Some plans and suggestions for a
March to Washington for Civil Rights
October 1956.

1. General considerations:

1. The March shall be interracial in every respect.

2. The March committee shall be interracial, broad and
ad hoc. It should include persons from the
following segments:
   a. Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
   b. NAACP
   c. Interracial Organizations
   d. Churches
   e. Women's Groups
   f. Labor Groups
   g. Youth Groups.

3. The aims of the March are the following:
   a. To call attention to the struggle for integration
   b. To encourage Negroes to register and to vote
   c. To demonstrate the militancy of the Negro
      masses.
   d. To exert pressure on the political parties
   e. To broaden non-violent protest to include
      there will be some very real accommodation

4. Organizers

In order to carry out this project for the
end of October the following minimal organizational
set-up is imperative:
   a. A full-time coordinator
   b. Two full-time assistant coordinators
   c. Two full-time secretaries
   d. About one dozen volunteers to
      work part time as heads of
      important committees
   e. A volunteer chairman of youth
      activities who has some
      time for travel especially on weekends.
Planning Committee

This committee should be made up of The paid staff and about six volunteers who can give a considerable amount of time to intelligent and efficient planning. This group is of course responsible to the March committee and will make periodic reports to it.

Working Committee

This committee is directed by the planning committee. It should be made up of one committed person from every major participating group in the New York area. Persons serving on this committee should realize that this must become their major activity from August 1st till the day of the March.

Timing of Committee Activity

a. The coordinators should begin drawing plans now.

b. The paid staff should begin working no later than August 15th on a full scale.

c. Major committees should be set up prior to August 1st.

d. A general press conference should announce the March two weeks later than the political conventions.
8. Headquarters

There are two possibilities: Washington or New York. However, it appears that New York might be better as a National Headquarters for the following reasons:

a. New York is more militant than Washington, and will provide more volunteer workers.

b. Space is already available for offices in the Brotherhood's N.Y. Office.

c. Given the fact that so many people in Washington are government employees, it may be possible to get more people in New York to march that will be possible from Washington.

d. The fact that so many national organizations are centered in New York is also important for clearance and consultation.

e. Most of the March committee will be New Yorkers.

9. Washington Headquarters Later:

However, some ten days before the march—there will need to be some office set up in Washington to take care of the business and details that must be arranged there prior to and on the day of the March.
Local City Wide Committees

1. Such committees should be set up in the following places:
   - Washington
   - Wilmington
   - Trenton
   - Tallahassee
   - Richmond
   - Boston
   - Pittsburgh
   - Milwaukee
   - Denver
   - Chicago
   - Los Angeles
   - Milwaukee
   - Birmingham
   - etc

2. Where possible, these committees can be set up visit post, through visits by the coordination staff. In other places the job will need to be done by mail. In the latter case, very specific instructions will need to be given and the local groups kept well informed.

3. The function of the local committee:
   a. to see that a large number from their city get to Washington.
   b. to carry on a well organized propaganda campaign on the aims of the March.
   c. To raise funds to support the work of the National March Committee
   d. to arrange for parks, chartered buses, and special trains to Washington
   e. to set in motion a "March fund" to help with transportation of people from their city.
   f. to see that local clubs, unions, churches, and delegations.
The first aim of the local committee is to get an early start on the homes of prominent people who promise to march.

A plan will need to be drawn up for the guidance of local chairmen.

The most important aim of the coordinators is the pick a dynamic local chairman. In these matters the imagination and commitment of the chairman will probably determine the local organizational response.

### The Role of the N.A.A.C.P. Local Chapter:

The N.A.A.C.P. is the most widely representative organization among Negroes. Therefore success or failure in local organization will to some extent depend on their cooperation. We should make every effort to get the following assistance from them:

1. The N.A.A.C.P. Chairmen on the City Wide Committee
2. Material distributed locally by N.A.A.C.P.
   in addition to other groups.
3. This means prior consultation and support from the N.A.A.C.P. National Office
4. Each chapter in a major city to organize a chartered bus; in smaller one car pool;
   from areas with regon, California, Texas
   etc special coached of trains.
5. Planning in early October a special day
   (all over the country) on which a dance, special
   meeting or some other activity will take place to
a. calling attention to the March
b. raising funds to send the delegation.

IV Special Role of the Southern Negro Leadership.

1. Because the entire country has been aroused by the struggle of Negroes in the South, it is imperative to get them to Washington for the following reasons:
   a) They should keep in leading the March
   b) They will attract others (whites & Negroes)
   c) They will clearly help point up the issues by their presence.

2. Among the leaders who should come and help lead the March are:
   a) Dr. King
   b) Parks from Montgomery
   c) Rev. Steele from Tallahassee
   d) A. T. Stewart
   e) J. W. Evans
   f) a former from South Carolina
   g) Dr. Howard from Mississippi
   h) a disinvited student & faculty member of The State College in, Orangeburg, S.C.
3. Efforts should be made to get local organizations to support the travel and expenses of these people if possible. The very raising of funds can create good propaganda for the March.

