

## TO MARCH OR NOT TO MARCH

A. Philip Randolph continues to compound confusion about the frequently-threatened "March on Washington." To our recollection, this "march" has been called on and off at least three times, and many Negroes are anxious to know whether there is ever to be a march, and when.

Last week's Pittsburgh Courier carried an interview with Mr. Randolph in which he was quoted as again saying: "We've got to march on Washington," but when pressed for specific information, he stated vaguely that the movement plans a conference in Chicago in May, at which time "plans are to be made relative to strategy for the enterprise."

We are not authorities on organizing marches to Washington or any other point, but it is difficult to see why it should require all this time to get down to the business of marching.

Mr. Randolph has frequently cited the evils which exist and no person disputes him. Well-attended mass meetings have been staged in metropolitan centers, indicating that there are many Negroes willing to join in such a march. What, then, is the holdback?

What strategy is required for a march on Washington other than walking or riding toward that city—assuming the desire to march?

Mr. Randolph says, "This is the method by which we can establish our status of equality." If true, the hesitancy about staging the march is the more incomprehensible. There must be millions of Negroes who would be willing to march to Washington with the assurance that the journey would result in ushering in the interracial millenium.

If there is to be no march, we think Mr. Randolph should honestly say so and stop alternately arousing and dashing the hopes of his followers.

Personally, we have never believed such a march would accomplish anything worthwhile, but we shall be glad to see our position disproved. If we believed such a march would "establish our status of equality," we would urge that it begin at once, and not "in May" or some indefinitely future date.

If there is to be no march on Washington but merely some more mass meetings at infrequent intervals, we suggest that the movement disband and leave the field to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—with its 600 branches and 160,000 members—which has demonstrated its ability as a fighting representative of the American colored people since 1909.

The NAACP has the background, the prestige, the skilled staff, the experience and the organization to do the job colored people want done, and there is no justification for another organization in the field unless that organization has new tactics and strategy which it is prepared to put into practice.