



**VIEW FROM THE TOP**—A crowd gathers at the assembly point before the Walk With Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mayor Wallace Henderson, whose profile is visible at the right, urges them to show "the nation we really believe in fair housing, desegregation and the Rumford Housing Act." The rally, which featured about a dozen speakers, lasted more than two hours.



**DISSENTERS**—Not all who witnessed the Witness of Faith for Freedom Rally were friendly. Members of the Alert Americans Group, headed by James W. Scott, at right in the background, distribute to the rallygoers leaflets purporting to show the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., attending a Communist school.



**LONG, GAY LINE**—It is a solemn occasion but there is singing and laughter, too, as 1,000 persons march toward Ratcliffe Stadium. Leading them, left to right, are Bernard Lee, special assistant to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the Rev. Henry Mitchell, the rally chairman;

the Rev. King; the Rev. Robert Moon of the First Methodist Church; Mayor Wallace D. Henderson; the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, also an associate of the Rev. King, and Fresno Assemblyman George N. Zeno-vich. About 3,000 persons attended the rally in the stadium.

## Rights Walk Is Hailed As Success

By David Hale

Anyone who doubts the number or cheerful determination of civil rights supporters in Fresno should have taken that Walk With Martin Luther King, Jr., last night.

There was urgency and example aplenty from the Rev. King himself, hurling aphorisms into the teeth of a near 30 mile an hour sawdust storm in Ratcliffe Stadium.

There was evidence that if the battle for complete equal-

ity and integration does take the Rev. King's predicted "90 years or more" there will be others to take up the cudgel. Like perhaps the 9 year old Caucasian girl in the march, learning the words of Freedom, the battle hymn of the 1963 Negro revolution, by reading the lips of the Negro teenager trudging beside her.

"Oh Freedom," the chorus rose, "Oh Freedom over me, Before I'll be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave."

The march on an assem-

bled at the Fresno High School to the stadium nine tenths of a mile away was declared a success by the sponsors who beforehand had predicted from 500 to 5,000 would participate.

About 500 persons gathered on Echo Avenue in front of the high school to hear talks by the Rev. King and others. Most were white. That number had swelled to more than 3,000 by the time the Witness of Faith for Freedom rally be-

gan in the stadium shortly after 8 o'clock.

"This is the finest demonstration of its kind ever seen in Fresno," exulted Edward P. Lester, the chairman of the Citizens for Fair Housing, which sponsored the event with the West Fresno Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Fresno Council of Churches and the Inter Faith Social Action Committee of Fresno.

"We wanted to bring to the attention of the public that a

large cross section of the public opposes the initiative to nullify the Rumford Housing Act," said the Rev. Henry Mitchell, chairman of the stadium rally committee. "And this is just the beginning."

It was the first step, the sponsors promised, of the campaign to defeat the initiative in November, a job nobody was saying would be easy since, as Lester put it, "the CREA (the California

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**MAN OF THE HOUR**—The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader and symbol of the Negroes' non violent revolution, addresses the largest civil rights rally in San Joaquin Valley history in the

Ratcliffe Stadium. Other speakers were eloquent but the Rev. King, who is said to hold the hearts of most Negroes and much of America in general, demonstrated again his mastery of the telling phrase.

—Bee Photos by Carl Crawford and Dick Derby

Clovis Council

Planned Road Will Lead To Little

Fire Calls

The Fresno Fire Department answered the following calls between noon today and noon today: ...



# Walk: Urgency For Action

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Real Estate Association, the chief backers of the initiative) is prepared to spend \$1.5 million to put it over."

But last evening there were only hints of the future in the sometimes exuberant, sometimes solemn demonstration which ended in the stadium.

The march was scheduled to start at 7:15 but the crowd began to gather more than an hour earlier. At first it was mostly students—Fresno State College students primed for the occasion by rallies daily during the past week. Ultimately it was a mixed crowd—black and white, young and old, Christians and Jews. The Caucasians predominated.

It was a jovial throng that cheered for its leaders—even for the cooperation of the police—clapped for its entertainers (folk singers Peter P. Everwine and Gene Bluestein, assistant professors of English in FSC, and Michael Loring, cantor of Temple Beth Israel), and laughed at the jokes.

Yet there was a religious tone, not only for the presence of clergymen but in the songs and reactions of the people themselves. The predominant mood was, as someone said, somewhere between a football rally and a revival meeting.

The official signs were passed out to the crowd which included a busload from Modesto and members of the Merced chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. And the winds came, tugging at the banners of students and ripping at sheet music.

## Mayor Asks Action

Then there was Mayor Wallace D. Henderson telling them that Fresnoans "must learn to put their actions where their mouths are" and that those taking part in the demonstration "are seeing the best in American heritage."

Dr. L. J. Snyder, the vice chairman of the citizens group, told the crowd that "more important than the honored presence of the Rev. King is that after he leaves he will leave the problem squarely up to us."

The Rev. King underlined the solemnity of the occasion by taking his introductory ovation without a smile.

"The nation is in a crisis," he said. "It is a crisis precipitated on the one hand by the determined resistance of the reactionary to the thrust of desegregation and on the other hand by the efforts of the government such as the supreme court's desegregation of schools."

