Montgomery Boycott launched Dr. King's career

fed up with the impositions of segregation revealed itself. Jim ly invincible Jim Crow system in segregation, but Mrs. Rosa Crow was not just a system to the south. Parks' act of defiance on a Mon- keep whites away from blacks . It was an important struggle tgomery Alabama bus in whom they found distasteful. The because all strata of the black December 1955 was the culmination of a lengthy process through which black people were mobilizing to break the back of country's history of close rela- hardship stuck with the boycott

Park's historic refusal to yield revulsion between the races is a her seat to a white man when the myth. white section of the bus became The true purpose of segregafull has trivialized the incident. Some commentators have given the impression that Mrs. Parks pany more than whites, but spontaneously decided to defy blacks received no privileges or

analysis warps the whole notion of social change and opposition to tyranny. Just as commentators try to present Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu as unusual phenomena rather than the latest members in a long line of African patriots who have defied apatheid in South Africa tor generations, so too have they painted a quaint picture of Rosa

Prior to her rendezvous with history, Rosa Parks was an NAACP activist and the summer before the bus incident she had attended seminars at the **Highlander Center in Monteagle** Tennessee which trained activists in desegregation struggles and nonviolent resistance

Mrs. Parks' resistance combined a consciousness of the inknowledge of the fallability of the system in that it could be defeated and the intangible spark that comes from being in the words of Fannie Lou Hamer, "sick and tired of being sick and

Mrs. Parks' action attacked the very foundation of segregation which was white supremacy. The racial etiquette at that time said that when all the seats in the white section were filled, blacks in the colored section of the bus had to get up and give the seat to dictated that no black on the bus could sit while a white person was

quired to yield their seats to white men. Mrs. Parks action took place in the colored section of the bus and was not a defiance of segregation per se, but was a defense of the meager territory that blacks had been accorded or the bus, despite their paying the same fare as whites.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the result of the oppressor their section to maintain racial separation and live up to their in-

presense of the multihued community became involved in African-American community the struggle. The black communidispels the notion, along with this ty en masse and through great Much of the discussion of Mrs. whites, show that the social the end of the 13 months.

sidized the Montgomery bus com-

propelled Martin Luther King Jr. However the true evil of first major crack in the seeming-

sips between blacks and until its successful conclusion at

Every kind of pressure was

Perhaps the lessons that can be earned from the Montgomer Bus Boycott are (1) oppressive systems are not invincible (2) the

Continued on page 31



Mrs. Rosa Parks

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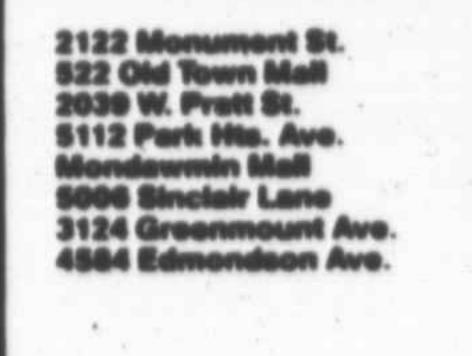














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Hispanics share

I am thinking of a child who is growing up poor in America. He like him are no less likely to be poor this year than they were last

could be describing a black child, but the description also fits an Hispanic child. A new study by vice has found that Hispanic Americans are experiencing child poverty rates comparable to those in the black community.

