

Seminary Students
and Faculty
Join
Selma March



Princeton Seminary students were in this section of the March as it entered Montgomery. John Powell, extra-tall member of the Middle Class, walks at the left. Next to him is Senior David Swinehart.



On the grounds of the Alabama capital, Princeton Seminary students watch the developments on the capital steps. Left, Dolores Ferguson, M. R. E. student from Mississippi. In the middle is John D. Potter, New Jersey Middler. Deane C. Tucker, a Middler from Nebraska, is at the right.



Left: The New Jersey Synod delegation to the first day's part of the Selma-Montgomery March included three members of the Princeton Seminary family. Left to right, Ulysses B. Blakeley, '48b; Elder John Yost of First Church, Princeton; Church History Professor Lefferts A. Loetscher, '28; and Middler Student David W. Wills. Blakeley is currently an Associate Executive of the Synod of New Jersey. Wills, a National Presbyterian Theological Scholar who is president of his class and an active member of the "Ad Hoc Committee on Civil Rights," was sent by fellow students in response to Synod's invitation that a Seminary student be included in the limited delegation in honor of Seminary alumnus James Reeb. The group boarded a plane at Newark for the flight south.

Twenty members of the Princeton Seminary community went to Alabama in March to take part in the massive demonstration on behalf of Negro voter rights and full citizenship. The participants included students, faculty and administration.

The largest group went to Montgomery for the final day of the now-famous March, joining the line of march at the St. Jude campsite and walking into the Alabama capital to participate in the rally on the steps of the capital building. Fifteen students went by special train from Washington for that particular program, as well as faculty members Edward A. Dowey, '43, and E. David Willis, '57, who travelled on a charter flight arranged by a committee of Protestant, Jewish and Roman Catholic religious leaders of New Jersey.

Earlier, Lefferts A. Loetscher, '28, Professor of Church History, and Middler Class President David W. Wills had flown to Selma as members of the official New Jersey Synod delegation that marched out of Selma on the first leg of the Selma-Montgomery route. And Assistant to the President James E. Andrews had taken part in the brief demonstration march on Tuesday, March 9, when Martin Luther King took hundreds of clergymen and Alabama Negroes back to the site of the police attack of the previous Sunday. With the exception of the central portion of the march, when the participants were limited to 300 under the terms of the agreement between Dr. King and federal authorities, Princeton Seminary students or faculty took part in every stage of the events for which representation from across the nation was sought.

One of the major problems created by the response on campus was holding participation to those times and places for which it was requested by King's Southern Christian Leadership Confer-

ence, and the race commissions of the National Council of Churches and the United Presbyterian Church. Students began collecting funds and forming a joint student-faculty committee on the heels of the news of the unprovoked police assault that broke up the original demonstration. This "Ad Hoc Committee on Civil Rights" stayed in touch with denominational and ecumenical offices to make sure that resources and personnel were used in ways consistent with the objective of the demonstrations and of the Church generally.

Constantly present in the minds of the committee, and of the campus generally, was the advice of National Council and United Presbyterian leadership that Selma was secondary to the continuing program of the Mississippi Delta Project and the coming summer emphasis in Northern urban centers. An open objective of the committee's work was the discovery of ways in which the aroused interest in the movement for equal rights could be channeled into long-term efforts, less glamorous and less immediately urgent, but even more important in ultimate goals than the Alabama crisis of March, 1965.

Students sought advice from Dudley E. Sarfaty, Director of the Religion and Race Commission of the Synod of New Jersey, about opportunities for interracial involvement during the coming summer. Others contacted Princeton organizations and Trenton groups about area needs. It was obvious that campus sentiment was overwhelmingly in support of participation in the program headed by Martin Luther King.

Directly connected with the swelling of campus sentiment was the murder of James J. Reeb, a member of the Class of 1953. March 11 saw members of the Seminary community gathered in

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SELMA MARCH

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Miller Chapel for a memorial service led by Richard Oman, '53, President of Reeb's Senior Class and minister of First Church, York, Pa. Telegrams and letters went to Mrs. Reeb from President McCord, Dean Homrighausen, and officers of Reeb's class and the Alumni Association.

Full opportunity for discussion of the Seminary's involvement in the Alabama events was provided through open meetings. The Ad Hoc Committee itself was almost self-chosen; interested persons were invited to sit with the committee whether or not they shared the views that brought it into being. Members of the campus community who took part in the various stages of the demonstrations and the march itself reported on their participation.

