

# **“To Help Our Nation Find Its Soul”: The 1968 Poor People’s Campaign**

**Covenant Church  
April 19, 2015**



# Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)





(Photo courtesy of Marian Wright Edelman)

**Young Marian Wright Edelman in Her  
Mid 20's (1966)**



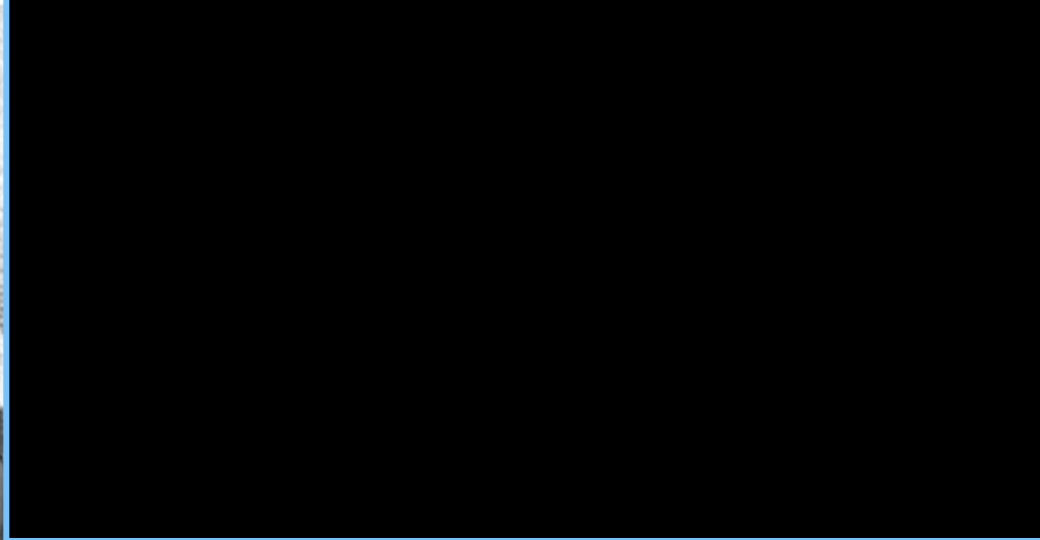
(Photo by Johnson Publishing Company, courtesy of Marian Wright Edelman)

### **The Wright Family (#1)**

The Wright family poses with Marian Wright Edelman at age six in the front row, first from the left.



**Young Marian**



(Photo courtesy of Marian Wright Edelman)

