

Whites Join Protest

Unite With Negroes in Silent March Here of 3,000 Condemning Bombing

More than 3,000 Grand Rapids citizens, nearly equally mixed white and Negro, marched silently eight abreast through the heart of the city Sunday afternoon to protest the dynamiting a week earlier of a church in Birmingham, Ala., which killed four young Negro girls.

Led by a color guard from the American Legion and a special delegation of clergymen, the marchers extended more than a

mile on Division Ave. to City Hall where six local ministers, Mayor Stanley J. Davis and co-chairmen of the march, Dr. W. W. Plummer and Mrs. Thomas Marchand, addressed the crowd.

Davis struck close to the central idea of the occasion in a one-sentence speech.

Pleads for Jobs

"We are not taking the role of the Pharisee that we are not like those in places elsewhere," he said, "but the role of the Publican asking forgiveness of the Lord for sins we have perpetrated."

Rev. W. L. Patterson, pastor of True Light Baptist Church, said to his "white brothers" in the audience, "You have marched with us today, but please march with us tomorrow because we need jobs and places to live right here in Grand Rapids."

Rev. Hugh Michael Beahan of the Grand Rapids Catholic Diocese (13 nuns and about the same number of priests were among the marchers) said, "Four of our family were murdered last Sunday . . . When a member of a family dies, it doesn't make any difference if we're 1,000 miles away. We mourn.

"Those of us who are accidentally white must be a little careful about our righteous indignation. We should see if our hands are clean—maybe too clean because we never lifted a finger."

Prays for Victory

Rev. Henry V. Hutcherson, Negro president of the Inter-Denominational Ministerial Alliance, said in the invocation, "Give us victory, dear Lord, if it be Thy will."

Rabbi Harry Essrig of Temple Immanuel said the dynamite deaths of the girls had "fused" both Negro and white in a protest which should be "not merely a spontaneous outburst but should swell the pride of involvement which all of us must share."

The crowd at City Hall joined hands at the bidding of Rev. William J. Greer, president of the Grand Rapids Ministerial Association, for the benediction.

The march itself was a quiet but predominately cheerful affair which never came close to getting out of hand.

Police officers were interspersed with the marchers to watch for trouble. But none came, largely because Alvrie Love of 617 New St. SW, 22-year-old president of the Youth Council of NAACP, did an outstanding job as parade marshal.

Love lined up the marchers on Delaware St. SW, beside Campau Park; admonished them that

silence was the order of the day and led them off. His admonishment stuck even in the face of a few hecklers, all Negroes, who jeered and sang songs from the sidewalks.

"It's a disgrace," yelled a man who identified himself as Hezekiah Allen, 53. "Even that march is segregated."

Allen cooled down when it was pointed out that the marchers were largely lined up according to organizations, most of which had either an all-white or all-Negro membership. But he still had no faith in the march.

Delegations from all local colleges and most schools as well as churches and fraternal groups marched in the parade, from the four-man contingent, counting himself, of Rev. Charles Fry from Aldersgate Methodist Church, to a throng of about 50 behind Rev. Alvin Hill of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

Judge Hits At Critics

Beukema Defends Traffic Penalties

Wyoming Municipal Judge Lawrence D. Beukema Monday rapped critics of his policy on traffic fines, laying blame for the complaints to "dangerous drivers" who have appeared before the court.

Commissioner Paul Gezon questioned Judge's Beukema's policies on fines last Wednesday claiming the penalties were "severe and stiff."

Judge Beukema said the criticism of "excessive fines" is unfounded since the penalty schedule he follows—with minor revisions—was established by his predecessor four years ago.

Noting several months ago that speeders—those exceeding the limit by 20 or more miles—were "quietly paying fines in the Violation Bureau and thus avoiding court review and notoriety," Judge Beukema said he began ordering these violators before the bench.

"Two months ago when I also noted that intentional violations were rapidly increasing, I realized my fining policy wasn't working," Judge Beukema continued. "I then began to impose jail sentences in addition to fines on reckless drivers, drag racers and speeders exceeding the limit by 30 miles.

"I am determined to discourage such conduct to prevent death or injury to innocent people," the judge declared. "I regret that decent law-abiding citizens have been misled into making unfair charges against the court."

Reports Theft

William Jones, 2036 Jerome Ave. SW, told Wyoming police Saturday his \$50 radio and \$8 jacket were stolen at Paragon Bowling Lanes, 2425 S. Division Ave., where he is a parttime employe.



FAMILY PROTESTS

in the silent march drew 3,000 persons do the dynamite bombing ham, Ala., church is I being wheeled along t The whole Ross family, SE, joined in the including the parents, Ross, and Yvonda, 8.