

Prayers and Spirituals In Resurrection City

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Washington

The poor people of Resurrection City held an emotional prayer service yesterday for a man they regarded as one of their best friends — Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Hundreds knelt on the muddy ground of the shantytown while the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, leader of the poor people's march, prayed:

"Oh, God, look on Senator Kennedy. You have a pur-

pose and plan for his life. If he must follow in the path of his brother, give him peace somewhere."

RIFLE

Shocked and angry about the attempted assassination — which came just two months after the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — the poverty campaigners made plans for a march on the Washington headquarters of the National Rifle Association to denounce it for lob-

bying against gun control legislation.

The prayer service for Kennedy was held in the center of the 15-acre campsite at an open square which has been named Martin Luther King Plaza.

It opened with the singing of "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" and other Negro spirituals.

The Rev. Mr. Abernathy read a telegram he had sent to the Kennedy family. It

said America's poor are "deeply grieved" about the shooting and are praying for Kennedy's "early and complete recovery — and return to his invaluable service to the Nation and mankind."

SUPPORT

"He consoled us in our sorrow and supported us in many struggles," the Rev. Mr. Abernathy said.

"He was one of the precious few leaders of national stature who have been trying to do something effective to end poverty and oppression in our society."

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