### **Marian Wright Edelman at Her Yale Law University Graduation (#2)**



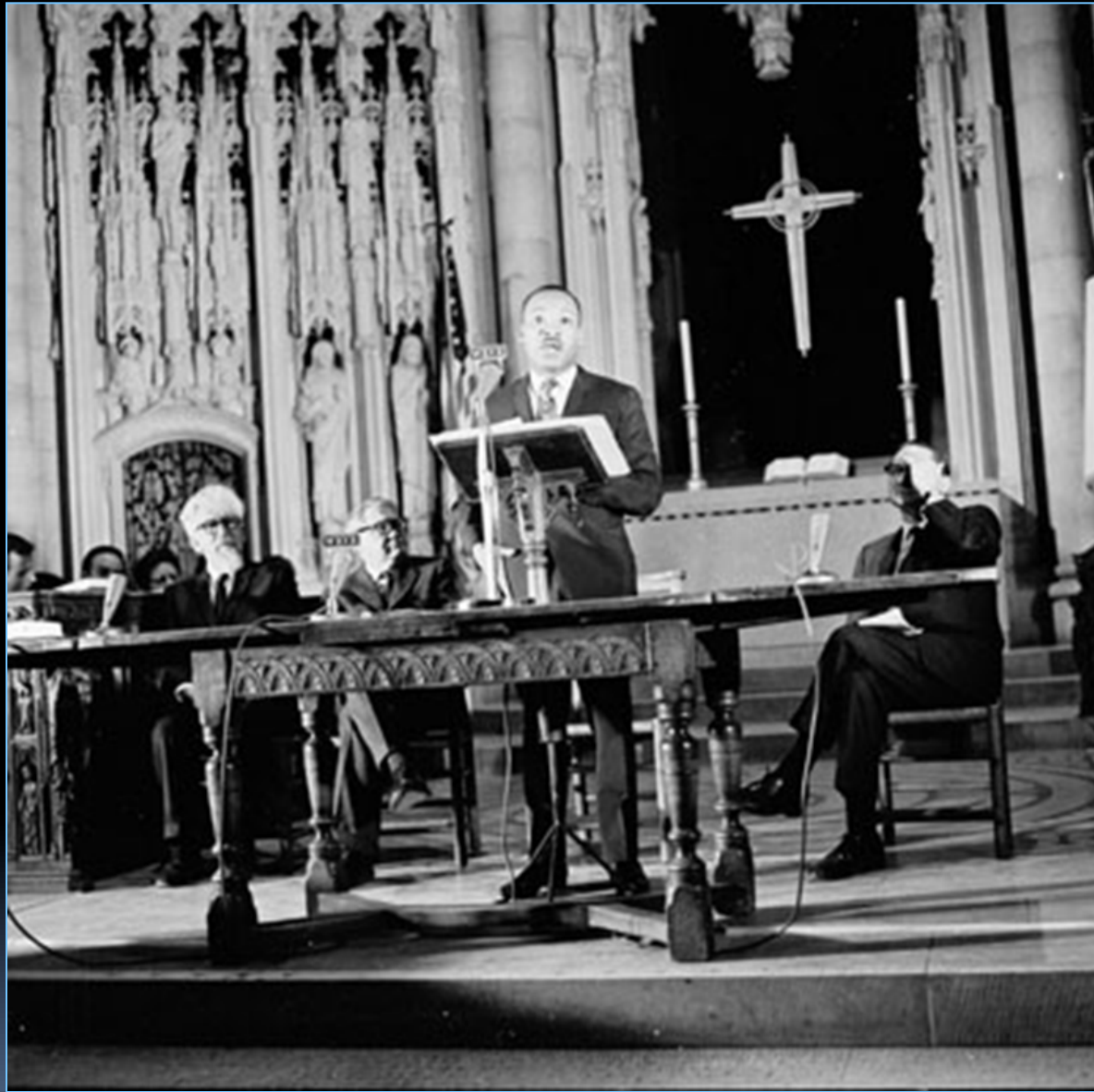
**Marian Wright Edelman, an attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, testifying before the Senate Labor Subcommittee about the anti-poverty program in Washington, D.C.,  
March 15, 1967**



**Robert F. Kennedy and  
Marian Wright Edelman  
visit the Mississippi Delta  
on an anti-poverty  
investigation in April 1967**



