

For years bitterness has been building within many Memphis Negroes over what they consider unequal treatment they receive from white. Their houses are considered inferior to white, their opportunities less solely because of the color of their skin.

The riots brought out much of the bitterness that had been suppressed by the Negroes. From the time the riots began the black and white citizens of Memphis were under constant tension and fear.

While fear was in the atmosphere, there all sorts of incidents occurring during and after the riots.

There were also rumors going around such as two predominantly all Negroes high school were burning Melrose and Sanicetaw. Other incident that occurred were, many of my friends were receiving phone calls from who were trying to sell many of the stolen items that had been looted during the riots. One incident that happen was a friend of mine, Carl called and tried to sell one of the color television he had looted to my mother.

After the rioting the looting had occurred National Guardsmen arrive in the city and a few o'clock curfew was placed on the city.

During the curfew, ~~the~~ friend, left his house only to make a phone call, because of this he was pick up by the policeman, taken down to police headquarter, finger printed and arrested for leaving the house to make a phone call. These are only two of the incidents that occurred during the week of the riots.

No one really knows why these riots occurred and no one really know why the people reacted the way they did during the riot, this probably what many white people and some negroes would say if they have never had a taste of poverty; also if they have experienced discrimination, prejudice or police brutality like many negroes have experience. There is no real answer for the cause of riots, but they all stem from a suppressed group of human beings who are poor and sick in body and spirit, also their minds have been twisted until, the only thing they have left to speak for them are their emotions. These emotions that speaks for the people, usually speaks violence, and this is what happen on March 28, 1968, a riot.