

DRAFT OF DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR ADDRESS
MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM
LINCOLN MEMORIAL
AUGUST 28, 1963

NORMALCY - NEVER AGAIN

(Following acknowledgement of Chairmen and Distinguished Platform Guests)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I need not pause to say to you that it is an honor to be here today, to stand with you in the symbolic shadow of this poetic tribute in stone to the memory of the Great Emancipator.

We are here, hoping that our presence today, our dedication of purpose of tomorrow will transform our tribute to Abraham Lincoln, ~~in~~ from the staid silence of stone into the meaningful music of harmony among the people of this nation to whom he gave the last full measure of devotion. We are here, by our presence, saying that we have the will and the determination to do this so that in the one hundredth and one year of the physical freedom of the Negro, we will not be beset by the nagging knowledge that this nation owes an abject apology to Lincoln; an apology for going too slow in granting equal rights to all her citizens; an apology for not pushing hard enough in bringing to reality his hopes and dreams; an apology for invoking the evil alibi that "this is not the time" for the hour of freedom to strike. For we know full well that the ~~any~~ any time is the time to do the right thing.

We honor our country and ourselves by being here. Contrary ~~to~~ to all we have been hearing about the wisdom of our being here, we know that we are here in the noblest traditions of our ~~and~~ Judeo-Christian tradition and our democratic heritage. In accordance with that democratic heritage, we have come here, from all over this land, to cash a ~~big~~ check. When ~~the~~ the ~~early~~ architects of our Republic wrote in ~~the~~ indelible ink those magnificent