

Crusade For Citizenship

TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED NEGRO VOTERS IN THE SOUTH

SPONSORED BY

THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

208 AUBURN AVENUE, N. E., ATLANTA, GEORGIA

ROOM 203 — TELEPHONE: JACKSON 5-1783

April, 8, 1959

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Dear Friend of Freedom:

LET'S TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THINGS AS THEY ARE!!

Is the struggle for Civil Rights losing ground? ----- Are the Political Parties using the civil rights issue as a political football only to woo Negro votes for 1960; or can we expect effective legislation from this Congress? -- Will National Defense and threat of War silence the crusade for human dignity and equal justice?

Yes, these are questions you and I must face as we continue our struggle for first class citizenship here in the South. How can we find the answers? What should be the Negro's strategy in time of peace -- in time of war? Does Non-violent, Direct Mass Action Hold the Answer?

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference does not claim to have "THE" answer, but we again invite you to explore with us, the vast powerhouse of both spiritual and practical strength to be found in non-violent action and non-violence of spirit. Our Spring Meeting will be held:

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY MAY 13th - 14th, 1959

with

The Tallahassee Civic Association, Inc.
(Rev. C. K. Steele, President)
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

It is indeed fitting that we meet there for in the leadership of the Tallahassee Civic Association we find the dedication, the faith, and the courage that are so necessary in our present struggle. Against this background, and with several outstanding experts on non-violence, community and political action, we will discuss methods of ---

- 1) developing effective Voter-Registration drives in the South.
- 2) using and extending the desegregation victories in public transportation.
- 3) working toward complete desegregation in schools, recreational facilities, etc.

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CLARKSDALE, MISS. THE FRANCHISE IS A CITIZEN'S RIGHT . . . NOT A PRIVILEGE

As a special visitor, we hope to have Mr. Tom Mboya of Kenya, Africa. Mr. Mboya is an outstanding leader in the freedom struggle in Africa today, and he has accepted our invitation to visit the South.

The tentative schedule of the Conference is as follows:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH

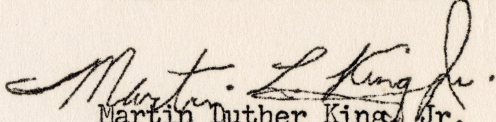
10:30 - 12:50	Executive Board Meeting
1:00 P.M.	Luncheon
2:00 P.M.	Opening of Conference
3:00 - 5:30	Workshops
7:30 P.M.	Mass Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 14TH

9:30 - 11:30	Workshop
11:30 - 1:00	Business Session
1:00 P.M.	Luncheon
2:00 - 4:00	Workshop
4:00 - 5:00	Summary and Closing session

As you know, I have just returned from a trip to India, and will bring you a special message from the people of that great country. We would like to invite other leaders in your community to meet with us. Therefore, will you please send the names and addresses of persons who would be interested in this southwide movement. Also, kindly indicate on the enclosed card, the number of persons you expect to bring with you to the Tallahassee Meeting.

Yours for a better tomorrow,


Martin Luther King, Jr.
President

MLT/eb