C.I.O.
E. E. WILLIAMS
SECRETARY-TREASURER
PLASTERERS AND DRILLERS
UNION, LOCAL 29, A.F.L.

June 23, 1941



Honorable Henry Stimson
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Stimson:

In the name of the Negro Committee to march on Washington for jobs and justice in national defense, I wish to renew my invitation and request to you to address the rally of Negroes that will assemble at the Lincoln Memorial, July 1st.

I assure you that your message will bring a fine measure of hope and inspiration to the hearts of the Negro people of this country, whose spirits are depressed and souls disturbed because of flagrant and unreasoning discriminations against them, while they are merely fighting for the right to work and fight to achieve the preservation of the democratic faiths, values, heritages, ideals, and traditions for which our great President is so nobly and ably leading our country.

Sincerely yours,

A. Philip Randolph
A. Philip Randolph
Director

apr/mf

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HW NEWYORK NY 1245P JUNE 11 1941

WILLIAM H HASTIE

CIVILIAN AIDE TO SECRETARY OF WAR DEPARTMENT WASHINGTON DC
JUST RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM SECRETARY OF NAVY, KNOX, REQUESTING
CONFERENCE FOR MARCH ON WASHINGTON. WOULD SUGEST THAT BOTH
CONFERENCES WITH SECRETARIES OF WAR AND NAVY BE HELD AT SAME
TIME IN WASHINGTON. REQUEST THAT I BE PERMITTED TO INVITE
WALTER WHITE AND OTHER NEGRO LEADERS FOR CONFERENCE. WILL BE
PLEASED TO ARRANGE CONVENIENT DATE

A PHILIP RANDOLPH.

232P.

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NEGRO MARCH-on-WASHINGTON COMMITTEE

2289 Seventh Avenue, N.Y. N.Y.

June 3, 1941.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Because the Negro people have not received their just share of jobs in national defense, and our young men have not been integrated into the armed forces of the Nation, including the Army, Navy, Air Corps and Marine, on a basis of equality, some of the Negro leaders have formulated plans and set up the necessary machinery in the various sections of the country for the purpose of mobilizing from ten to fifty thousand Negroes to march on Washington in the interest of securing jobs and justice in national defense and fair participation and equal integration into the Nation's military and naval forces.

This movement has been initiated by the officers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the Young Men's Christian Association's branch of the Harlem Community, the Negro Labor Committee of New York, the Elks and a number of other groups.

A Call for the march, to take place July 1st, is signed by Walter White of the National Association for the advancement of Colored People, Reverend William Lloyd Imes of the Presbyterian Church of Harlem, Frank R. Crosswaith, Chairman of the Negro Labor Committee of New York, Layle Lane, Vice-President of the American Federation of Teachers, Dr. Rayford Logan, Chairman of the National and State Committees for the Participation of Negroes in National Defense, Henry K. Craft, Secretary of the 135th Street branch of the YMCA, J. Finley Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Independent Benevolent Order of Elks of the World, Reverend Adam C. Powell, Jr. of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem and the undersigned.

June 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary of War
SUBJECT: Negro March on Washington

After conferring with Messrs. A. Phillip Randolph and Walter White, I am convinced, (1) that there will be a demonstration by Negroes in Washington on July 1st, and (2) that if the present responsible leadership should for any reason withdraw, more radical elements, so far excluded from the project would quickly seize the opportunity to take over the whole enterprise for their own purposes.

The circulation of literature, the raising of funds, the organization of motor parties and, in one case, arrangements for a special train have progressed where, in my judgment, it is mere wishful thinking to anticipate a cancellation of the March. Indeed I believe such a step is not within the power of the present leaders of the enterprise.

The attached clipping from the "Daily Worker" for June 16th shows the effort being made by the Communist Party to discredit the leaders of the March and indicates how quickly Communist leaders would take over if the present leaders should withdraw.

While intangible factors of weather and last minute publicity prevent any close estimate of the number of demonstrators who will come from other communities, it seems certain that the number will be in the thousands, probably not more than five thousand, although a larger number is quite conceivable.

The plan contemplates the assembly of the marchers in the early afternoon after lunch and their final dispersal before the dinner hour. The

use of members of the American Legion for the maintenance of order and discipline is planned. A sum in excess of \$1,000 will be held in a special reserve for emergency situations which may confront individual visitors after their arrival.

The principal matters with reference to which the demonstrators seek to obtain action are, I believe, these.

1. The failure of the President to take any coercive action with reference to racial discrimination in employment incidental to defense production.

2. Delay by the Senate in action on Senate Resolution 75, calling for investigation of discrimination in National Defense; and the apparent intention of administration leaders in the Senate to make some token investigation a minor aspect of the work of the Truman Committee, rather than to undertake a major independent inquiry.

3. The exclusion of Negroes from the Navy and Marine Corps.

4. The refusal of the Army to make any modification of its policy of racial segregation throughout its organization, with particular attention being focussed on the Air Corps as a new vital and rapidly expanding Arm.

5. The widespread abuse of discretion in Civil Service appointments during the present period of personnel expansion, with the result that relatively few Negroes are included among the tens of thousands of new federal workers recently appointed in Washington and the additional thousands appointed in the field.

