

Comment on the following document	EAE 0422 A	
John Lewis, "Speech at the March on Washington", 28 August 1963. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Papers, Voices of Democracy, The US Oratory Project. http://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/lewis-speech-at-the-march-on-washington-speech-text/	Code Sujet	CCV
	Sujet Jury	
	Sujet Candidat	

5 We march today for jobs and freedom, but we have nothing to be proud of, for hundreds and thousands of our brothers are not here, for they are receiving starvation wages or no wages at all. While we stand here, there are sharecroppers in the Delta of Mississippi who are out in the fields working for less than three dollars per day, 12 hours a day. While we stand here, there are students in jail on trumped-up charges. Our brother James Farmer, along with many others, is also in jail.

10 We come here today with a great sense of misgiving. It is true that we support the administration's Civil Rights Bill. We support it with great reservation, however. Unless title three is put in this bill, there's nothing to protect the young children and old women who must face police dogs and fire hoses in the South while they engage in peaceful demonstration.

15 In its present form this bill will not protect the citizens of Danville, Virginia, who must live in constant fear of a police state. It will not protect the hundreds and thousands of people that have been arrested on trumped charges. What about the three young men, SNCC's field secretary in Americus, Georgia, who face the death penalty for engaging in peaceful protest?

As it stands now, the voting section of this bill will not help the thousands of people who want to vote. It will not help the citizens of Mississippi, of Alabama and Georgia who are unqualified to vote for lack of sixth grade education. One man, one vote is the African cry. It is ours too. It must be ours.

20 We must have legislation that will protect the Mississippi sharecroppers, who have been forced to leave their homes because they dared to exercise their right to register to vote. We need a bill that will provide for the homeless and starving people of this nation. We need a bill that will ensure the equality of a maid who earns five dollars a week in the home of a family whose total income is 100,000 dollars a year. We must have a good FEPC bill.

25 My friends let us not forget that we are involved in a serious social revolution. By and large, politicians who build their career on immoral compromise and allow themselves an open forum of political, economic and social exploitation dominate American politics.

30 There are exceptions, of course. We salute those. But what political leader can stand up and say, "My party is a party of principles"? For the party of Kennedy is also the party of Eastland. The party of Javits is also the party of Goldwater. Where is our party? Where is the political party that will make it unnecessary to march on Washington? Where is the political party that will make it unnecessary to march in the streets of Birmingham? Where is the political party that will protect the citizens of Albany, Georgia?

Sujet	ELT
Page Sujet	2 / 2

35 Do you know that in Albany, Georgia nine of our leaders have been indicted, not by the
Dixiecrats but by the federal government for peaceful protest? But what did the federal
government do when Albany deputy sheriff beat Attorney C.B. King and left him half-dead?
What did the federal government do when local police officials kicked and assaulted the
pregnant wife of Slater King and she lost her baby?

40 To those who have said, "Be patient and wait," we must say that we cannot be patient. We do
not want our freedom gradually but we want to be free now.

We are tired. We are tired of being beat by policemen. We are tired of seeing our people
locked up in jail over and over again, and then you holler "Be patient." How long can we be
patient? We want our freedom and we want it now.

45 We do not want to go to jail, but we will go to jail if this is the price we must pay for love,
brotherhood and true peace. I appeal to all of you to get into this great revolution that is
sweeping this nation. Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village and hamlet of
this nation until true freedom comes, until a revolution is complete. We must get in this
revolution and complete the revolution. In the Delta of Mississippi, in Southwest Georgia, in
50 the Black Belt of Alabama, in Harlem, in Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and all over this
nation the black masses are on a march for jobs and freedom.

(...)