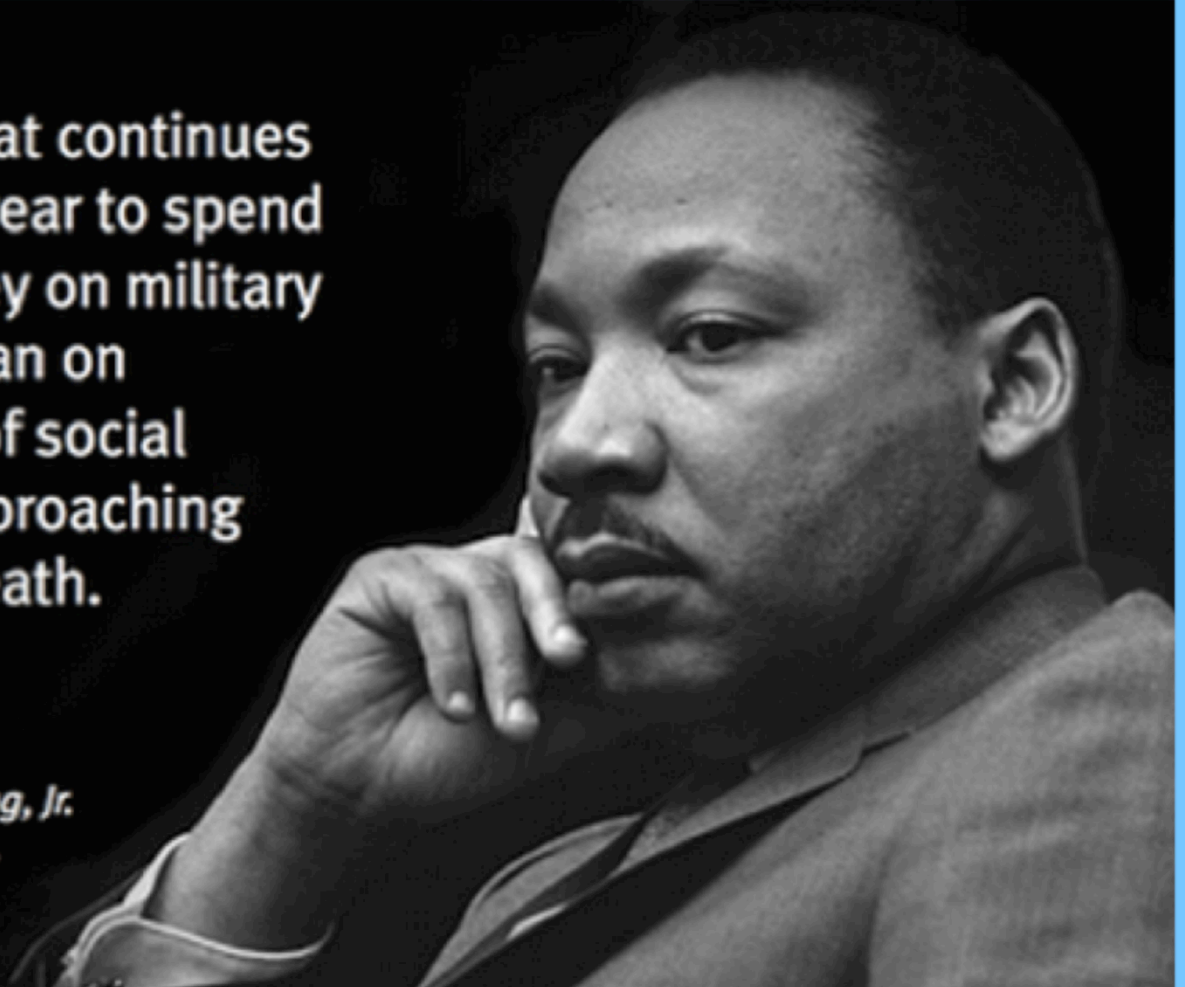
**King Visits Greenwood, Mississippi, July 21, 1964**

