Viewpoint Two

Reverend James Bevel, organizer and recruiter of young people to join the marches in May,1963.

“You get an education in jail, too. In the schools you’ve been going to, they haven’t taught you to be proud of yourselves …they haven’t taught you the price of freedom…as long as one Negro kid is in jail, we all want to be in jail. If everybody in town would be arrested, everybody will be free….

*The Civil Rights Movement: An Eyewitness History,* by Sanford Wexler, pg 172.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights leader speaks to a mass meeting at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church after the hosing and the attacks by police dogs on May 3, 1963.

“Now, finally, your children, your daughters and sons are in jail, many of them. And I’m sure many of the parents are here tonight. Don’t worry about them. They are suffering for what they believe, and they are suffering to make the nation a better nation…See, they’re not there for being drunk. They’re not in there for stealing chickens. They’re not in there for embezzlement. They are political prisoners…Don’t worry about jail, for when you go to jail for a cause like this, the jails case to be jails, they become havens for freedom and human dignity.” *We Want our Freedom: Rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement* by W. Stuart Towns, pg. 150-151.

Audrey Faye Hendricks, age 9 when she was a participant in the Children’s March.

“The night before at a meeting, they told us we’d be arrested. I went home and told my mother that I wanted to go. She just said, “Okay.” I was in third grade…I wasn’t nervous or scared…we always sang [as we marched] The singing was like a jubilance. It was a release. And it also gave you calmness and reassurance.”  *Freedom’s Children* by Ellen Levine, pg 78 – 79.

Myrna Carter, age 12 when she was a participant in the Children’s March.
“At the mass meetings, people [adults in the church] would say, “I can’t go to jail, but here’s a couple of dollars. Get yourself something to eat.” People would always come up to you and say, “I wish I was you, but I can’t.” We felt real good about it. I think that’s what helped with a lot of the fear, people supporting you. They’d talk to you as if it were an honor to talk to someone who’d gone to jail.”

 *Freedom’s Children* by Ellen Levine, pg 88.

Bernita Roberson,

 “In my family growing up, James, my older brother, got involved. My other brother was not that involved. I have real serious beliefs, and I’m more opinionated than the others. I guess I got it from my dad, who saw oppression. He was so angry about it that he would ever ride the buses. He could never participate in any of this because his anger was so violent. He didn’t do it, so I did it for him….They carried us to the county jail. I was nto afraid…I was determined to make a difference. I did not want to be intimidated by whites.” *Freedom’s Children* by Ellen Levine, pg 83.