

News Release



Immediate Release:
August 17, 1989

Contacts:
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Kristin Wennberg
(202) 737-3220

C-SPAN AIRS NAACP "SILENT MARCH"

Civil Rights Organization Protests Recent Supreme Court Decisions

C-SPAN will air highlights of a civil rights "Silent March" on Sunday, August 27, at 7:00pm ET.

The march, taking place in Washington, D.C. , has been organized by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to protest four civil rights and affirmative action decision handed down by the Supreme Court during the recent term.

Speakers include Dr. Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, and other civil rights leaders to be announced later.

Sunday, August 27
Highlights from the NAACP "Silent March"
from Washington, D.C.

7:00pm ET

C-SPAN is now available in 46.6 million households through 3,341 cable system affiliates nationwide and worldwide via satellite. C-SPAN is a public service of the cable television industry.

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Dear Editor,

In order to get information to you on a timely basis regarding C-SPAN programs you may find of interest, I would like to know your deadline for publication.

If you do not receive C-SPAN schedule information on time, please call me at (202) 737-3220 and I will make a point of sending future information to you by your deadline.

If you ever have any questions about a specific program, C-SPAN coverage of an event, or about C-SPAN in general, please feel free to call me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kristin Wennberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Kristin Wennberg
Press Information Coordinator

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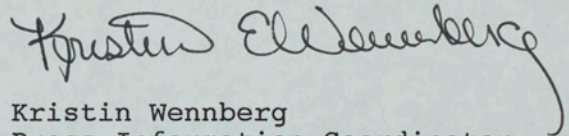
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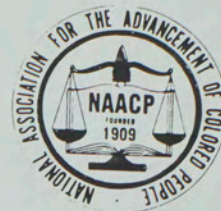
Regards,



Kristin Wennberg
Press Information Coordinator

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BENJAMIN L. HOOKS

Executive Director

7-20-89

89-92

JAMES D. WILLIAMS

Director/Public Relations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAACP SETS AUGUST 26TH FOR 'SILENT MARCH' ON SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

A "Silent March" protesting four recent adverse decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court on civil rights and affirmative action, and calling on Congress to undertake legislative remedies, has been scheduled by the NAACP for Saturday, August 26, 1989, at noon in Washington, D.C., according to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, Executive Director, NAACP, and Dr. William F. Gibson, Chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors.

The route and other details of the march remain to be worked out, but Dr. Hooks said it would closely resemble the famous "Silent March" of 1917 when over 5,000 men, women, and children headed by Dr. W.E.B. DuBois and James Weldon Johnson of the NAACP, marched in silence down New York City's Fifth Avenue, protesting "Jim Crowism", lynching, segregation, disenfranchisement and race riots in Waco, Memphis and East St. Louis.

"Our silent march will be concerned with one issue alone--the Supreme Court and its recent hostile decisions. We will be sending a message primarily to the Administration, Congress and the American people that the decisions of this Court are harmful to the body politic of this nation and prompt action must be taken to reverse them through legislative means," Dr. Hooks said at a press conference

in Washington on Thursday, July 20th.

Dr. Hooks had earlier announced the March at the conclusion of the NAACP's Annual Convention in Detroit on July 13th. The press conference was called to provide further details. Dr. Hooks said at the press conference that the Supreme Court decisions emerged as the single most important issue at the NAACP Convention, reflecting the general mood throughout the black community "where the question is being asked--in many places and in many ways--since a five member majority of the court is obviously determined to lead a stampede to the rear on civil rights, what can we do?"

The Silent March, in which the men will wear black and the women and children white, is a response to that question, according to Dr. Hooks. He added, however,

"If Congress does not act, then we must call upon our citizenry to mount other demonstrations until our voices are heard and our just demands are acted upon."

He added,

"We are not looking toward bringing vast numbers of people to Washington. In this instance, the medium is the message and the message is the Silent March that bespeaks the seriousness of our dissatisfaction and the need to move without hesitation to correct the mistakes of this court.

"We are reaching out to a cross section of other national organizations and institutions seeking their participation. We are also sending a message to private citizens who share our concerns to join us in the March."

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BRIEF SUMMARIES OF SUPREME COURT CASES

I. City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Company, 1/23/89

The city of Richmond had established, by city ordinance, a set-aside plan that required prime contractors to whom the city awarded contracts to subcontract at least 30% of the dollar value of each contract to one or more minority businesses. The Supreme Court declared the set-aside plan unconstitutional as a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The impact was to undermine the foundation of minority set-asides and all other forms of affirmative action at the local and state government level.

II. Ward's Cove v. Antonio, 6/5/89

In this decision, the Court revised a system of proving discrimination that had been accepted by all the Courts and legal scholars for 18 years. The ruling put the whole burden of proof on the victim of discrimination, no matter how stark the numerical disparity of the employer's work force.

III. Martin v. Wilks, 6/12/89

This case involved the Birmingham, Alabama, Fire Department, which was all white until 1968. In 1981, the city entered into two consent decrees settling litigation, filed in 1974 and 1975, with a class of black plaintiffs and the Justice Department. The Supreme Court ruled that at this late date white firefighters should be allowed to proceed with a reverse discrimination lawsuit.

IV. Patterson v. McLean Credit Union, 6/15/89

The Court left standing, but weakened a vital section of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, one of the most powerful weapons of civil rights lawyers. As matters now stand, the words "to make contracts" in the act now only prohibit discrimination in the actual formation of a contract and cover nothing about discriminatory "performance of established contractual obligations" after the contract's creation. This has the effect of protecting an individual against discrimination in the hiring process, but not after employment.