

Memphis Tennessee, March 28th 1968.

The trouble here could have been called a disturbance or wild and turbulent conduct. But it was termed a "riot" and "general guerrilla warfare". What are these terms justified? What really caused the disturbance? I can't say (go I wasn't there). Nevertheless here are reports one gathered from our local news media the other is from an eye witness. Both are attempts to tell what happen here in Memphis on March 28th 1968.

"Violence exploded in the streets of Memphis today. It was caused by a small number of Negro youths who began tossing rocks through windows and breaking

ing the glass with clubs some ^{M.A. - 2} would
run into the store window grab mer-
chandise and flee. Liquor stores were
their favorite targets. The Memphis Police
Department using nightsticks and mace
quickly restored order. However, resistance
was given in the form of flying bricks
and occasional gun fire. "As night
falls on the city it finds its self with
its first curfew in modern times."

This is Ellis's report as to what
happened. "The crowd was tense but there
was a cheerful atmosphere. To be honest every-
body was more interested in the signs and
hearing and seeing Doctor King than any
thing else. There were a few shots of black
power and I believe someone even jokingly
mentioned a riot. None of this was really
taken seriously by any of us. Well any-

We were near ~~the~~ when the march
 in front started (we ~~went~~ back) running. Well
 there was so much confusion and naturally
 I was only thinking of getting out of there.
 I heard glass crumbling and people shouting.
 We took off for front street we went and
 down to Riverside. It wasn't easy getting
 through that mob. The police were hitting and
 spraying (with mace) everyone in reach. Well
 anyway I finally got back to the temple.
 At first we got all kinds of reports. From
 what I (we, the ministers at the temple) could gather
 the trouble was started by some byston-
 ers after they broke the glass windows
 the people began looting the stores.

3. What really happened? That

"modern day" curfew. Beale Street ^{M.A. 4.} will
will go down ~~at~~ history for something
more than jazz. 4000 National Guardsmen
were called to the city. 150 fires were
reported on that night. Bands were put
on the sale of gasoline (in a can) ammun-
ition and fire arms and alcoholic
beverages. Memphis had no local bus ser-
vice for approximately 12 hours. all of these
were first in "Modern Day Memphis. It
also provided a clear view of the race problem
in Memphis and the "rebellious youth"
of this city."