

Violence at Hamilton School

I did not see any of the action that took place at Hamilton but I was able to interview a junior that attended the school. The following statements will be those spoken by my friend.

"When we got off the bus and began walking toward the school entrance, we noticed a few men who were supposedly ministers standing in front of the door. They were shouting "Children don't come to school, go down town and march, support the striking sanitation workers." By this time over one hundred students had gathered near the door. About ten minutes later a garbage conveyer passed slowly by Hamilton escorted by a couple of police cars. The children began throwing rocks at the garbage trucks. One of the policemen could see that they were in for trouble so he radioed for help. Within thirty minutes about twenty squad cars with four policemen per car arrived on the scene.

Things were not half as bad as the policemen made it look. This is what really excited the students. The policemen jumped out of their cars and made a straight line in front of the school. They wore tear gas masks and were armed with "billy clubs and tear gas.

Just to have a little fun, the students decided to play a game of "cat and mouse". They began to run from one end of the campus to the other. With this action the policemen charged into the students swinging their "billy clubs" and putting gas on everybody. They were not looking for a particular person to hit, they only swung with full force, at anything that looked human. One policeman hit a friend of mine so hard until it knocked her down. And they also began beating one boy in the head and across his back. This action taken by the police was ^{what} actually started the Memphis Riot.

Hamilton students (an estimated 200) marched down town and spreaded the word to the marches that policemen were at Hamilton beating children. After getting this news the younger boys began breaking store windows.

My Personal Response

From what I've read and heard, it seems as though every riot throughout the U.S.A. was erupted by some illegal, inhuman act performed by the police department. The government in all of the cities of America are trying to find a solution that will stop city riots.

For example, 1. they have invented "mace", a new form of gas, 2. they are giving their police officers special riot training, 3. and they are increasing the jail sentence for those who are guilty of rioting.

"This is definitely not the answer!"

Answer: Let every American city do a thorough investigation of their police force. Let them get rid of those policemen who are blind with race hatred. Teach them, not how to fight riots and use mace, but how to love one another regardless to race, creed, or color. Teach them that all men are created equal, and above all teach them that commandment which states "Thou shalt not kill!"