

## Expect 5,000 At Prayer Pilgrimage

Special to Journal and Guide

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**RICHMOND** — Sponsors of the pilgrimage of prayer and public mass meeting to be held here at the Mosque Jan. 1 expect at least 5,000 people to participate in the program and pilgrimage. The people of Virginia have been asked to support the petition to the Commonwealth of Virginia "to maintain our public schools in compliance with the supreme law of the and the federal courts."

The meeting will mark the second annual gathering of this kind in the state capital. It is supported by a number of state-wide organizations, and will begin at 2:30. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., leader of the Montgomery bus protest, will be the main speaker. Other leaders in the southern struggle for complete freedom will attend the meeting and give support to the cause.

The official call for the "pil-  
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# 5,000 Expected To Attend Annual Event In Richmond

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pilgrimage of prayer for public schools" is as follows:

"WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, call you to join in a dramatic petition to the State of Virginia to maintain our public schools in compliance with the supreme law of the land and the federal courts. We call on all citizens of Virginia to join their brothers in asking repeal of the Virginia statute that allows local communities to abandon public education in defiance of the Supreme court decision of May 17, 1954, and the granting of immediate relief to the children of Prince Edward county who are denied access to a free public school education.

"We feel compelled to act, not only because of the federal court decisions, but primarily due to our religious and moral obligation to these children locked out of their classrooms. We believe in the unity and brotherhood of mankind, and are irrevocably disposed to ask for the end of segregation in the free public education of all children.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., leader of the Montgomery bus protest, will be the principal speaker. Other leaders in the southern struggle will be present to lend their support and encouragement to our common cause.

"FOR INFORMATION on transportation and mobilization, contact your local minister or write directly to the coordinator, the Rev. R. G. Williams, Zion Baptist Church, Petersburg, Va. Please support this pilgrimage with your presence and generous contributions. Checks may be made payable to "Pilgrimage for Public Schools" and forwarded to Mr. Williams.

The following are among the callers for the pilgrimage of prayer:

Dr. J. M. Ellison,  
Chancellor, Virginia Union University.  
Dr. C. L. Evans,  
Executive secretary, Baptist Allied Bodies of Virginia.  
The Rev. H. C. Hairston,  
Most worshipful grand mas-

ter, Virginia Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons.

Dr. W. L. Hamilton,  
President, Virginia Affiliates, Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Dr. J. B. Henderson,  
President, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

Mrs. Vivian Carter Mason,  
Past president, National Council of Negro Women.

The Rev. William B. Abbott,  
Pastor, Oakdale Presbyterian Church, Norfolk.

The Rt. Rev. H. T. Medford,  
Bishop, Virginia AMEZ Conference.

Dr. Hugo A. Owens,  
President, Old Dominion Medical Society.

Dr. J. Rupert Picott,  
Executive secretary, Virginia Teachers Association.

The Rt. Rev. Frank Madison Reid,  
Bishop, Virginia AME Conference.

Robert D. Robertson,  
President, Virginia State Branches.

Mrs. Sarah Patton Boyle,  
Author, Charlottesville.

Joseph E. Simmons,  
President, Virginia State Association of Elks.

Dr. Robert L. Taylor,  
President, Goodwill Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Ruth Valentine,  
President, Virginia State Beauticians Association.

The Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker,  
State director, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)

Eugene West,  
Grand master, Odd Fellows of Virginia.