

MANIFESTO OF THE JAMES MEREDITH MARCH FOR FREEDOM IN  
2 MISSISSIPPI

Signed: Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Floyd McKissick, Stokely  
Carmichael, ~~James Bevel~~ Charles Evers, Mississippi  
State NAACP, ~~W. Arthur Thomas~~ Delta Ministry,

This march will be a massive public indictment and protest of the failure of American society, the government of the United States and the state of Mississippi to "fulfill these rights." We are all aware that Mississippi is symbolic of every evil that American Negroes have long endured. James Meredith returned to Mississippi to confront the problems of fear and political disenfranchisement that have plagued black Americans of this state. Mississippi's reply to Meredith's witness was a blast from a 16 guage shotgun. Decent Americans will not allow this march for freedom and justice to end here.

We are determined that James Meredith's pilgrimage and wounds will not have been in vain. Hence we dedicate ourselves to the fulfillment of these rights:

We call upon the President of the United States to:

1. Send voting examiners into all 600 deep South counties to register disenfranchised Negroes. Only thus will ballots instead of buckshot become the voice of the South. The responsibility of the President does not end there. We further declare it to be incumbent upon him to establish machinery to make certain that the ballots are counted honestly in order to eliminate fraud. It is further necessary that the registrars be mobile in order to reach citizens on the plantations often unable to register.

2. The President must order the Department of Justice, the FBI and U.S. Marshals to actively enforce existing federal law to protect the rights of all Americans.

3. The President must strengthen the Civil Rights Bill of 1966, ~~press~~ press for its enactment and thorough enforcement. It should be amended to ~~provide~~ provide for automatic application of its jury provisions in the state courts of the South and to place Negroes on juries in proportion to ~~their~~ their number. Moreover, Negroes who ~~have~~ <sup>are illiterate</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>because they have been deprived</sup> ~~deprived of their right to literacy~~ <sup>in most Southern</sup> ~~in the Deep South must not be~~ <sup>illiterate</sup> ~~further deprived~~ <sup>of</sup> of their right to serve on juries. The Bill must be amended to extend Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to state and local governments so that Negro policemen and state patrolment be employed to protect <sup>all</sup> ~~black~~ Americans instead of standing by while a sniper struck down James Meredith.

4. A budget must be proposed by the President and enacted by the Congress in order to bring black people of the northern city ghettos and southern rural districts into the ~~Mainstream of life in America.~~ <sup>making of their own destinies</sup>

But most important of all—the President of the United States who is charged with the duty of enforcing the Laws of the United States, must enforce those laws justly and impartially for all men.