

CAPITAL TAKES DR. KING TO ITS HEART

5,000 on march to White House

By RUTH JENKINS
WASHINGTON

The whirlwind two-day tour of Martin Luther King here in Washington came to triumphant end Thursday night in a park across the street from the White House where the civil rights leader had led 5,000 persons on a "thank you march."

The thank-you march was for President Johnson's support of Home Rule for the District and passage of the voter's rights bill.

King spoke for five minutes after the 15-block march, renewing his call for Home Rule. He left as the crowd sang Freedom songs.

An audience of nearly 5,000 that attended a meeting Thursday night at Metropolitan Baptist Church heard King say that if a Home Rule bill is not passed within the next few weeks, he might return to the city and mobilize for direct action.

"Some 200,000 militant marchers will cause even Southern Congressmen to look at the situation," he said.

The two and a half hour rally was a rousing affair which was climaxed by the march to the White House.

During his speech, King spoke of the "four-point challenge of today."

This was listed as:

To affirm and reaffirm our absolute opposition to racial segregation in all areas; to make full and creative use of freedom we already possess by trying to achieve excellence in various fields; to develop massive action programs to gain community improvement; and to keep the struggle non-violent.

King added:

"I still have a dream that one day our dark yesterdays will be transformed into bright tomorrows when we will live the true meaning of the Declaration of Independence."

Thousands of Washington fans cheered Dr. King this week at a series of rousing street corner rallies where he talked people-to-people about social injustices.

Stepping into a mass unity mood set by introductory Freedom Songs, he deplored the housing, employment and educational problems which still beset them, despite the strides being made in desegregation.

He was accorded ovations wherever he went. The applause was deafening when he told the crowds "We want not only desegregation, but an integrated society."

"Integration is the more positive way to bring about mutual acceptance in the world. Segregation is not only nonsensical, but it is morally wrong and sinful, because it is based on human laws out of harmony with the laws of the universe. If our nation is to survive, these problems must be solved. So stand together, children; don't you get weary."

HE WAS outspoken on the specific problems close to the hearts of Washingtonians:

On Home Rule, he said "Why the strong opposition? You know why. Because these southern Congressmen know that in a city with 55 percent colored population, there would be some colored qualified officials in high positions."

"We are fighting for the right to vote in the south, but except for Federal elections, you can't vote right here in the nation's capital. Until you can elect a mayor, until you can elect a city council, until you can elect a school board . . ." Thunderous applause completed this statement for him.

He suggested also that "The Home Rule issue is so basic that if it is not soon passed by Congress, there may be some mass demonstrations."

After the citywide rally at

Metropolitan Baptist Church Thursday night which closed his two - day visit to Washington, Dr. King led an "appreciation" march to the White House to thank President Johnson for advocating home rule.

ON EMPLOYMENT opportunity limitations, Dr. King said "There is too much joblessness here. You have a hard core of 15,000 to 17,000 unemployed. You are relegated to the menial and worse - paying jobs."

"What good is it for a man to have access to integrated restaurants and motels when he can't get a decent job to earn the money to take his family out to dinner?"

On education, Dr. King said "The school situation here is serious. Washington has much to do to provide quality integrated education for its children."

"The colored pupil has been denied quality education for years. In the attempt to operate dual school systems in this country, we caused inadequate education for all. The colored children got a third - rate education; and the white children, a second-rate education."

ON HOUSING, Dr. King said "There are too many slums. We are segregated into ghetto conditions; and segregation makes for discrimination."

"The majority of our people are still perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a land of prosperity. There is nothing more dangerous in a big city than the development of a large segment of society who feel they have no stake in it; that they have nothing to lose."

"These are the people who cause riots. Our non - violent preachments fall on deaf ears. They see life as one long and desolate corridor with no exit sign. We must create a society in which it is possible for them to participate."

THE PERSONAL reaction to Dr. King's stand on these issues is typified by the crowd of 1,000 who turned out at his initial outdoor rally Wednesday afternoon at Turner Elementary School playground, Stanton Road and Alabama Ave., S.E.

When a sudden shower interrupted his talk, the drenched audience overflowed the school auditorium, ignoring the steaming clothing as they jammed into the aisles and crushed up on the windowsills.

Some typical statements were:

MRS. CAROLYN THORPE, 3400 block 18th St. S.E.: "I had heard Dr. King once before while I was attending school in Greensboro. I am very impressed with all of his speeches."

MRS. BETTY JONES, 3100 block Alabama Ave., S.E.: "I had heard Dr. King speak at the March on Washington and since he's in the neighborhood, I thought I would avail myself of the opportunity again. He's a great leader. His goals are high, and as a race we must try to achieve some of these things."

JOHN GREEN, 1113 Chicago Ave., S.E.: "He's just about the greatest man of his race of the past decade. That's the reason I came out: I've always wanted to see him."

MRS. SYLVIA LANE, 1800 Stanton Terrace, S.E.: "He's a Nobel Peace Prize winner. I think everything he has done and is trying to do is wonderful. To have him come to speak to us is about the most wonderful thing that has happened to us in quite sometime."



THEY LOVED HIM—Thousands of Washingtonians turned out at neighborhood rallies this week and cheered Martin

Luther King (at microphone) when he cited the inadequacies District residents suffer in housing, employment and education, but encouraged them

to "walk together, children; don't you get weary" in working for reforms. This group was at Turner Elementary School playground, Stanton Road

and Alabama Avenue, SE. Two minutes after this picture was taken they were forced inside by a drenching rain. (Photo by Glover).

Lesson 7 - Entrance Ticket

Name: _____

Date: _____

Think of a leader or an activist who was involved in Washington, D.C. Home Rule. How did this person contribute to the fight for D.C.'s representation in Congress?