The conference scheduled for noon on Wednesday, June 16th, between the Secretaries of War and Navy and Messrs. Randolph and White apparently has been initiated and arranged by and at the request of the White House. The conference has not been sought by Messrs. Randolph and White, hence there seems to

be no contemplated agenda for the meeting. I suggest that the occasion be used to obtain any information desired concerning the project and to explore any ways in which agencies of the Government can make sure that no untoward incidents occur and can convey to the Negro citizen any hopeful and encouraging facts with reference to his participation in the National Defense effort.

Specifically, I believe the effect will be very wholesome if several responsible leaders of defense agencies speak briefly, but candidly, about what they are doing and propose to do with reference to the matters now disturbing the Negro citizen. It occurs to me also that, since the War Department has been concerned over the maintenance of order, it might be agreeable to the leaders of the March and to the civil and military authorities that a detachment of the Negro National Guardsmen from the District of Columbia, now stationed at Fort Dix, be detailed to assist in policing the line of march.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

Encl.

June 13, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT.

I have your letter of June 10th about the march of Negroes on Washington. We are doing all we can to try to avoid this march. I thought you might be interested in knowing what we have been doing in the War Department about using Negroes in the National Defense Program.

It is the determined policy of the War Department to afford Negroes equal opportunities in our defense effort.

We are doing everything we can to prevent discrimination against Negro workers in industry. Under our defense contracts with private industry, however, the contractor is solely responsible for furnishing the necessary labor, and the War Department does not prescribe labor provisions in its contracts other than those provided for by law. We have actively cooperated with and supported Mr. Hillman in his pleas to employers and unions to eliminate discrimination against the Negroes, and have constantly referred our officers and contractors to the Statement of Labor Policy adopted by the Advisory Commission last September which provides against discrimination against workers because of race or color.

We are making every effort to increase the number of Negro employees in the War Department. There are about 600 Negro civilian employees of the War Department in Washington. A large number of these are clerical employees and our main effort is to increase the number of Negro employees in the higher classifications of work.

Last week the War Department let a contract to design and build the air base for the Negro Air Squadron at Tuskegee, Alabama to a Negro architect and Negro contractors. The estimated cost of this construction is about \$1,500,000. This is a real recognition of the place of the Negro business and professional men in the national defense program.

On the military side, the Negroes have had even a more important place in our national defense. For the first time in our history, the Secretary of War has a Negro as his civilian aide. Judge William A. Hastie, the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, has constantly advised Mr. Stinson and me on racial questions. By June 30th there will be over 80,000 Negro officers and men in the Army. At present there are 430 Negro officers and 56 Negro nurses. Brigadier General DeG. Davis, who received his promotion last year, is the first Negro general in our history. Negro officers are attending all of the regularly established Service Schools except that of the

Air Corps where a separate school is to be established. The Negro enlisted men are learning everything from the operation of radios at Camp Benning to cooking at the Army Cooking School.

Negro units of all branches of the service have been created. These include the Armored Forces and Air Corps units. The 99th Pursuit Squadron composed of 45 Negro officers and 390 enlisted men is in training at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois, and will be moved to its own air base at Tuskegee, Alabama this fall.

In all the camps in which Negro troops are located, with two very minor exceptions, the Negro units are located in the same camp as the white units.

RF:eb

ROBERT P. PATTERSON,
Under Secretary of War.

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March-on-Washington local committees are being set up throughout the country with a view to recruiting the marchers and carrying out the general program in the interest of developing an all-out-total demonstration of the Negro people for full participation in the national defense program.

A week prior to the march on Washington, plans have been developed to stage marches in various cities in the interest of urging the Mayors and City Councils to memorialize President Roosevelt to issue an executive order to abolish discrimination in national defense and all departments of the Federal Government.

Following the march in Washington, the program includes a great rally at the Monument of Abraham Lincoln, because of its historical symbolism in relation to the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation for the liberation of the Negroes from chattel slavery.

Because of your long, wide and constant touch with the life, strivings and spirit of the Negro, and the great and genuine affection which the Negroes have for you, I wish, in the name of the National Negro March-on-Washington Committee for Jobs and Justice in National Defense, to request that you speak at the Rally from the Monument of Abraham Lincoln, out of the fullness of your heart, to the huge throng of Negroes assembled there.

I want to assure you, Mrs. Roosevelt, that the Negroes of America are deeply stirred over the question of their receiving equal opportunity to share in the benefits and responsibilities and duties and sacrifices incident to this great and tremendous national effort to build a defense machinery for the protection of our own country and to safeguard the cause of democracy.

I am sure that nothing has arisen in the life of the Negro since Emancipation which has gripped their hearts and caught their interest and quickened their imagination more than the girding of our country for national defense without according them the recognition and opportunity as citizens, consumers and workers they feel justified in expecting.

I assure you that the hearts of Negro America will be grateful to you for this message of inspiration and hope.

Kindly accept assurances of my great appreciation for your interest and cooperation for the cause of the advancement of the Negro people in America.

Respectfully yours,

(signed) A Philip Randolph, Director
A. Philip Randolph, Director.

APR/mtm