

mtg. march



News staff photo—James Martin

**CIVIL RIGHTS PROTEST MARCH MOVES THROUGH STATE'S BLACK BELT**  
... Armed GI guard keeps watch as demonstrators walk in drizzle after heavy rain

# Court's march order ends at Capitol

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**MONTGOMERY, March 24—** Civil rights demonstrators marching from Selma to Montgomery under a federal court order will be on their own when they reach the State Capitol Thursday.

The order by U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. permits the 50-mile hike, but

stops short of approving plans for a demonstration on the capitol steps, and for sending a delegation into the state building to seek audience with Gov. George C. Wallace.

Johnson's order enjoins Alabama officials from interfering with the march proposed in a plan filed with the court, "to the extent that said plan is presently approved by this court."

An opinion accompanying the order said the plan is reasonable "to the extent that it relates to a march along U. S. Highway 80 from Selma to Montgomery."

THE OPINION also notes that the final day of the march Thursday "will be from the western part of Montgomery to the State Capitol."

However, the federal judge's opinion makes no mention of the final phase of the plan, which calls for a mass meeting in front of the capitol "as well as on the capitol steps."

The opinion also fails to mention a section of the plan which specifies that "not more than 20 persons will enter the capitol building and proceed to the governor's office."

JOHNSON concluded by denying all relief sought by the plaintiffs except when he had specifically referred to in his opinion.

The judge also pointed out that his opinion "is not intended to declare or adjudicate the rights of citizens to assemble, petition or protest within the City of Selma, the City of Montgomery or any other municipal area."

The exercise of such rights, he said, must be determined

in each instance "according to the facts and circumstances presented."

In dealing with recent civil rights demonstrations, the City of Montgomery has consistently granted permits when notified in advance, and can be expected to allow a mass meeting in front of the capitol Thursday.

However, unless state officials change their policy, demonstrators will be barred from the capitol grounds.

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