"The most impressive thing was the welcome extended us by members of the Negro community in Selma," said Lefferts Loetscher after his return from taking part in the first day of the March to Montgomery. "The presence of persons from the North obviously encouraged them, made them feel less isolated and unprotected." Dr. Loetscher also commented upon the absolute correctness of the way Alabama law officers and National Guardsmen performed their duties in protecting the marchers as they moved out of Selma. Seminary Mid-dler Deane C. Tucker, who was with the demonstrators in Montgomery, reported another kind of police attitude. A former practicing attorney in Nebraska, Tucker said he watched Montgomery police refuse to arrest men who had assaulted demonstrators, even when the victims, who were Lutheran clergymen, asked for help. "The police said the ministers couldn't make a positive identification," Tucker said. "Even though the victim was pointing directly at one of the attackers and saying 'He hit me.'"

But many of the "Princeton Demon-strators" gained their most vivid impressions from contacts with other March participants. Students who rode the special train out of Washington with the groups sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference returned home very short on sleep. Excitement, and a chance to meet with students and others going to take part in the demonstration, left them with little time for dozing. They were also hungry—the high risk made them avoid restaurants in Montgomery, and food services in the Montgomery railway terminal had been closed. "They even shut

off the water fountains," reported Senior John Potter. Many students went without food from early morning until dining cars were attached to the train in Atlanta near midnight on the return trip. David Willis, Instructor in Theology, who also went to Montgomery for the conclusion of the march, said his strongest impression was of the hatred on the part of those observing the demonstrators. "And of the sense of power on the part of the marchers," he added.

Students had joined demonstrations in New York and Philadelphia earlier, and many took part in the 1963 "March on Washington." But reaction to the police attack on the first group attempting to walk from Selma to Montgomery, and the death of James Reeb, made the response this time a stronger and more personal one. Student leadership feels that the increased interest in civil rights generally, and in the relationship between Christian responsibility and individual liberty in particular, is a permanent increase.

ALUMNUS SELECTED FOR PROTESTANT HOUR SERIES

The preacher for the **Protestant Hour** on twelve Sundays that began April 25 is John W. Meister, '41, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and a member of the Seminary's Board of Trustees.

Aired by more than 500 stations in the U.S. and carried overseas by Armed Forces Radio, the program is the major radio sermon series now being broadcast. Taping for the programs was done at the Protestant Radio-TV Center in Atlanta.

Faculty Notes

DEAN OF FIELD EDUCATION ARTHUR M. ADAMS represented the United Presbyterian Council on Theological Education in conducting a vocational conference for youth at Binghamton, N. Y., area on January 10. He was also present, with John Simpson, '62, and Chris Meadows, '59, his associates in Field Education, at the January 28-30 Seminary Field Education meeting at Decatur, Ga. The Princeton group presented a description of methods of supervising field education to a special session of Presbyterian field educators. In addition to conducting a Center of Continuing Education seminar on "Planned Pastoral Preaching" in late April, Dean Adams and Dr. Jack Cooper, Director of Continuing Education, attended the National Presbyterian Consultation on Continuing Education at Philadelphia April 9-11. Adams' book **Pastoral Administration** is the April selection of the Religious Book Club.

Calvin's Sermons on Isaiah 13-29, by **GEORGES A. BARROIS** is now on the market, with the text in Sixteenth Century French and the notes in "the editor's French," Dr. Barrois reports. The volume is part of the **Supplementa Calviniana** series produced under World Alliance of Reformed Churches auspices, and Dr. Barrois says the 622-page tome is awaiting "an eventual translator."

He adds that volunteers may apply. A religious emphasis week at Illinois College, a lecture series on "Marriage and the Family" at the School of Christian life at Morrisville, Pa., and a convocation address at Westminster College, Pa., on "Divorce and Remarriage" have been included in the Spring schedule of DAVID L. CRAWFORD, Director of Student Relations. Crawford also visited campuses on the West Coast and spoke to the New Jersey State Christian Endeavor Convention at Drew University. PHILIP C. HAMMOND has lectured before congregational and school groups, and the New York Explorers Club this Spring. First Presbyterian Church, Had-donfield, N. J., heard Hammond give a three-week series on Biblical study in January, and Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York included in their March-April Lenten Institute a six-weeks series by Hammond on the Bible and archaeology. During March Hammond spoke twice at the Explorers Club, once on "Petra" to the club membership and once on "Archaeology" at a club High School Seminar. Ministers of Essex County took part in an eight-session workshop with SEWARD HILTNER this year under the auspices of the Newark Council of Churches. Hiltner was recently named the Edward Gallahue Consultant on Religion and Psychiatry to the Menninger Foundation,