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"A Man Like Phil Randolph"

Walter P. Reuther, president of the Industrial Union Dept., introduced A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and a vice-president of the AFL-CIO, to the delegates to the IUD's Fifth Constitutional Convention.

I NOW have the pleasure of welcoming to this convention of the Industrial Union Department our good friend Philip Randolph. Phil Randolph is a great trade unionist who has devoted many, many long years of an active life to the pursuit of the objectives of the free world labor movement. He is a dedicated humanitarian. He is one of the great moral leaders of the civil rights movement in this great country of ours.

The March on Washington was more the product of the determination and will of Philip Randolph than any other single man. He proposed the March on Washington in the spirit of the highest democratic traditions of our country which historically has provided that any citizen, or any group of citizens, may join together and come to their capital city to petition for redress of grievances. So Randolph realized that the March on Washington could not deal only with the struggle to achieve freedom. He knew that it had to be coupled with a struggle to win jobs because freedom without a job is an empty kind of freedom.

I share the view that the American people ought to be grateful that in the midst of this great social revolution about civil rights, about equal opportunity, about first-class citizenship for all Americans, there has come out of the Negro community men of the stature and responsibility and understanding of Philip Randolph.

I am not sure, and there is no way of knowing, whether white Americans would have waited for a hundred years, or whether having waited