

# Prayer of Elderly Woman Answered As Capital Civil Rights March Remains Peaceful

By HARRY FERGUSON  
 WASHINGTON (UPI) — Soon after sunrise Wednesday Mrs. Aquilla Bateman, a 74-year-old Negro from Washington, limped on her bad leg to the foot of the Lincoln memorial, bowed her head and asked a small favor of the Lord.  
 She prayed for peace. Not peace among nations and not peace for evermore. She just wanted peace for this one day and in this one city.  
 "O Lord, be with us today and keep us in the hollow of your hand," she said. "May we love each other. May we get together. I pray that nobody will do anything personal bad to anybody else in Washington today."  
 Mrs. Bateman, a deaconess in the Baptist Church, said she was the first marcher to appear at the Lincoln Memorial grounds. She wanted a front row position and she decided to put into words the stark fear that had haunted the nights and days of integration leaders, federal officials and the

Washington Police Department. It was the fear that Wednesday's massive march to the nation's capital would wind up in a bloody shambles.  
 Many Without Sleep  
 All the ingredients were there. Two hundred thousand persons were in a highly emotional state. The sun was hot, it was difficult to get a drink of water or a sandwich.  
 And, lurking on the fringes of the march, were people and organizations who did not want the demonstration to be peaceful and orderly. They knew—and so did

the leaders of the march—that a fire that could become a holocaust. The integration leaders took the grim gamble that a riot could set back their cause to years and perhaps doom it.  
 The fear ran like a fever through the streets from the time the marchers massed at the Washington Monument. Then two wide, sluggish rivers of humanity began moving from the monument to the Lincoln Memorial.  
 There was sweat, toil and tears. The sweat of thousands of persons carrying heavy placards and shuffling along under an August sun. The toil of police and the marchers' own marshals fighting to get them to a certain place

at a certain time in the face of an inexorable schedule. The tears of children suddenly separated from their parents.  
 Toil, sweat and tears—yes. But no blood.  
 Slowly the throng filled the empty spaces around the majestic memorial where the great stone face of the Emancipator broods and peers toward the distant dome of the Capitol. There was no pushing, no fighting for position, no voices shrill with anger.  
 The program began. White voices and black voices were lifted in song. Catholic voices, Jewish voices, white voices and black voices uttered prayers and made speeches. At 4:28 p.m. Dr. Benjamin E. Mays pronounced the benediction and a soft amen rolled along the light breeze.  
 The crowd began to move out to buses, chartered planes, special trains, automobiles. The

buses raced their motors, the planes revved their propellers, the train conductors called all aboard and the automobiles fanned out of Washington traffic onto the highways to Texas, California, New York, Chicago.  
 The brooding statue of Abraham Lincoln looked out across the debris of discarded newspapers, torn placards, empty sandwich bags, trodden grass. The roar of internal combustion engines filled the air. But in the midst of noise, disorder and debris, one fact remained.  
 Mrs. Bateman's prayer had been heeded and answered.

churches and synagogues around the nation.  
 B. W. Henrikson, a Brooklyn-born engineer who for 13 years has headed research and marketing for the American Seating Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., said: "There is not question but what the American people are getting bigger. We have military statistics, school statistics, numerous studies to show that the stature generally is up."  
 "With it, all the body dimensions have grown — including the part we sit on."  
 "All you have to do is go to some of the older ball parks to see what I mean," said Henrikson. "The seats are just too narrow now. Some of the old stadiums have seats measuring as only 17 and 18 inches wide. That's a real light squeeze for today's fan."  
 "Now, nothing less than 20 inches is recommended."

grade for grade, school children are larger too." So the seat of cent generations "will level off today's free-moving desks and chairs are far more comfortable, more correctly contoured for good posture, than the early numbers of wood with castiron frame fastened to the floor."  
 Henrikson, the company president, James M. VerMeulen, and other company executives were in New York this week for the American Hospital Association's convention. The firm has just introduced an electrical hospital bed with push button control which the patient or nurse can use to alter the angle of rest.  
 Henrikson talked of how classroom seating has changed in the more than 75 years his firm has

been in the business. He believes such shades as prairie taupe, canyon gold, covestone beige, valley green and sagebrush featured. The lighter shades help to provide the "ideal" of a three to one ratio of light contrast between the work surface and the reading area of a classroom less institutional in looks.  
 "Wood, he said, "is virtually out of the kids' world if they could. There aren't many jack-knives around anymore."  
 "And," said Henrikson, "may be the kids wouldn't if they could. There aren't many jack-knives around anymore."  
 ed plastic tops on desks—which are "tough" and "easily scrubbed."  
 But, we wondered, can a child leave behind his donation to school history by carrying his initials in the surface of plastic as millions of children of other days did with the dark stained woods?  
 No, he conceded, because the plastics are harder to cut.  
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# U.S. Public's Broadening Dimensions Create Need For Wider Seats

By GAY PAULEY  
 UPI Women's Editor  
 NEW YORK (UPI) — Sitting down uses up more space today than it did with earlier generations.  
 A report on our broadening dimensions comes from the manager of research and development for a company which calls itself The World of Public Seating. The firm did Radio City Music Hall, Lincoln Center's Philharmonic Hall, all of the major league ball parks, the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives, and schools, theaters, other civic centers, and

churches and synagogues around the nation.  
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