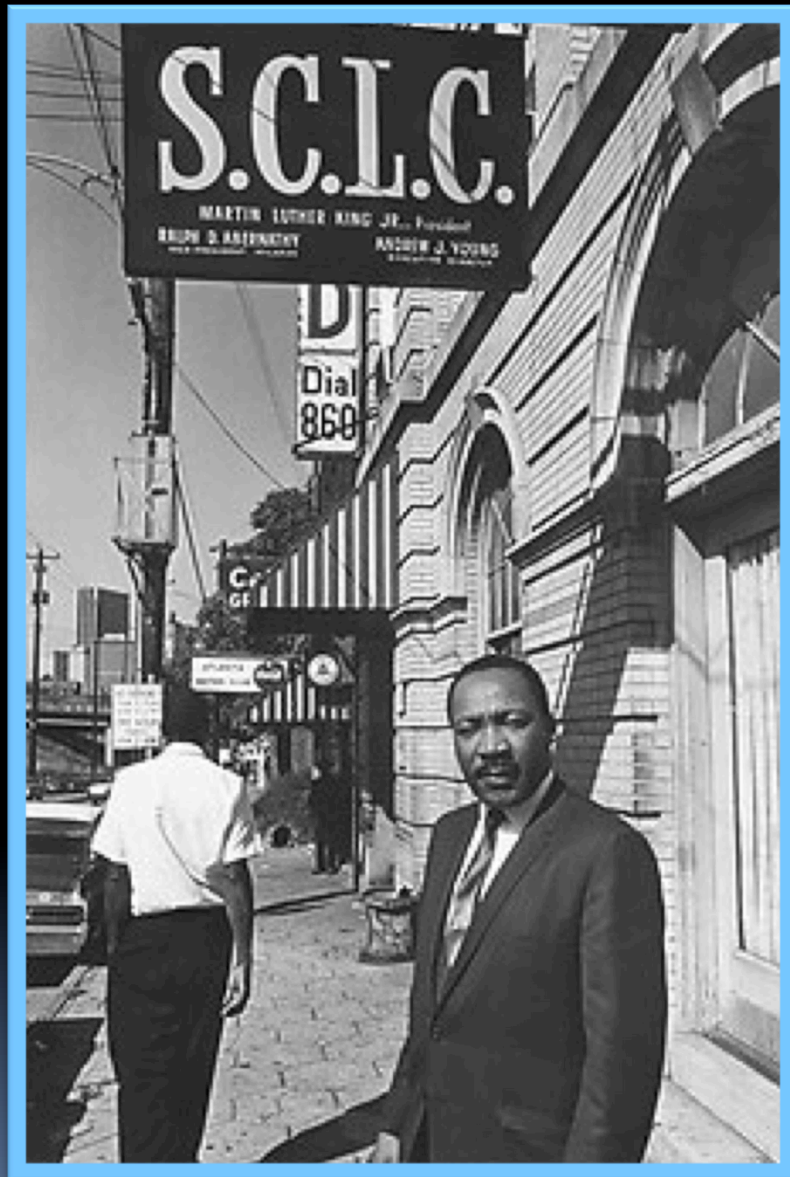


**King Denounces the war in Vietnam  
Riverside Church, NYC, April 4, 1967**

A nation that continues  
year after year to spend  
more money on military  
defense than on  
programs of social  
uplift is approaching  
spiritual death.

*Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Riverside Church,  
New York City  
4 April 1967*





**Martin Luther King at the  
Southern Christian  
Leadership Conference  
headquarters, Atlanta.  
The SCLC organized the  
Poor People's Campaign  
in 1968**



**Ralph Abernathy announced the start of the Poor People's Campaign from the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, May 2, 1968.**

