

# WHY WE MARCH

On April 18th, thousands of American young people will march in the nation's capitol in the largest demonstration of youth in our history. They will come from all parts of the country, by bus, plane, train, and car, and will represent all faiths. In Washington, they will be joined together in a great union of protest and action-- the Youth March for Integrated Schools!

## WE MARCH FOR REAL DEMOCRACY--NOW!

For over a century, the American Negro has been brutally and undemocratically denied the rights guaranteed to all citizens by our Constitution. The traditional rights of free speech, of suffrage, of due process, of equal protection under the law have been withheld from millions of Americans. And today, a minority of Southern racist leaders is endangering our free educational system. This minority is threatening to close public schools, leaving thousands of our young people stranded, barred from the benefits of sound education.

Is this the way of real democracy?

We march to protest the century-long mistreatment of Negro citizens. They have waited long enough. We march to demand real democracy--now!

## WE MARCH IN DEFENSE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Because of its recent decisions in behalf of equal educational opportunities for the Negro, the Supreme Court has been subjected to a battery of vicious attacks. Dangerous attempts have been launched to curb the power of the judicial branch of government, which has moved courageously to defend the rights of Negroes. We protest against these attacks and call upon the executive and legislative branches to back up the Supreme Court in its reflection of the will of the majority.

## WE MARCH FOR CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Once again, Congress is being presented with an alternative: either to strengthen American democracy or to retreat before the campaign of the Dixiecrats. The pro-civil rights majority in Congress, greatly reinforced by the November elections, will have the opportunity to pass the Douglas-Celler-Javits-Powell Bill, which goes a long way in helping the Negro and other minorities to achieve equality in all areas of life.

BUT...

Time and time again Congress has compromised the will of the people. We march to protest minority rule in Congress, and to demand the passage in toto of the Douglas Bill. We march to demand an immediate end to the spectacle of Congressional double-dealing that encourages resistance to the law and deforms the democratic process.

Civil Rights legislation is long overdue. We march for just laws--now!

#### WE MARCH FOR EXECUTIVE ACTION!

We march to confront the President directly with the conviction of young people that he must use all of his powers to bring about the speedy integration of the schools. Specifically, we call upon him to speak out morally for the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, and to use his influence to destroy the disease of segregation.

#### WE MARCH AS PART OF OUR DEMOCRATIC DUTY

When the wheels of government are slow in expanding our democracy (remember that fewer than 500 students have been integrated in the deep South), when they get bogged down in compromises and manoeuvres, we have the moral obligation in a democratic society to register our protest--through action! The essence of democratic government is the participation of the people themselves. Our failure to move against undemocratic practices leaves the field open to forces hostile to democracy.

Throughout our history, dramatic action by deeply concerned people has served to awaken the whole nation to its sense of duty. The power of the democratic idea symbolized by a vast march of sincere, earnest, disciplined and dedicated people will influence those who have not yet taken a clear stand. Such a demonstration presses forward the cause of democracy and social progress in the courts, legislature, and all areas of American life.

Thus, American young people march not only to demonstrate solidarity with their embattled fellow-students of the South, but for the deepening and reinforcing of our democracy. We demand for every American every single right guaranteed by the Constitution, political, civil and social; and until we get these rights, we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. We will continue to march, to petition, to demonstrate and to persuade. It is our responsibility to do so!

WE MARCH ON APRIL 18 FOR THE TOTAL VICTORY OF EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL. WE CAN NO LONGER ENDURE COMPROMISES AND DELAYS! WE WANT A PROGRAM FOR SPEEDY INTEGRATION--AND WE WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER!

JOIN THE YOUTH MARCH FOR INTEGRATED SCHOOLS!

COME TO WASHINGTON ON APRIL 18TH!

YOUTH MARCH FOR INTEGRATED SCHOOLS, 312 WEST 125TH ST., NYC 27