Write your response in the space below.

Lesson 7 - Entrance Ticket (for teacher reference)

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Date: _____

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Write your response in the space below.

Student responses will vary and may include:

- *Marion Barry*
 - *Fought for the Voting Rights Act of 1965*
 - *Encouraged African American voters support Home Rule*
 - *Led the citizens of D.C. in protesting and fighting for Home Rule*
- *Walter Fauntroy*
 - *Supported Home Rule*
 - *Encouraged residents to only support businesses that supported Home Rule*
 - *Made businesses start to support Home Rule for D.C.*

Lesson 7 - Exit Ticket

Name: _____

Date: _____

- Choose one of the three leaders discussed in this lesson.
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Walter Washington
 - President Lyndon Baines Johnson
- What was the significance of their leadership for Home Rule in Washington, D.C.?

Write your response in the space below.

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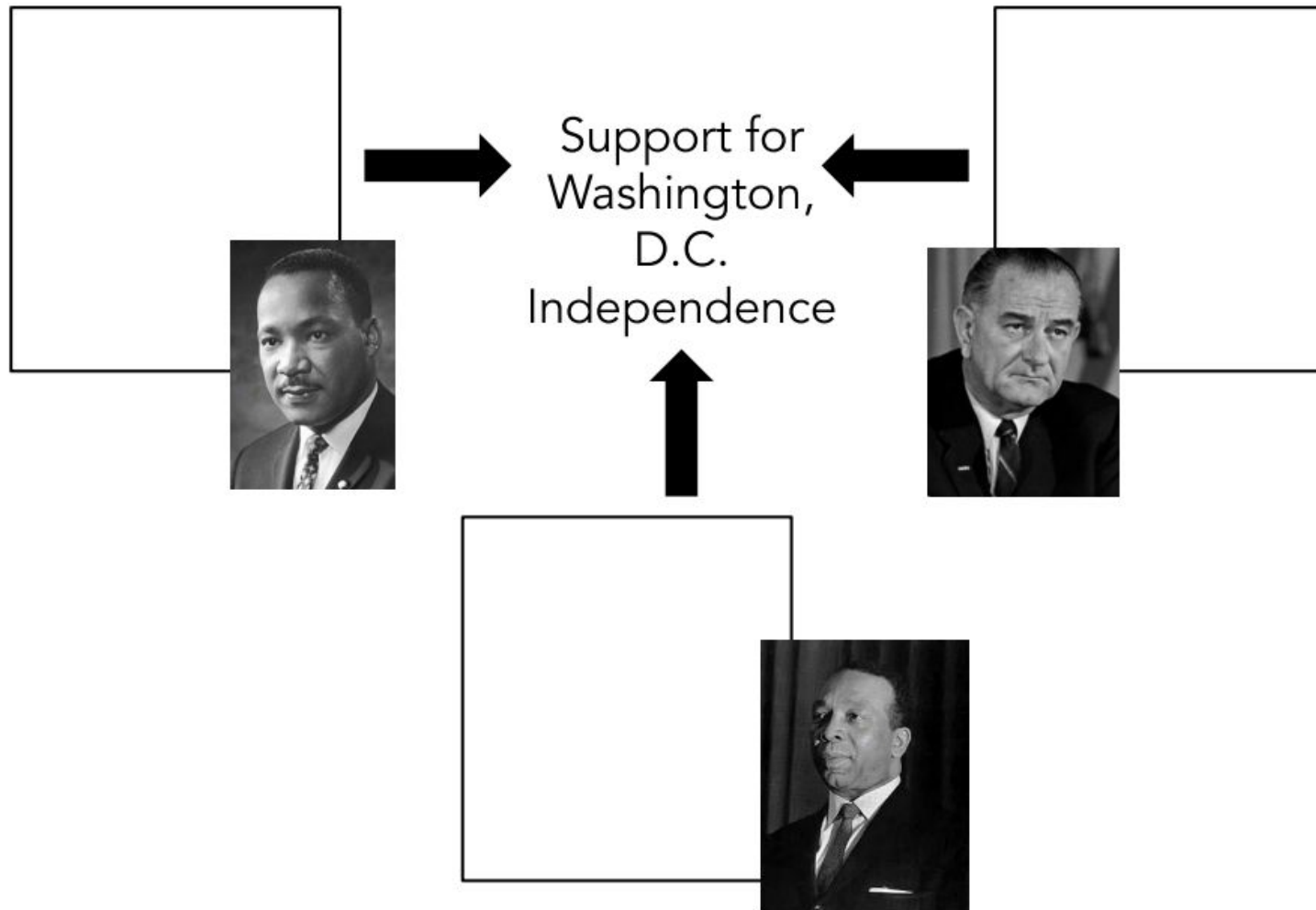
Student answers will vary.

- *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* was a well-known civil rights activist and organizer across the country, who had a large following of people. His belief in Home Rule inspired many others who helped to work for change in D.C.
- As a result of *President Lyndon Baines Johnson's* efforts, Congress named Walter Washington the mayor-commissioner of Washington D.C. Although the mayor-commissioner was ultimately appointed by the President, Washington, D.C. has achieved a form of self-governance. This was a significant step toward Home Rule.
- *Walter Washington* was the first mayor of Washington, D.C. This was the first time that Washington, D.C. has the opportunity to govern itself. Washington had to make decisions and choices without the ability to use previous leadership as a guide. His actions would later impact future mayors. Because of his strong leadership and his service to the residents of Washington, D.C., he paved the way for future leaders of D.C.

Supporters of Washington, D.C. Independence

Name: _____

Date: _____



Supporters of Washington, D.C. Independence (for teacher reference)

Name: _____

Date: _____