# Mule Train from Marks, Mississippi



# “Don’t Laugh Folks, Jesus Was a Poor Man”



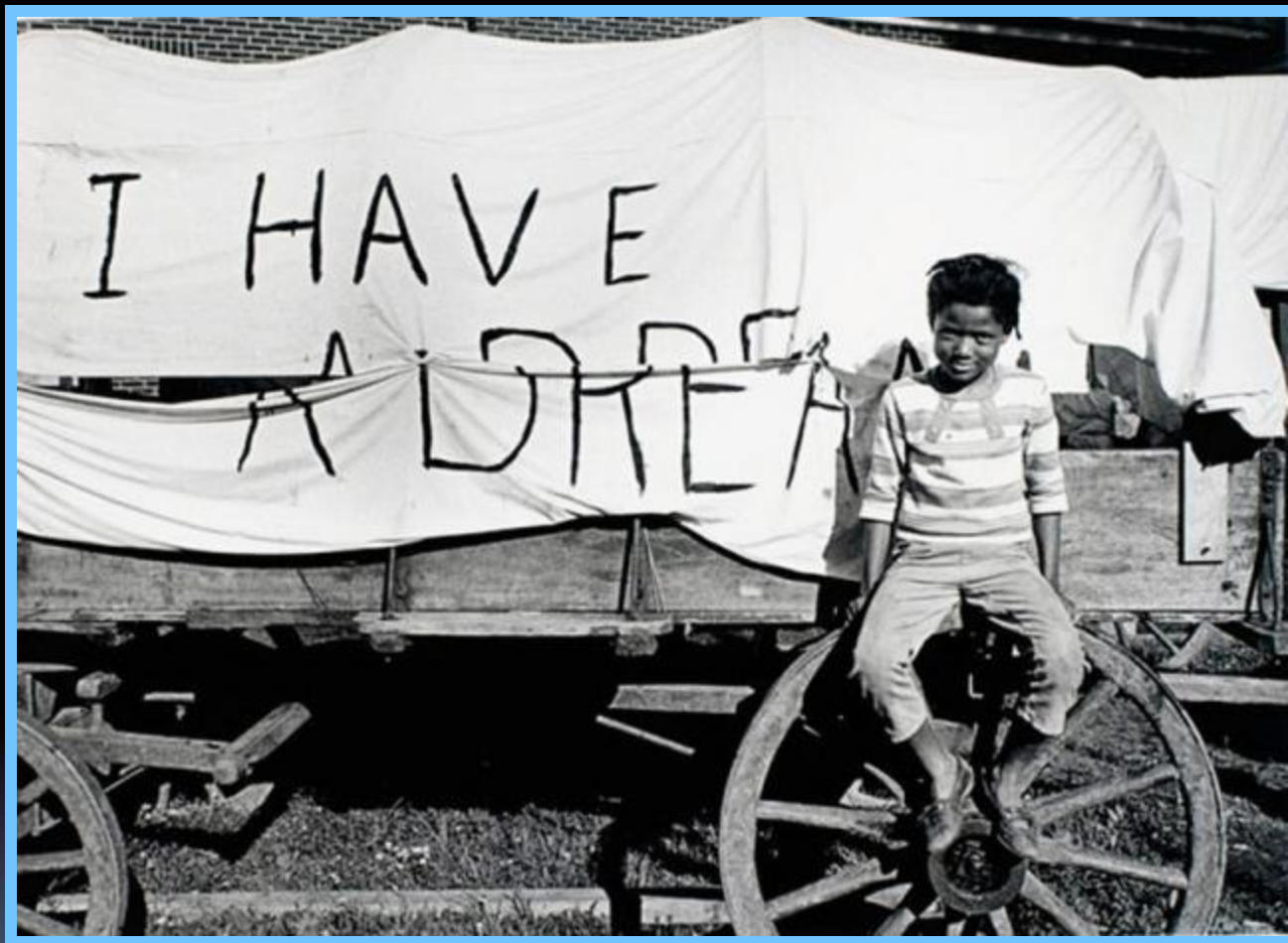




**Bertha Johnson's Six Children headed to Washington D.C.  
(back row) Brian, Terence, and Nelson: (front row) Trudy, Charles,  
Jr., and Brenda Marie**



