



Source 6

President Kennedy's statement after meeting with civil rights leaders, 29 August 1963
(Catalogue ref: FO 371/168485)

Questions

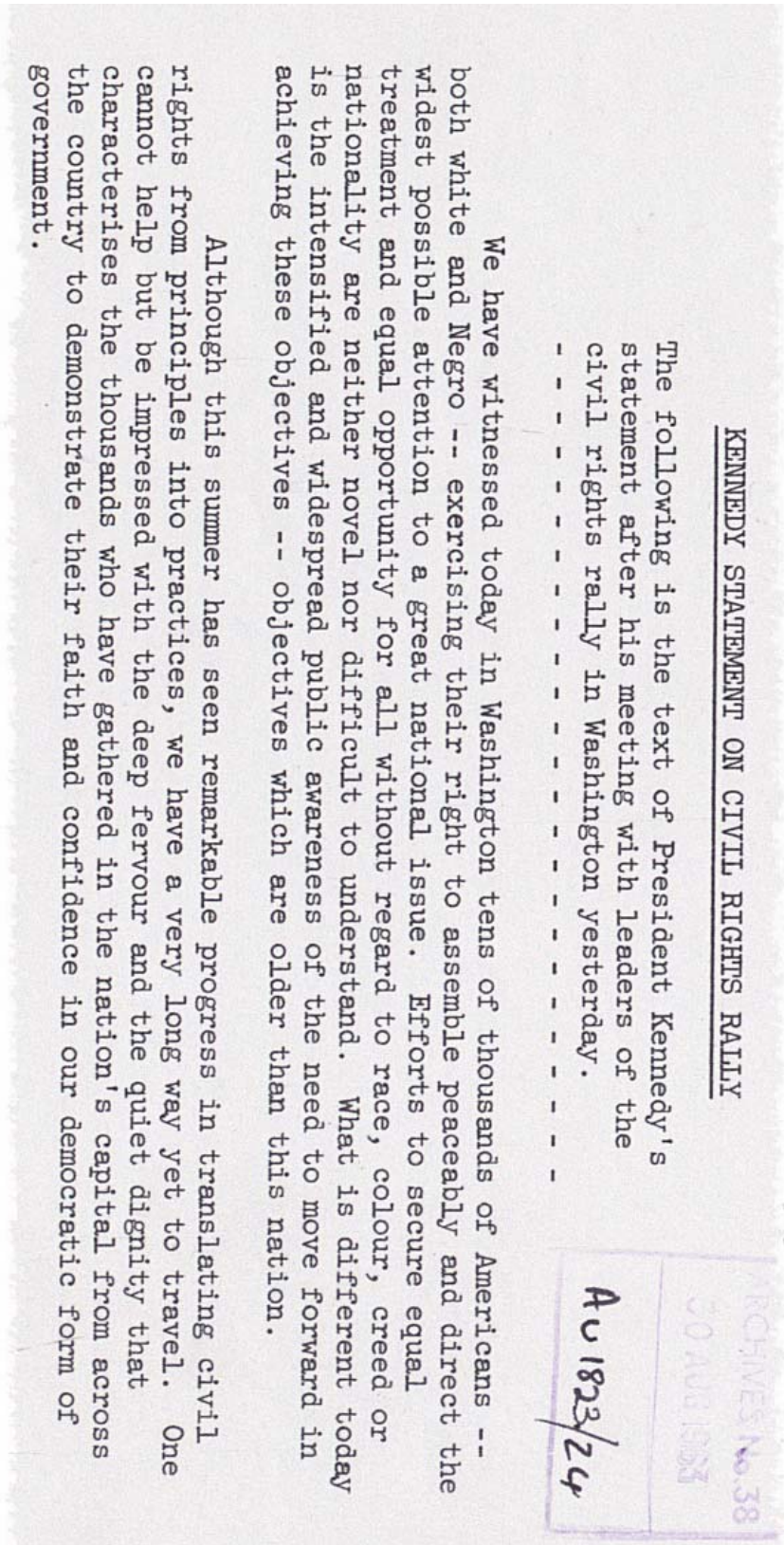
1. What was the effect of the march, according to Kennedy's statement?
2. How did he hope to improve the position of black Americans?
3. In the last sentence, what did he mean by
 - a) "the nation's shrine"?
 - b) "the Great Emancipator"?



HEROES & VILLAINS

King & civil rights > March on Washington

Source 6a





HEROES & VILLAINS

King & civil rights > March on Washington

Source 6b

History has seen many demonstrations -- of widely varying character and for a whole host of reasons. As our thoughts travel to other demonstrations that have occurred in different parts of the world, this nation can properly be proud of the demonstration that has occurred here today. The leaders of the organisations sponsoring the march and all who have participated in it deserve our appreciation for the detailed preparation that made it possible and for the orderly manner in which it has been conducted.

The Executive Branch of the Federal Government will continue its efforts to increase employment and to eliminate discrimination in employment practices, two of the prime goals of the march. In addition, our efforts to secure enactment of the legislative proposals made to our Congress will be maintained, including not only the Civil Rights Bill, but also proposals to broaden and strengthen the manpower development and training programme, the Youth Employment Bill, amendments to the vocational education programme, the establishment of a work-study programme for high school age youth, strengthening of the adult basic education provisions in the Administration's education programme, and the amendments proposed to the public welfare work-relief and training programme. This nation can afford to achieve the goals of a full employment policy -- it cannot afford to permit the potential skills and educational capacity of its citizens to be unrealised.

The cause of 20 million Negroes has been advanced by the programme conducted so appropriately before the nation's shrine to the Great Emancipator, but even more significant is the contribution to all mankind.