

1,000 Witness Dedication of King Memorial

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The March on Washington, conceived by Martin Luther King to dramatize the nation's poor of all races, began today in Memphis where King was killed. The nearly 400 marchers, all but a few of them Negroes, stepped off at 1:27 p. m., CDT, for the two-mile hike to some of the city's slum areas.

By BILL JOHNSON

MEMPHIS (AP) — Nearly 1,000 Negroes gathered today in the courtyard of the motel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was slain for dedication of a marble stone in his memory.

Several hundred were to leave shortly after the ceremony in a bus caravan to Marks, Miss., in the first movement of the Poor People's Campaign envisioned by King.

A BRIGHT SUN was shining and temperatures were climbing toward the 80s as the ceremony began for dedication of the marble stone which bore a cross and a star.

The ceremony was 40 minutes late in starting. While the crowd waited, an old farm wagon drawn by two mules pulled up at the site, presumably to lead the two-mile march after the ceremony.

KING'S widow and the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, the man who succeeded King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, take part in dedication of the stone, to be placed on the second floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel where King was standing when killed by a sniper April 4.

Then Abernathy leads the first contingent of the Poor People's Campaign on a twisting two-mile route through some of Memphis' worst slums to buses chartered for the trip to Marks.

BOTH MRS. King and Abernathy addressed a kickoff rally of about 8,000 last night and pleaded for a large turnout for both the dedication and the trip to Marks, the town termed by King as the nation's worst rural poverty area.



—AP WIREPHOTO.
PREPARING KING MEMORIAL, a workman accompanied by representatives of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference takes measurements on the second floor balcony of the Memphis, Tenn., motel where Dr. Martin Luther King was killed. A memorial stone was dedicated on the balcony this morning by Dr. Ralph Abernathy and Mrs. Coretta King, the slain leader's successor and widow.