

The Memphis March

E.J.-1

On Thursday, March 28, 1968, there was a march held in Memphis. It was led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The march was in sympathy with the two-month old strike of the sanitation workers. This group of nearly 8,000 was supposed to have been a non-violent one but it later erupted in violence and several people were injured.

The march had its beginning at Cleburne Temple C. M. E. Church and was delayed for some time because of the late arrival of Dr. Martin King. As the march proceeded down Beale Street, a small group of about 350 Negroes, mostly teenagers, broke off from the main group of marchers and started looting and breaking out windows of stores. This act brought in the policemen, who, in my opinion could have handled the situation with less brutality.

The marchers, after this incident ^{E.J.} were forced to turn around and head back in the opposite direction of to the Temple and go home. Even after this happened the looting continued in some places.

The violence which broke out brought some 5,000 National Guardsmen into the city. They will remain here until some of the racial tensions have cooled down.

Even though the strike is not settled I think the march has accomplished a great deal. It showed that the Negro Community is for once, together and they are not willing to sit by any longer and let things continue as they are now. They are determined to get equal employment opportunities, better housing and higher wages. And we will.