4. We should consider a dramatic means to present these people in the opening of the parade— for example an empty bus marked "Montgomery city lines" followed by hon, King and porter holding signs— we wish for freedom in Montgomery," or, for example, aheim Lucy leading the Birmingham delegation—saying—"We support authentic's right to an education", etc.
The Role of the Churches:

1. We should encourage the churches to do the following all over the country:
   
   (a) raise funds to send a delegation from their churches (especially the Negro churches)
   
   (b) raise with the interracial ministerial council the question of sending a line of Negro and White church members from their city.
   
   (c) Ask the Fellowship of Reconciliation to encourage the 100 white Southern Ministers who signed their statement to come and march as a body.
   
   (d) Ask the Methodist church women to send a mixed delegation from all over the country.
   
   (e) Ask the Unitarian fellowship to ensure a delegation (mixed) of at least 100 people.
   
   (f) a letter to all liberal churches in the west calling for a delegation.
   
   (g) Consult with Oscar Lee on what help the National Council of Churches can give.
   
   (h) Select the largest Negro churches in 20 to 25 major cities across the country and make certain there are representatives of that group in the delegation.
i. Effort to get out standing demeanor of both races to march together near the head of the parade.

ii. Letter to leaders of all religious groups that represent delegations to send funds.

VI

The Role of Labor:

1. Get labor locals to send cars, trucks, and a train load of inter-union members giving them as well as other groups the right to carry a sign identifying their group.

2. Commit leaders of labor to march in a group near the head of the parade.

3. Ask internationals in Washington to urge their employees to march under the international banner.

4. Ask unions to contribute.

5. Ask labor to donate the services to three or four organizations to help accomplish these aims.

VII

The Role of the College Students:

1. The chairman of the youth committee should try to get the college students in the East out in a body.

2. Such schools as Lincoln, Howard, Miner Teachers College, Cheyney, Delaware State, and Johnson C. Smith should be reached.
3. N.A.A.C.P. chapters on these campuses should be urged to keep with the organization.

4. Funds could be raised at a college function 'Early in October to raise funds'.

5. Fraternities and sororities should be asked to send car loads.

The Role of Special Negro Organizations:

1. The adult city chapters of the Masonic orders and fraternities should be asked to help
   (a) To help finance college groups
   (b) To send delegations themselves

2. Special efforts should be made to get the fullest cooperation of Negro organizations that have a Marching tradition.
   (a) The Elks
   (b) The Masons + other fraternal orders
   (c) The Bay societies
   (d) The American Legion
3. We should explore asking special
groups to march in uniform.
a. Pullman porters
b. Writers
c. Doctors
d. Clergymen etc

IX

Promotional:

1. Use of posters + leaflets
   These should be made up in
   New York and shipped all over the
   country for distribution.

2. Advertisement
   Be any some slogan as
   "Vote for Civil Rights"
   March for Civil Rights - Date
   Such pins could serve these purposes.
   a. advertisement
   b. Fund raising - the pins could
   be made up by the hundreds of thousands
   and exchanged to any contributor
   an individual wish to give.

3. Cities, churches, unions, etc all over the
   country will be encouraged to
   use these promotional gimmies.

4. Try to get all Negro papers to use
   the statements - "March in Washington for Civil Rights"
   with date as a separator in their papers.
5. Press the press for free advertisement.
6. Press the liberal magazines for free advertisement.
7. Keep the request press stories lively.

V. Special Problems:

1. Permit to march in Washington and to hold a mass meeting with the Lincoln memorial. There may be trouble, but this could make the situation all the more beautiful if handled carefully.

2. Securing a special committee of marshals to make certain the marching is smooth and the various groups marching have concrete and ample instructions.

3. The intensity communications - so that local groups are kept well informed.

4. Raising sufficient funds to ensure intensity communication, which requires a great deal of traveling on the part of at least two organizers and some travel by the youth committee chairman.

5. Compiling of special list: This is an exhaustive
task for a national effort - and will require many, many hours of work.

Special committees which will have two functions:
(a) to set up in New York a plan for a real action pattern
(b) to transmit that plan to their counterparts all over the country to stimulate action. This should be done as soon as possible.

1. Such committees will be
   a. Church
   b. Labor
   c. Negro
   d. Finance
   e. Transportation
   f. Youth
   g. Press & general promotion

2. Persons taking over the leadership of these committees need first of all to be hard workers who can be free to many evenings of arduous work. It wasn’t he a mistake to select big men who that can’t produce.

3. These chairman must meet for a long period weekly with the coordinators and staff to inform planning sessions. This may indeed be the working committee.
Dear,

The job here is much more vital than in the Market Rally which took place in a single locality. One of the two or three paid workers must be an expert in press and public relations person. Every step must be pulled to center attention on this March. Releases must be regular and inspired. Material of interest must be dug up. Every major event in relation to the election must be tied in with the national political connections.

Liberal organizations that should be encouraged to send out mailings to raise money and to recruit people.

1. Socialist Liberal Parties
2. A.F.S.E. Secretaries
3. Women's Groups of the White Churches
4. Programmatic Synagogues
5. Fellowships of Reconciliation
6. Fellowships Communions
7. W.I. L.P.F.
8. A.D.A.
9. A.D.P.
10. Ethical culture process