

# CAMPAIGN OF POOR WIDENING FOCUS

Reacting to Kennedy's Death,  
It Will Battle Violence

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 6— Leaders of the Poor People's Campaign, reacting to the fatal shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, decided today to broaden the emphasis of their crusade.

Instead of continuing to focus only on ignorance, poverty and disease, the campaign also will concentrate on ending "the hatred and violence that is destroying our nation," said Hosea Williams, who leads the direct action phase of the campaign.

Mr. Williams said participants would switch from their noisy demonstrations to "prayer vigils." He called Mr. Kennedy "one of the greatest men of our time."

Most of the activities were suspended today at "Resurrection City, U.S.A.," which participants in the campaign have established on the mall at the Lincoln Memorial.

Many persons left the campsite to visit the homes of friends or churches where they could watch news reports of the assassination on television.

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and leader of the campaign, called on residents of the poor people's campsite to join the nation on Sunday in mourning for Senator Kennedy.

"We have lost another young, vibrant, intelligent leader," he said, "who held so much promise for our future and who was one of the few who represented any hope for our nation."

Mr. Abernathy also appealed to the commission appointed yesterday by President Johnson to study violence in America "to begin not with the expressed precepts of American democracy—for these are unfulfilled promises—but to begin with oppression, fear, greed, racism, poverty and warfare, for these are stark and foreboding realities."

The successor to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was assassinated last April 4, said that "the passing of such

brave leaders as Senator Kennedy is a sign that the power of the past resists and rejects the challenge of the future."

Mr. Abernathy said Americans must now press on with the reforms that Senator Kennedy sought "to change that past which he recognized to be so sick, and to establish a new reality of brotherhood, justice and peace."

Earlier, Mr. Williams said the assassination of Mr. Kennedy "just convinced us that there is a conspiracy to kill off all effective leadership on the left in the United States." He called it a conspiracy "bred by hatred" and added that "we won't have a country to save if we don't stop this violence."

Saying that people have be-

come aware of the conspiracy and its purpose, Mr. Williams explained that "the only reason they are not burning and looting is that it took some time for Mr. Kennedy to die and the fact that he is white."

For the prayer vigils, Mr. Williams said ministers would be recruited from the Washington area to pray, read Scriptures and deliver sermonettes.