

# Sing, Pray And Stand In Street

Yes  
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## Procession Goes Half a Block, Halted By Police

By Associated Press

SELMA, ALA. — More than 350 Negroes and white clergymen marched from a church here Wednesday night and stood in the street singing and praying after police halted the procession.

It was the first night march since Gov. George C. Wallace banned after-dark demonstrations following a violent outburst at nearby Marion the night of Feb. 18.

Negro leaders vowed they would stay in the street until arrested or allowed to proceed.

Wednesday night's march — halted after a half a block — pushed to nearly 2000 the number of demonstrators who surged into the streets here and at Montgomery, the state capital, in the long, tense day.

Five hundred marchers were blocked by police in the daylight demonstration here. But nearly 1000 marched in Montgomery, massing at the state capitol in a futile effort to hand the governor a civil rights petition.

The Montgomery marchers, most of them Negroes, dwindled to only about 200 after darkness fell. But the remnant remained in the street facing the capitol. Police stood around them.

### THREE ARRESTED

In between the marches, Selma police arrested three white men on charges of assaulting three out-of-state white clergymen who took part in a march here Tuesday. One of the ministers, the Rev. James J. Reeb of Boston, lay near death in a Birmingham hospital.

Civil rights trouble-shooter John Doar of the Justice Department huddled with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who touched off the mushrooming Negro voter drive nearly eight weeks ago.

And LeRoy Collins, head of the federal community relations council, rushed back to this racial target city.

Before the night's march, one of Dr. King's lieutenants, Hosea Williams of Savannah, Ga., shouted to a cheering crowd in the church:

"If they stop us, we will stay there until they arrest us, tear-gas us or let us go through!"

Dr. King was not in the night procession.

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About an hour after the demonstration started, police received an anonymous bomb threat against the nearby church. A squad of state troopers searched the building. They found nothing.

Moments before, a Negro in the rear of the throng yelled: "We're going to make the troopers earn their money tonight."

### 'PEACEFUL' PROTEST

The harsh glow of headlights from the police cars and the flashing of camera equipment punctuated the darkness near the church. It was in a Negro housing area with few street lights.

Leading the night demonstration was the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy of Atlanta, a close

# Night March

## On in Selma

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associate of Dr. King. Flanking Dr. Abernathy were other ministers, some white, the others Negro.

Faced by the city's public safety director, Wilson Baker, and the force of police, Dr. Abernathy said: "We only want to make a peaceful protest in an orderly manner by walking to the courthouse."

"You cannot go any further under any circumstances," Mr. Baker replied. "Halt this march right here, right now!"

### LEADS IN PRAYER

Mr. Abernathy led his followers in prayer.

He linked arms with marchers on each side. Then they all began singing, "We Shall Overcome," the theme song of their movement.

With Mr. Abernathy in the front row were the Rev. Edward Blackman of Boston, the Rev. Frank Anderson of Braintree, Mass., and Father John Egan of Chicago, a Roman Catholic priest. All are white.

The front ranks were composed mainly of white ministers. The marchers stood four abreast. They were lined up for 100 yards.

One by one the ministers in the front ranks offered prayers.

There was no attempt to break through the police lines.

**Selma police arrested three men and charged them with assault with intent to murder in the street clubbing Tuesday night of the Rev. James J. Reeb, 38, of Boston, and two other white ministers. Mr. Reeb, a Unitarian minister, lay near death in a Birmingham hospital.**

Held were William Stanley Hoggle, 36, and Elmer Cook, 41, both in the used car business here, and R. B. Kelly, 30, a Selma television repairman.

A warrant was issued for a fourth man.

Mr. Reeb and his companions took part in Tuesday's mass march. Only Mr. Reeb was hurt seriously in the attack. Meanwhile, the Justice Department joined in a suit filed by civil rights leaders for a federal court order banning interference with peaceful demonstrations.