**Mother and Son at a Freedom rally,  
Marks, Mississippi, May 1968.  
Roland Freeman, photographer**



# THE MULE TRAIN

*A Journey of Hope Remembered*

ROLAND L. FREEMAN



Hayti Heritage Center

460 Old Fayetteville Road

Madison, MS 39110

January 20th - February 2nd, 2002



**Leo Walker weeds his cotton as the Mule Train passes by**



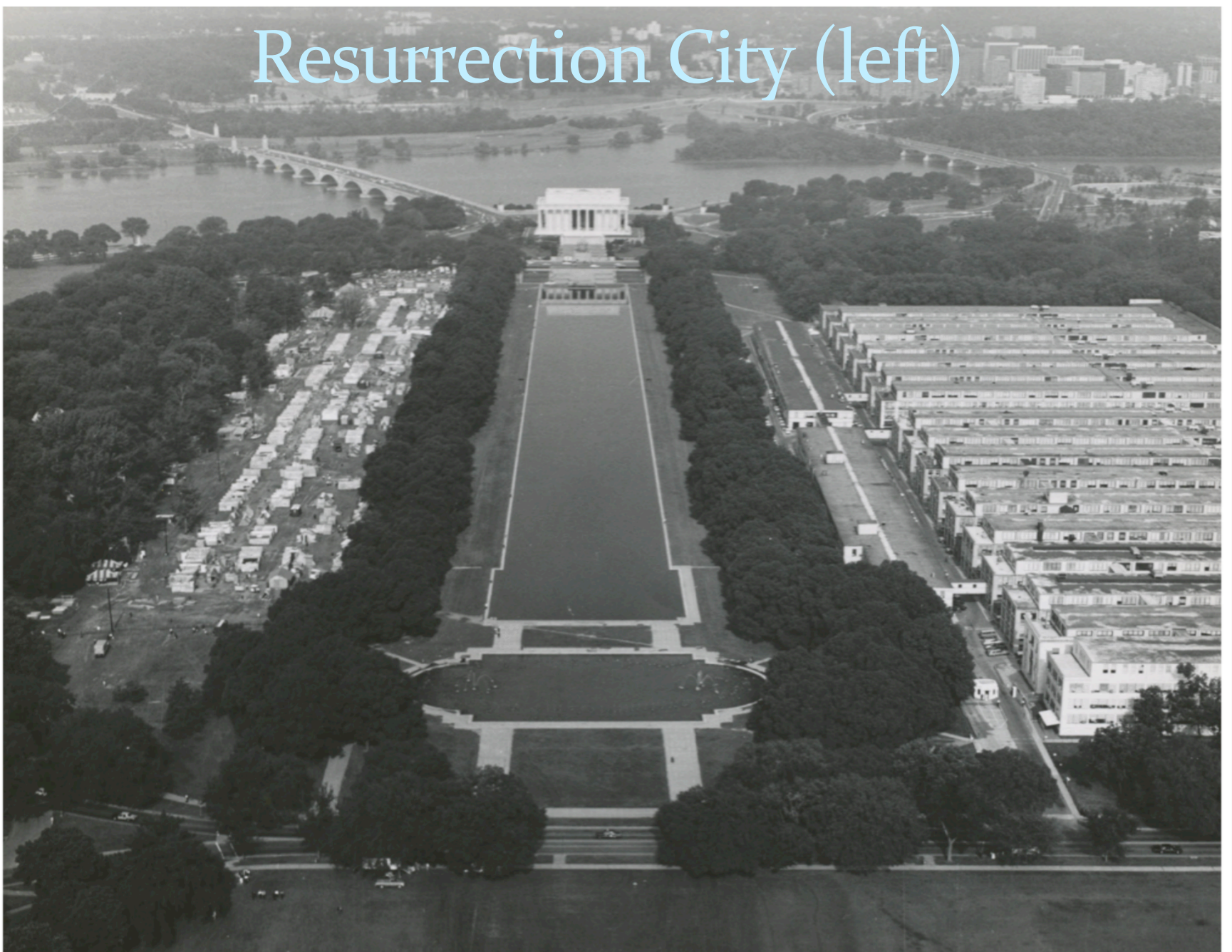
**Rumbling into  
Washington D.C.**

