

On March 28, 1968, I accepted the personal honor to be among E.S.-1
an approximate 20,000 marchers, to march for the sanitation strikers
and Negroes' rights, in general, ~~for better wages~~. It started under
the headlines of a non-violent march and by not thinking about
what was done, this march became an unwanted riot.

It start a little late due to the lateness of the mass leader. As
we proceeded from the temple, we turned on Beale and proceeded
up toward Main. All at once, without notice, several thousands of
the marchers begin to break up windows, with sticks and bricks,
upon the businesses of the Non-Negroes. It was a surprise to
everyone, especially to the leader of the mass march. As the
majority of the marchers begin to break up into little groups,
policemen from everywhere, pursued us with mace, sticks,
gas and some with guns. It was just like being surrounded
by hostile Indians. About five of us run up toward Front
Street and turned down Front to a cut off street due to
the blockade set up by the policemen. After going south on
to lower Main, I proceed to hike home with my friends.

When I arrived there, I went to turn on the news and listen
for a while, while rest of the town talked about incidents all
over downtown Memphis. So I advisably stayed
at home.

That evening, I had to work until seven o'clock. I heard on
the radio that the mayor had issued a curfew from 7pm to 11pm.
Upon getting off a little early, I proceeded down Mississ. I
I just happen to see some officers hollubing and backing
a small group of youngsters, I just knew they didn't know
about the curfew starting at 7pm or either, they wanted to
start beating heads before time came. At 7, lucky me
arrived home, without being hit bent up or what-have-you.
Upon listening to the news flash, the mayor said the curfew
apply to those with illegal business on the street, and those with
legal business could go about doing their normal business. Upon
asking some neighbors, who just arrived home after the curfew
start, I found out that the curfew apply mostly to Negroes
in an effort to keep them in, off of the streets. So knowing
the way the mayor feels about our people and the national guards-
men, who didn't know except what they were told by others
officials, I knew someone, somewhere was getting it.

Upon calling a friend on the weekend, I found out that he was arrested for breaking in a store. I ask him ^{E.S.} how it all happen and he told me. He said that he was about 20 feet from a telephone booth, when policemen said he had broken in a store. His appearance, which consisted of house shoes and other house clothing (t-shirt and old dirty short pants) should of answer the officers questions about the break in before hand, from just a physical point of view. Fortunately, he wasn't beat up or misued by the policemen, but was arrested. He had to pay a lawyer just a few hundred dollars to get him out, for just using a public telephone. Just about all the lawyers in town made a little money getting out people arrested for being out after the curfew. I was so glad to see Monday morning arriving knowing that a few days ago were just like a nightmare.

In my opinion, Dr. King, a non-violent march leader, had no intention or idea that there was going to be violence. Most of the marchers had only one purpose of marching only for the sole reason of looting the businesses. If the other leaders had seen that certain elements were extracted from the march or had seen to those elements held down, then I believe the march wouldn't had been violent.

By not sticking together as a group and having every possible reason for ~~doing~~ what we do, then we will never achieve the goals we set while in the eyes of the white unless we fight hard to unite with unity of mind and oneness of purpose, in our marches.

about the time in before hand, from just a physical go of view, I wasn't part of it, but I was interested in policemen, but was interested in the fact to get a transfer a few hundred dollars to get himself out just in a public telephone. Just about all the leaders in made a little money getting out people excited for but after the winter. I was so glad to see them moving around knowing that a few days ago were like a night mare.

In my opinion, Dr. King, a non-violent man, had no intention or idea that there was going to be violence. Most of the marches had only one goal of marching and for the sole reason of looking for business. If the other leaders had seen that the streets were crowded from the march or a lot of people, they would have held back. I believe the

E.S.-