Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!

"Freedom, Freedom, Freedom," has been the chant of thousands of Negro citizens while they were being swept into the streets of Birmingham—one of the ongoings of segregation now assailed by a new kind of freedom-fighter—the man, man, boy and girl fighting for class citizenship.

Bombarded, beaten, hosed, attacked dogs, threatened with their very lives, men and women—among them names which have won national recognition—they have appealed to the conscience of the entire country, and the world.

M ostly Kids

Funds for aid are being collected throughout the nation—for bail, for legal expenses, for medical and hospital costs.

One of the most remarkable events—inspiring young people throughout the country—was the fact that of the thousands who arched, and were jailed, most were school children.

The story of Birmingham has been one of the most highly publicized news events of the year, in the United States, and throughout the world's press.

The aftermath of the story is yet to be told. One clear point is that either Birmingham, nor any other minority in which racial minorities reside will ever be the same as the result of the courage of the young men and women of that community. In one fashion or another equally courageous movements for equality are in action throughout the South.

This week's news reports one significant aftermath: Through the Birmingham Recorder's Court will many hundreds, perhaps thousands of young people, charged with parading without a permit—or perhaps even more serious offenses. The judge, according to the San Francisco Chronicle's reporter, Richard Renost, has been writing diligently from Birmingham for weeks, is one C. H. Brown.

He was appointed by Birmingham's Police Commissioner, and police strong-man, Eugene (Bull) Connor—the man who ordered the dogs and hosed and clubs used against the peaceful demonstrators. One defendant after another received $100 fine and 180 days in jail. Bail is usually set at $2500 awaiting appeal. It may take well over a million dollars for bail and other costs before this brand of Southern justice is completed.

Jeff Kibre, ILWU Washington representative, reported a dynamic approach to the problem:

"Current hearings on new civil rights legislation could really amount to something if a suggestion offered by Rep. Charles Vanik is adopted. He proposes that House Judiciary Committee hearings, just getting under way, he moved to Birmingham and other hot spots. This would focus national attention where it belongs and help mobilize pressure for meaningful action now.

Birmingham was brought home to every home on the West Coast last week, wherever people read the papers or saw TV, when the noted Negro author, James Baldwin arrived for a whirlwind speaking tour on behalf of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality).

"What is happening in Birmingham now can be happening this summer in Detroit, Chicago, or any northern city, including this one," he told a jampacked San Francisco press and TV conference.

Baldwin, a masterful English prose stylist, whose recently published long essay from the New Yorker magazine, "The Fire Next Time," has won widespread acclaim, was sharply critical of every community that permits what he termed "the adolescent nightmare" of segregation to continue.

Standing Ovation

To an estimated 9000 students who packed every available space at the University of California's Harmon Gymnasium, and who gave him a long standing ovation at the end of his speech, he reserved some of his choicest statements.

"I think Kennedy goofed," he said, "Negroes want someone to say not that desegregation is legal, but that it's right." He called on the President to stop appointing Southern judges who are themselves segregationists.

With Birmingham in all the headlines, he told students:

"Birmingham is a terrible warning... It is a symptom of a long and terrible lie they've been telling me as a black man and you as a white man, and a lie we must hope to understand if we are to survive this nightmare.

"Negro boys and girls see pictures of dogs. They don't just see the South. They see all America. You say 'Birmingham,' Negroes say 'America.'"

About the church today, Baldwin commented drily:

"Sunday morning at eleven is the (Continued on Back Page)"

Dock Safety Bill Test in California

SACRAMENTO—The ILWU's dock safety bill, which has already passed the lower house of the California Legislature, gets its key hearing in Senate committee May 20. The bill (AB 546), authored by Assemblyman Edward M. Gaffney (D-SF) was passed by the Assembly by a 75-0 vote.

The bill is a hardy perennial in the ILWU's legislative program. At two previous sessions, in 1959 and in 1961,
going down to register in many cases even when it meant starvation, because of the deliberate denial of food relief in areas of deprivation.

In a single area, Selma, Alabama, some 90 local students are working on voter registration—in a place in which not a single Negro has registered to vote in 50 years.

Dick Gregory, night club comedian, who was recently arrested for participating in the Birmingham protests, and who spent six days in Greenwood, Mississippi, the center of the voter registration drive in recent months, called SNCC “the greatest organization going in the world.”

Negroes in Mississippi have been

JAMES BALDWIN

which story of the postman who died on lonely road.

He was William Moore, 35, a Baltimore mailman. One day later, April he had taken a bus to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and then set to hike to Jackson, Mississippi, 93 miles away.

On his shoulders he carried a sandwich board. One side said: “Segregation in America...Black White, Eat at Joe’s.” The other side read: “Equal Rights for All...Mississippi or Bust.”

He was carrying a letter to then Governor Ross Barnett. It was never delivered. About 93 miles along the journey, in Gadsden, Alabama, he was found dead, shot at close range.

“Freedom Walks”—in the memory of William Moore are now undertaken from many parts of the country aimed at finishing his walk to Mississippi.

ADDRESS THE PEOPLE

In San Francisco—reflecting the opinions of great numbers of lightened people throughout the country—the board of directors of the Council for Civic Unity called President Kennedy to “address the entire nation on the issue of Birmingham.”

The statement said in part:

“As San Franciscans we are involved in the Birmingham situation...because the tensions from Birmingham are felt in every American community thereby making it difficult to achieve our goal of San Francisco of equal right and opportunity for all without regard to color, creed or national ancestry.

“Therefore, we urge the President to address the entire nation on the issue of Birmingham...The President has an opportunity to weld this nation together by positive pronunciations of the American creed and through firm and just action.”