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Over 300 On March In Broadened Protest Against All Inequity

York city hall is scene of peaceful two-hour protest by Negroes and whites. Leaders appeal for equal opportunities for jobs, housing and end to police brutality and harassment.

More than 300 Yorkers—Negroes and whites—massed and marched yesterday before city hall carrying placards calling for integration, equality, an end to police brutality and peace among men.

"It was wonderful . . . great," said Maurice Peters, temporary chairman of Peaceful Committee for Immediate Action in York. It was this committee, formed in protest over the biting by police dogs of three Negroes, which staged yesterday's orderly march.

No incidents were reported during the two-hour demonstration.

The committee, in a statement issued last night, said it was protesting unequal opportunities in employment, discrimination in housing, police harassment and [illegible] discrimination in education and inequitable treatment under the law.

Impatient, They Say

"We are hoping by such demonstrations," the statement said, "to bring into sharp focus to every citizen of the community our discontent and dissatisfaction, comparable to our impatience with second class citizenship.

"We want for every Negro his fair share of opportunities in every sphere," the statement said.

Calling on Mayor John L. Snyder, with whom the committee met Monday morning, to "re-evaluate" his position in light of the demonstration yesterday, the committee called for a joint effort of the committee and the mayor "to promote domestic tranquility so that citizens of York, black or white, may in truth be afforded maximum opportunity to find their place in the sun."

The committee further said:

"We do not necessarily protest the existence of dogs as tools used by the police as a means of maintaining law and order. We do definitely protest the arbitrary, incompetent and indiscriminate use of a potentially dangerous tool."

"Freedom, Freedom, Freedom," chanted the marchers. "We shall overcome, I do believe, we shall overcome."

They marched across Maple street from Crispus Attucks center. Then, north on George and west on King street, silently, two abreast.

As they approached at city hall, there were about 250 onlookers across King and on Beaver street. They began to sing freedom songs as they ringed city hall.

More than a score of Negroes were watching the march from across Beaver street.

"What are you doing over there?" called the marchers. "This is where it's at; come over." About

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See York March

—Photo by The Gazette and Daily

DEMONSTRATION SCENE—A portion of over 300 peaceful demonstrators who marched on city hall yesterday from 5:45 to 7:25 p.m. is shown above as they picketed. The demonstration drew a large crowd from downtown stores, part of which is shown along West King street at the intersection of King and Beaver streets.

She said that she planned last night to return to her post as executive secretary of the YMCA and YWCA of Tuskegee, Ala., university.

Mrs. Reeves, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Lambert, 312 West Princess street, received a standing ovation from the group for her work.

'Stick Together'

"The doors of the world," she told the many young people in the audience during the evaluation, "are open to you. Stick together. The fight for freedom needs everyone. Stick together and, surely, we shall overcome."

Peters, facing the group for the first time after the demonstration ended, said:

"Thank you, thank you. I knew you had it in you all the time. It was wonderful to behold."

There was a moment of silence, purpose of which, Mrs. Reeves said, was to "give thanks to God for bringing us safely back and for the people of York, who watched us and got our message."

Committee Statement

Following is the text of the statement issued by the executive board of the Peaceful committee last night.

The purpose of the demonstration was to highlight for the attention of the entire community of York our discontent with the treatment of the Negro, which falls far short of first-class American citizenship.

We protested the following: 1—Unequal opportunities in employment; 2 — discrimination in housing; 3 — police harassment and brutality; 4—discrimination in public accommodations; 5—discrimination in education; 6—inequitable treatment under the law.

At this point, the group would like to clarify its position with respect to the so-called canine incident.

We do not necessarily protest the existence of dogs as tools used by the police as a means of maintaining law and order.

We do definitely protest the arbitrary, incompetent and indiscriminate use of a potentially dangerous tool. When an incident such as occurred last Friday evening arises, we expect the police to use discretion and rational intelligence. No more! When a disturbance can be quelled without dogs —and we affirm that last Friday's incident could have been—then do not use dogs.

Unfortunately, the press has possibly misunderstood the primary objective of the demonstration, the canine incident was, to our thinking, merely a thread in the total fabric of injustice and inequality as it pertains to the Negro citizens of York.

We are hoping, by such demonstrations, to bring into sharp focus to every citizen of the community our discontent and dissatisfaction comparable to our impatience with second class citizenship. We want for every Negro citizen his fair share of opportunities in every sphere.

We are aware of our responsibilities and we intend to make our fellow citizens aware of theirs.

We are aware of our obligations and will not avoid them. And, we shall, by every lawful and peaceful means see to it that our fellow citizens do no less.

Let it be clearly understood by all that our organization does not stand alone in its efforts to rectify situations within the community that can no longer in any way be logically justified. The statement made that the committee is not the "true leadership" is fallacious.

It has been made known that the following organizations are in accord with the principles and objectives of the committee. They are: Hand-In-Hand Lodge 3118, Odd Fellows; Brotherly Love Lodge No. 228 IBPO Elks of the World; York County Council of Churches; Charles E. Williams Post 794, American Legion; Social Friendship Lodge 42 Free and Accepted Masons; York County Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission; York branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Ministers Monthly Fellowship.

From the foregoing, it is obvious that "true leadership," effective leadership, exists within the framework of the committee.

We are hoping that after a re-evaluation by the mayor of the number of citizens who demonstrated their support of our objectives, that he will display a willingness to assist the community of York in attuning itself to the president's statement on civil rights by re-opening negotiations with the committee in a sincere effort to promote domestic tranquility so that citizens of York, be they black or white, may in truth be afforded maximum opportunity to find their place in the sun.

YORK MARCH

(Continued from First Page)

20 of the onlookers joined the march.

A white teenage girl explained how she came to be on the line. "I just came down to see it," she said, "and when I got here, it was just too thrilling; I had to join, really."

There were many young people on the line, along with laborers and housewives, professional people and businessmen.

'The Wonderful Children'

An elderly Negro woman, carrying a flag, was asked how she felt in the near-90-degree heat. "I'm fine," she said, "all the children are here . . . look, the wonderful children . . ."

On the line was a white youth with a sign, "Keep the dogs." Asked about his feelings on this, Peters said:

"Leave him alone; let him stay. He's doing the same thing we are doing, making his feelings felt."

And the feelings which the marches expressed were:

—"An End to Police Brutality . . ."

—"York Shames The Nation . . ."

—"Man's Inhumanity to Man: Police Dogs on Citizens, White or Black. . ."

—"Pray For Peace . . ."

—"Equality in Jobs and Housing . . ."

The two-hour demonstration ended with a singing march back to Crispus Attucks, where a brief evaluation session was held and refreshments served.

"This has been a beautiful demonstration," said Mrs. Lois Lambert Reeves, who led the singing.