editor, and church leaderregardless of race — in this

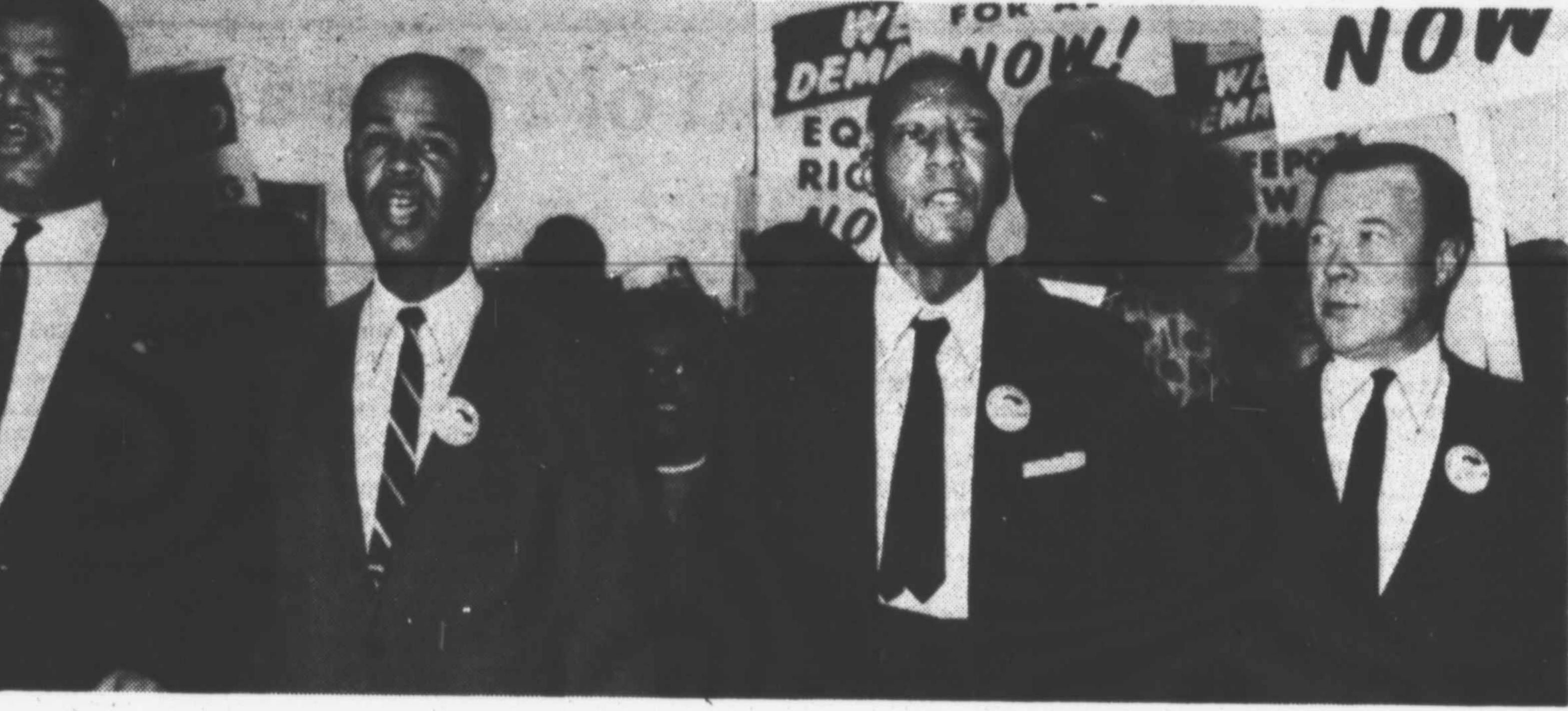
Among Hispanic children tof poverty in 1984 soared 84 perabove that of all United children. Out of every 100 their families, 39 are poor almost twice the poverty rate in the total population of such

Certain sectors of the Hispanic ommunity are even worse off. Rican origin — are poor. Of all the Hispanic children now growing up in the Northeast and Mid-

There is little hope for those children, their families in the ends reported in this study. Between 1978 and 1983, poverty

Many Hispanic children are supports available from the federal government have lost ground against inflation in recent years as a result of budget cuts.

Their poverty is also caused by some factors unique to the either blacks or whites to grow up in large families—almost half o Hispanic children live in with four or more hildren. Also, if they live with both parents, their mothers are likely to work fewer hours outside

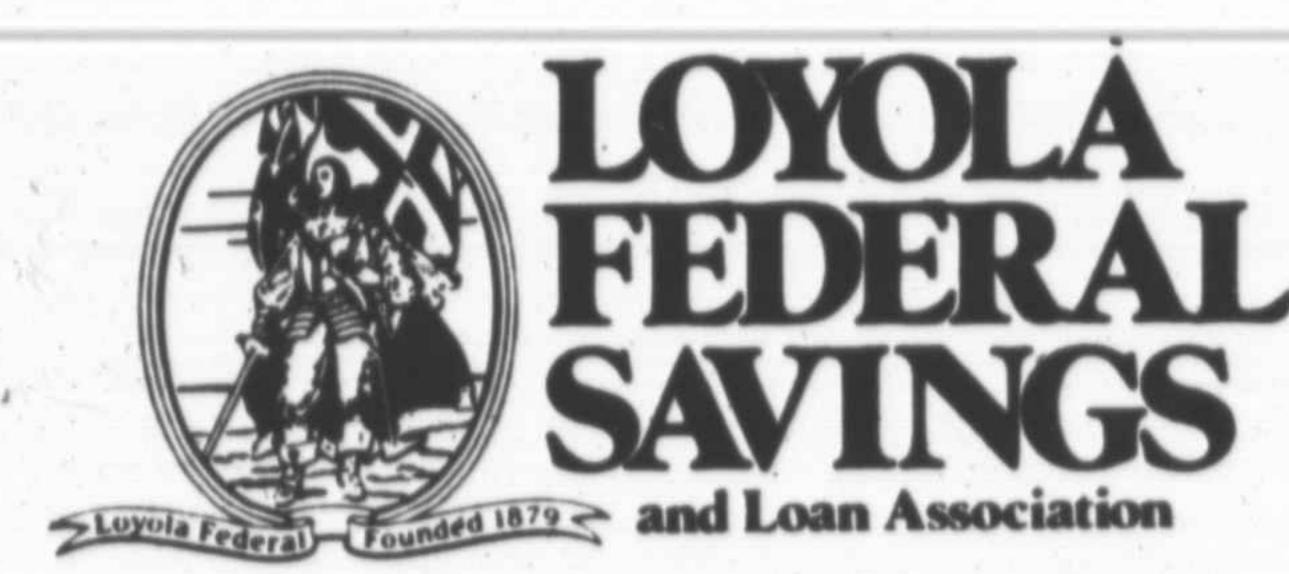


UP FRONT in the 1963 March on Washington were nationally executive director of the National Urban League; Roy Wilkins,

executive director of the NAACP; A. Philip Randolph, president known Civil Rights activists of the day, the late Whitney Young of Sleeping Car Porters; and the late Walter Reuther,

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