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Day of Prayer- Lincoln Memorial

Religious and civic leaders of the District of Columbia and 16 American states participated recently in a pilgrimage to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington marking the anniversary of the Lincoln Emancipation Proclamation and a National Day of Prayer proclaimed by President Eisenhower. Assistant United States Secretary of Labor J. Ernest Wilkins was the principal speaker at the ceremonies. Mr. Wilkins hailed recent gains in desegregation, declaring a new era has dawned on America.

Events of the past few months have given freedom a new meaning and have widened horizons for all people, Mr. Wilkins said. But he added that children must be given a sense of the new responsibilities awaiting them. "We must help prepare them to take their place in a world in which they are not bound by old horizons," the Negro leader said.

President Eisenhower, in a message beamed to the Soviet Union and its satellites asked the peoples behind the Iron Curtain to join Americans in the prayers for peace. He told them in part:

"On September 22 we are observing, with an act of faith, a national day of prayer. Throughout the United States of America, whatever our ancestry, whatever our religious affiliation, we shall offer simultaneously to the Almighty our personal prayers for the devotion, wisdom and stamina to work unceasingly for a just and lasting peace for all mankind."

The Rev. Peter Dagnadu of the Christian Council of the Gold Coast, Africa, addresses the thanksgiving pilgrimage at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, sponsored by the National Fraternal Council of Churches. (54-13578)

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