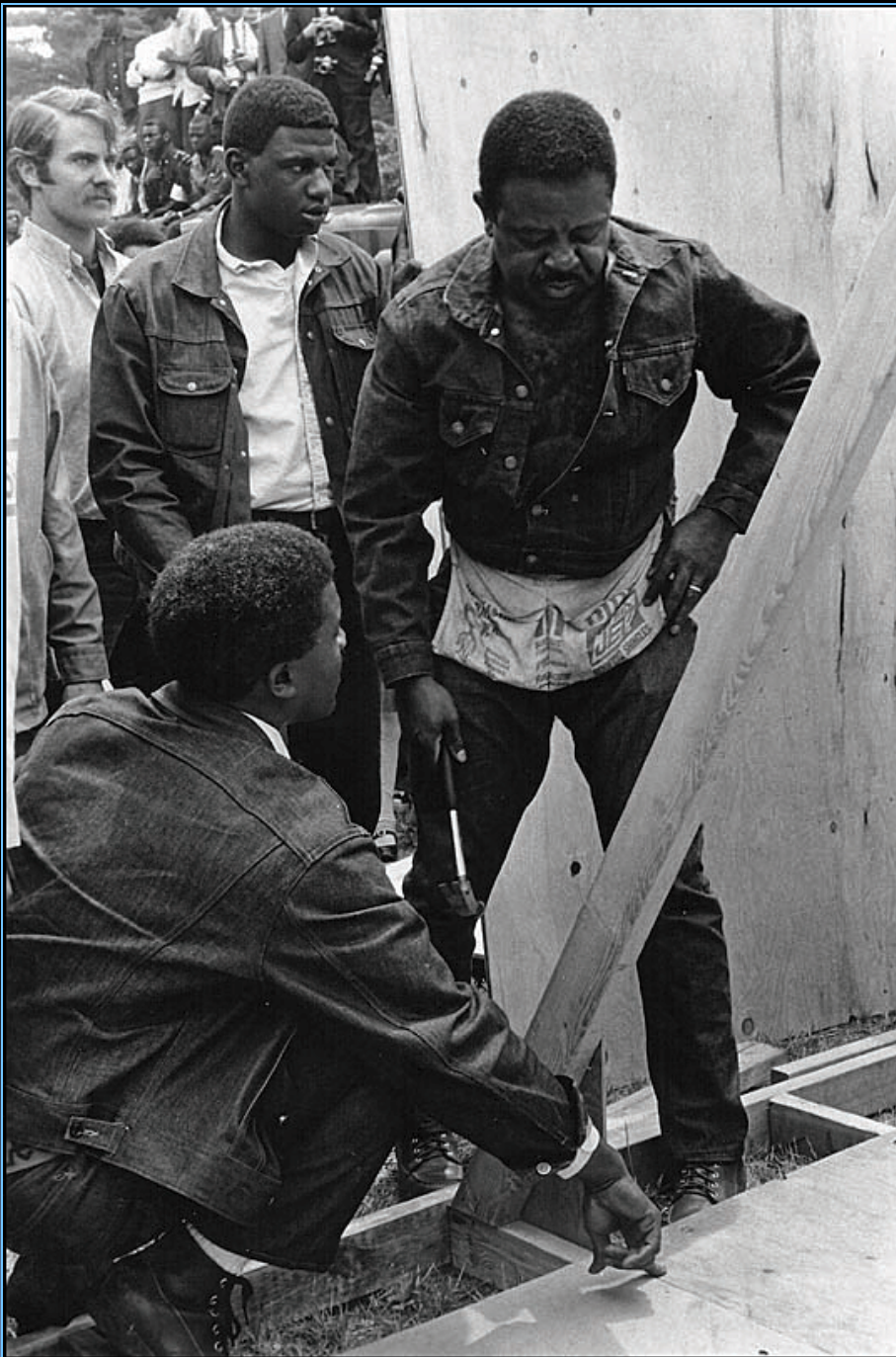




Poor People's Campaign Kick-off in Atlanta, Georgia, 1968

# Resurrection City (left)





**Reverend Ralph Abernathy  
and volunteers build  
housing  
for the residents.**



**An exhibit of a home commemorating Resurrection City**  
Created by British artist Matthew Thompson on display at the Martin Luther King Library, 9th & G NW, in Washington, January 19, 2009.



