AFRO, MASONS, MINISTERS LED THE WAY

The historical March on Washington-August, 1963

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desire, according to Rev. Mr. Bascom, "to bridge the goal of denominationalism."

However, the organization's attention was diverted from its original goal because of the demands of the civil rights movement which reached its zenith in August, 1973 when the Alliance was an integral part of the historic March On Washington.

In between, virtually no chapter of the civil rights struggle was written in Maryland without the active participation — in person and financially — of the Alliance.

From Gloria Richardson's relentless attack on racism in Cambridge to the massive March on Gwynn Oak Park, Alliance members participation and financial support were two of the few certainties of that troubled era.

The Rev. Mr. Bascom also emphasized the point that the contributions of legal experts such as now Supreme Bench Robert B. Watts, Mrs. Juanita Jackson, and Tucker R. Dearing, should not be forgotten.

"While we filled the jails — especially Morgan State College students, their parents, and ministers, — during the protest against racism at Northwood, we could always count on Bob Watts, Mrs. Jackson, and Tucker Dearing to be waiting at the jail to arrange bail.

Just hours before the last massive charge against racial barriers at Northwood, the Rev. Mr. Bascom is remembered as he spoke to Morgan State College students in the Christian Center.

"The Alliance accepts, without reservation, the philosophy of non-violence," he declared, and urged the young marchers to remember Ghandi's marching to the sea to make salt.

"Although it was cold and snow covered the ground, it was melted by the burning desire of those young people to be wholly free," Rev. Bascom said this week.

The Alliance also supported — "in a real sense (financial)" — the unionization of laundry workers, hospital and nursing home employees.

Also counting on the strong shoulders of the Alliance were such civil rights leaders as the late Walter Carter; now District Court Judge Solomon Baylor; and other leaders of the Congress of Racial Equality.

Negotiating with the Police Department and finally convincing then Commissioner Bernard Schmidt to open up all divisions of the department to black officers was another significant break-through, spearheaded by the Alliance.

Breaking down racial barriers against black workers in the baking industry, promoting equal opportunity within the Fire Department, of which he was a commissioner, the Rev. Mr. Bascom ticked off a long list of involvement of members of the Alliance.

He is quick to point out too, that not only were black Alliance members deeply in the struggle for human justice, so were white members.

Remembered for their continuous counseling, guidance, active participation in marching and going to jail are Catholic Priests, Fathers Henry Offer, Joseph Connolly, the late Rabbi Morris Lieberman, Bishops Corigan and Carson Blake, to name but a few.

All exerted a profound influence on the direction of the civil rights struggle — just as many of their comrades of the last two centuries — influenced the freeing and upward mobility of former slaves.

They played a major role in black Americans arrival at their present place in the history of the nation. The four men who will speak Sunday, January 5, and those who come behind them will have a profound influence on where black people go from here and how they get there.

Such is the history of the struggle for human decency from the time Abraham Lincoln inked the Emancipation Proclamation until now.

Recounting the role of the Alliance and its members will warm the spirits of those who will witness the momentous event of the Emancipation Proclamation observance.

DEL. TROY BRAILEY
chairman

DR. CARL MURPHY
honorary chairman

GRAND MASTER SAMUEL DANIELS—elected at age 33 in 1960.

This glow of pride and satisfaction, however, will be tempered by the nagging realization that blacks, in the words of the Rev. Mr. Bascom "are not there yet, but by the power within all people who think to be free, we'll get there."

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A. Philip Randolph, Freedom's Grand Old Man

The Grand Old Man of Freedom, A. Philip Randolph, at 84-years of age, is still one of the greatest living leaders of civil rights for all people.

Cited Oct. 18 by all the city of New York, the main speaker at a testimonial, Mayor Abraham D.Beame, gave this tribute:

"It is truly a great pleasure and a privilege for me to have this opportunity to express the deep admiration and respect New Yorkers share for A. Philip Randolph.

"As an incredibly courageous and persevering leader of labor and civil rights, Mr. Randolph has earned world-wide acclaim.

"His story is one of dedication to the cause of human justice. It is the story of one man's defiance of discriminatory practices and almost insurmountable obstacles.

"At a time when half our labor unions barred black people from membership, A. Philip Randolph won recognition for his Union of Sleeping Car Porters.

"It was Mr. Randolph who persuaded President Franklin Roosevelt to bar discrimination in defense industries and Federal bureaus, and to create the Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

"And, in 1963, when 200,000 people — with whom I was proud to walk — marched on Washington for jobs and freedom, it was A. Philip Randolph, who, at 74, was director of the march.

"He has devoted his life to furthering social justice. Now in his 80's, he still is a tireless worker for the rights of all people.

"New York claims him as its own. He worked his way through great City College and lectured in New York's Rand School of Social Service. His career has always followed the highest traditions of our City.

"I am proud to present him with The New York City Bronze Medallion — one of the highest tributes our City can offer an outstanding citizen.

"And, now, I would like to officially proclaim October 18th as "A. Philip Randolph Day"."

Also on the program were Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke, presiding; Commissioner Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairman, New York City Commission on Human Rights; Frederick O'Neal, president, Actors' Equity Association and Vice President, AFL-CIO;

And, Lane Kirkland, secretary-treasurer, AFL-CIO; All City High School Chorus; John T. Burnell, director, New York City Office of Labor Relations; Harry Van Arsdale, president, New York City Central Trades and Labor Council; Delegate Troy Brailey, Baltimore.

Del. Brailey and Mr. Randolph have pioneered many Civil Rights movements together under the banner of labor.

Entering the national labor movement in 1941, Del. Brailey became affiliated with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; and since that time, he has worked closely with Mr. Randolph.

In 1941, Brailey was one of the leaders of the proposed March on Washington, which led to the issuance of Executive Order 8802 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt thus establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission.

In 1957, he was one of the coordinators of the Prayer Pilgrimage to Washington.

In 1958 and 1959, he was Maryland's Chairman of the Youth March to Washington. He also served as state chairman and organizer for the 1963 historic March on Washington.

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FOR A. PHILIP RANDOLPH. The March on Washington was his day of triumph. Many who have followed the civil rights movement the last several decades know it as A. Philip Randolph Day. A tireless fighter, the president of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, at age 72 is shown with Del. Troy Brailey on the occasion, August, 1963. Oct. 18, 1974, Mr. Randolph received New York's highest honors in City Hall, Manhattan, at age 85.

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