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Coretta Scott King and Ralph Abernathy Speak at Mason Temple

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Mrs. King- His favorite spirituals and I would like to sing it in memory of my dear husband. Sweet little Jesus boy, made you be born in a manger. Sweet little holy child, we didn't know who you was. Long time ago, you was born. Born in a manger low, sweet little Jesus boy. Don't ever treat you mean, treat me mean too. (muffled) down here, we don't know who you is. You done told us how we is a trying, master you done showed us how even when you was dying. Just seemed like we can't do right, look how we treated yours, but please forgive us now, we didn't know who you were. Sweet little Jesus boy. Come long time ago, sweet little holy child and we didn't know who you were. (Tape Break)

Ralph Abernathy- God bless you, and thank you so very kindly judge Hooks from the depths of my heart for these very kind and wonderful words of introduction. I heard a long time ago that it takes an unusual man to be a good lawyer, a dynamic preacher and an honest and just judge. I don't know what role Ben was playing tonight as he was introducing me. I understand to be a good preacher you must be a man of the truth. And on the other hand to be a good lawyer you have to be a big liar. I would rather hope and I would rather pray that tonight Ben was being the honest and fair prophet and judge that I know him to be. He is one of my bosses, I have 53 bosses. Making up the board of directors of the southern Christian leadership conference and I want to pause again to say thank you reverend, attorney, judge, Hooks for your kind words. Now my wife is here tonight, the woman in my life, my boss and the woman for whom I have forsaken all and even though she has been presented flowers this evening I do want you to see the prettiest and most charming and finest woman in Memphis Tennessee tonight, Mrs. (muffled). To my dear sister, for the last 15 years whom I have had the pleasure and the privilege of walking with and standing with and suffering with long before we had integrated facilities in Montgomery in Alabama you will remember Coretta when we didn't have anywhere to go that we would go to your home and Martin's home, Juanita and I and stay until 2 and 3:00 in the mornings and then the next night you all would come over to our house and together we dreamed get dreams and planned programs even for this very same night which we gather. I address as I come forth. That lady who has given all of us so much strength and so much courage as she has gone about her responsibilities and assignments during her bereavement with such poise and with such force and with such dignity, Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr. God bless Dr. King with a small family but a wonderful family. One brother and one sister and Martin was very fond of his sister, he talked about her all the time. They graduated together from college, she from Spellman and he from Moorehouse. He said at every high moment in his life Christine was always at his side. Christine is a little older than her brother Martin. And I want her to come now, Mrs. Christine Firus King a professor at Spellman College in Atlanta Georgia.

(Tape Break)

Ralph Abernathy- You have already seen the brother, but as I went to his side on the night that Dr. King was assassinated once I had taken care of many responsibilities

in connection with my buddy, Martin Luther King Jr. A.D. put his arms around me and he said to me, Ralph, I have lost the only blood brother that I have in the world and now you are the only brother that I have, A.D. come here tonight. He had an emergency telephone call but I want you to know that he is one of my strongest supporters, he has traveled with me all over this country in this poor people's campaign. And he has made it clear and I want it reiterate it tonight, that Martin so often said let the dead bury the dead. And any of you that wish to terror around the cemetery and moan and stay around the grave of Martin Luther King, I have news for you. We have business on the road to the promised land. And we must prove to Memphis Tennessee, we must prove tot his racist sick nation in which we live, we must prove to the assassin, or the assassins as the case may be. We must prove to the white man in America that you may be able to kill the leader but I be dogged if you can kill his dream. We must march on to freedom and we have made up in our minds that we ain't going to let nobody to turn us around. Now there is a text for what I want to say tonight. (Tape End)