"Though I am from way down in Atlanta, Ga., I am concerned about you in California. If this initiative passes it will defeat all we have been struggling to win in the south. It will put off again realization of the dream of the nation where all of God's children will live together as brothers."

As the applause for the Rev. King faded, the crowd, then numbering about 1,000, began moving toward Weldon Avenue, after getting their marching orders from the chief parade marshal, the Rev. Eugene L. Boutilier of the First Congregational Church. Loring called for a "fine, orderly and nonviolent march" to the stadium.

And so it was. The small army of policemen and nearly

100 volunteer marshals had little more to do than lead the way for the three block-long procession. On the sidelines, watching unnoticed by most was Police Chief H. R. Morton in an unmarked station wagon.

Slowly the crowd fanned out amidst a forest of signs: No Ghettos; Ban Bigotry; Are You Working On The Solution Or Are You Part Of The Problem; Fair Housing 100 Years Late; Vote No; FSC Students For Desegregation; Fair Housing Is Right; For Gracious Living, Fair Housing.

Unlike some other well publicized demonstrations in other cities, there were few beards and sandals in the crowd. Most were neatly dressed, Negroes and Caucasians alike in garb ranging from coveralls to dark Ivy League suits and skirts and sweaters. Black clad clergymen carried prayer books and young couples pushed toddlers in stroller carts.

## Politeness Prevails

Everyone was polite—trying to maintain the "decorum of church ushers" called for in the marching orders. There were no bands and little shouting.

The shuffle of feet faded as a group of teenagers took up Down By The River Side. There was an answering chorus of the anthem of the sit-in demonstrations, We Shall Overcome, to the music of the Protestant hymn, I Shall Not Be Moved.

Spectators lined the sides of the street, watching curiously. There were no incidents, no reports of heckling.

The only sign of the trouble came at the stadium gates where four men were distributing some 10,000 leaflets purporting to show the Rev. King at a communist training school.

There was James Scott, a member of a local John Birch Society unit, describing himself as the chairman of alert Americans group, telling newsmen that if "Prussion (a reported FBI counterspy) says King's a Communist, that's good enough for me."

Tempers flared momentarily as parade backers gathered at the scene urging those taking the leaflets to throw them on the ground. The Rev. King, murmuring to embarrassed rally sponsors: "Don't worry about it. They've been passing out the same literature everywhere I speak . . . It's just silly."

Inside the stadium, all was enthusiasm as a series of introductory speakers praised the Rev. King. The civil rights leader who reputedly holds the hearts of Negro America in his hands, only swallowed hard and blinked impassively as Henderson lauded him as "the most important man today in America."

To Guy Sherman, the president of the Fresno chapter of the NAACP the Rev. King was "the one man who arises in every generation of crisis"; to Dr. Snyder, he was "the voice and the conscience of all people," and to the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, pastor of the Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, King was "my perennial cell mate", a reference to the fact that the pair has been arrested a dozen times during demonstrations in the south.

There was an answering chorus of Let My People Go, from the audience during the 200 voice choir's rendition of Go Down Moses. Eyes glistened and bodies swayed in unison for Battle Hymn Of The Republic.

It was the Rev. King's night. The extraordinary mystique drew enthusiastic applause when he shouted through the wind, "If a man has not discovered something worth dying for, he is not fit to live."

Or unblinking and unflinching: "We must take courage! I have stood amidst the chilly winds of adversity", as a cloud of wind driven sawdust drove others on the stand behind the shelter of shoulder or program.

The most emotional response came to his thunderous: "The greatest tribute of respect this nation can give John Fitzgerald Kennedy is to see that this civil rights bill is passed."

When the Rev. King declared "I am concerned for you," they applauded. And nobody—even mentioned his voiced intention to return for at least three swings through the state before November . . . to help "smother that segregation initiative", the anti Rumford Housing Act referendum.

## Clovis

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agreed the biggest sore point is the noise generated by the hardtop races on the Clovis track. Mike (Blackie) Gejeian, the race promoter, said he will try to complete the weekly programs before 10 PM.

Gejeian asked for flexibility in the curfew in the event of a major accident on the track which would force a restart and necessarily delay the program.

The council agreed on John Antonio's motion to "hold off for two weeks to see what the situation is."

In other action, the council agreed to "sit tight" before taking a vote on the proposed city and county uniform 4 per cent hotel, motel room tax.

Indications are the council may not favor such a tax.

"We only have one motel," Antonio declared. "Do you want to run them out or wait until we get some more in?"

The council approved the Clovis Municipal Code, which City Attorney Marvin Helon called a "codification of existing ordinances." It will become effective in 30 days.

The council also:

—Approved the request of Kent Bishop for a change in zoning from R3 to R4 for a day nursery on two lots on the northeast corner of Minnewawa and Rialto Avenues.

—Met in closed session for 22 minutes on the possibility of hiring a part time or full-time poundmaster. No decision was announced.

—Announced its intention to annex uninhabited property on the northwest corner of Winery and Shaw Avenues.

—Learned building permits totaling \$178,053 were issued during May.

## 15,700 Indian Cars

NEW DELHI — AP — India produced 15,700 passenger cars last year, or one for about every 30,000 people.