

Police Stand Watch at Dr. King's Tomb

By DON M'KEE

ATLANTA (AP)—Police stood watch today at the tomb of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the slain civil rights leader whose funeral brought outpourings of mourners and tributes rarely matched in the nation's history.

Mourners trickled into South View Cemetery for a look at the crypt even after darkness fell yesterday. Inscribed on the Georgia marble are the words of an old slave song often quoted by King: "Free at Last, Free at Last; Thank God Almighty, I'm Free at Last."

TWO uniformed policemen and two detectives stood guard at the grave through much of the night, a police official said, and two plainclothes detectives continued their watch today.

"This was just to prevent any possible vandalism," an Atlanta police spokesman said, adding there had been no hint of attempts to molest the grave.

King, 39, was killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tenn. He had returned for another march of striking garbage workers after an earlier march erupted into rioting.

His followers called for the nation to look at itself anew as they pledged at the final rites to carry out his crusade against racism, poverty and injustice.

"LET us see to it that we do not dishonor his name by trying to solve our problems through rioting in the streets," urged Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, retired president of Morehouse College, King's alma mater, where outdoor services were held.

"But let us see to it also that the conditions that cause riots

are promptly removed," said Mays. "Let black and white alike search their hearts; and if there be any prejudice in our hearts against any racial or ethnic group, let us exterminate it."

Mays, who taught King in college, said the American people, including Memphis officials, are in part responsible for the assassination. In a similar vein, the biracial Southern Regional Council, a human rights organization, said in a four-column newspaper ad that white America faces "the choice between the kind of society for which Dr. King lived and died, and the kind of society which denies equal opportunity."

The march had been a big part of King's life. So in death, there was a final march for Martin Luther King. His wreath-shrouded coffin traveled more than four miles over Atlanta streets in a faded green farm wagon drawn by two brown mules—symbolic of the poor whose cause he had taken up.

THOUSANDS marched with King the last time.

Ahead of the old wagon, behind it, beside it, in wide and uneven columns, numbering upwards of 50,000, they marched with the man who was called by most of the black mourners simply "our leader."

At the Morehouse rites following the march from Ebenezer Baptist Church, attendance was estimated at 150,000 by police. Red Cross workers cared for several hundred persons stricken by heat exhaustion in 80-degree weather.

The prominent names at a memorial service in Ebenezer, where King was co-pastor with his father, included Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, representing President Johnson. The vice president got up to move to the front pew where King's widow sat with her four children and there he offered condolences to her.

OTHER notables at the service included Mrs. John F. Kennedy, who like Mrs. King was widowed by an assassin's bullet; Sens. Robert F. Kennedy of New York and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts; Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota; former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York; Gov. George Romney of Michi-

gan, and former Gov. Carl E. Sanders of Georgia.

Also attending was black power advocate Stokely Carmichael.

Gov. Lester Maddox, who disagreed with King's tactics and closed a restaurant rather than integrate it before taking office, did not attend nor did he send a representative. Maddox closed the Capitol early, at 2 p.m., for what he called security reasons as 160 state troopers stood by inside the building.

National Guardsmen were airlifted into the Atlanta area during the funeral; more than 2,000 stood by at Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta. Authorities described the move as precautionary.

By the time the day-long rites drew to an end on a grassy slope in the cemetery, founded 80 years ago by Negroes because of racial discrimination, the skies were overcast and rain threatened.

"EARTH to earth, ashes to ashes and dust to dust," came the familiar ritual as the Rev.

Ralph D. Abernathy, King's close associate and now his successor, performed the final symbolic rite of interment. Abernathy succeeds King as president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The interment in Atlanta will be temporary, but the family has not said where final burial will be.

At the church service, a tape recorder filled the hushed sanctuary with King's vibrant, familiar oratory: "We all think about it and every now and then I think about my own death and I think about my own funeral . . . I don't want a long funeral . . ."

The sound of weeping filled the church where King had preached that sermon Feb. 4, 1968.

KING'S recorded voice said he didn't want mentioned his Nobel Peace Prize and other honors. "I want you to say that day that I tried to be right. . . And I want you to say that I tried to live and serve humanity.

"And all of the other shallow things will not matter. . . ."

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