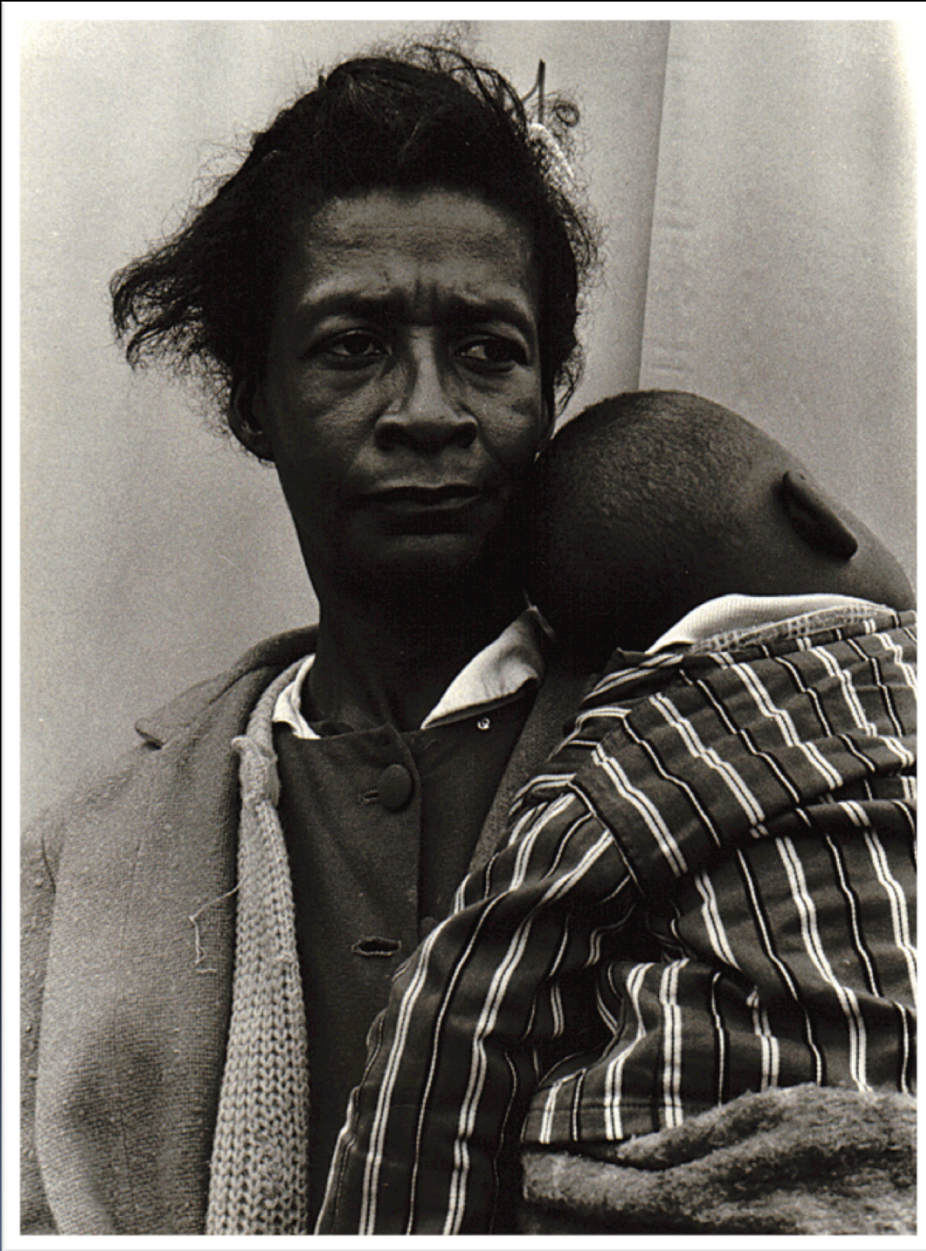
Family camped out at Resurrection City



**Bakery with free fresh bread made every day  
by volunteers.**



A Native American, wearing traditional headdress and breastplate, joins other participants in the Poor People's Campaign for a meal in a food tent.



**“Mother and Child”  
by Bill Wingell**



Pete Seeger performs s  
at Resurrection City



**Here, 101-year-old Mattie Grinnell of the Mandan tribe of North Dakota speaks at a rally outside a Washington federal government building.**



Poor People's Campaign march in  
Washington D.C., June 18, 1968.



Marching toward the Lincoln Memorial,  
Solidarity Day, June 19, 1968



Solidarity Day, June 19, 1968



**Coretta Scott King with SCLC organizers, June 19, 1968**



Jesse  
Jackson  
addressing a  
crowd on  
the National  
Mall,  
June 19, 1968

United Auto Workers and  
Hospital Workers  
at the  
National Mall on  
Solidarity Day





Marching to end hunger. Poor People's Campaign



**Solidarity Day, June 19, 1968.**  
**Coretta Scott King addresses the crowd from the steps of  
the Lincoln Memorial.**

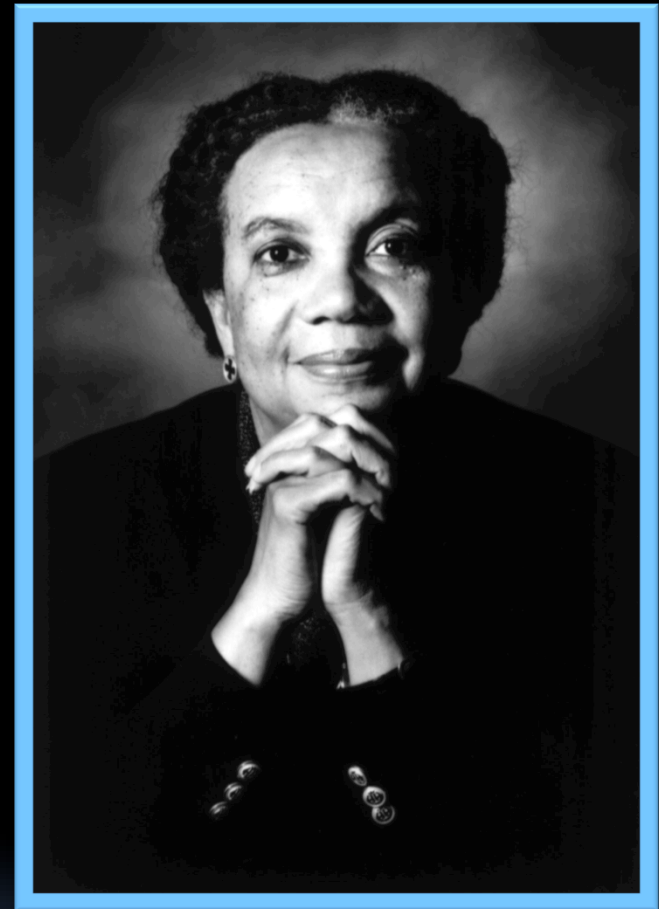


**“The finest memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King would be the tangible action our country takes now to implement the programs he and my husband cared about so deeply.” Ethel Kennedy**

# **Tillie Walker from the Mandan Indian Tribe**



“A government agency cannot get involved in telling people who are very poor not to take part in something like this... if you are poor in Mississippi and you are poor in North Dakota, it’s all the same thing. You’re fighting the same battle. ... But you can’t sit back when you have [a] 60 percent high school dropout rate... and 40 percent average unemployment rates on the reservations.”



**Marian Wright Edelman  
writes a weekly blog, "Child Watch."**



**“Since the recession began in 2008, 14.7 million more Americans have gone on food stamps, now referred to as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.”**