

E.S. – 1

On March 28, 1968, I accepted the personal honor to be among 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 [sic] 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 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 [sic] to hike home with my friends.

91

E.S. – 2

When I arrived, I went to turn on the news and listen for a while, while (illegible) talked about incidents all over downtown Memphis (illegible). 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-5am. Upon getting off a little early, I proceeded down Mississippi to Trigg and I just happen [sic] to see some officers clubbing and (illegible) a small group of youngsters, I just (illegible) they didn't (illegible) 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 beat up or what have you. Upon listening to the news(illegible), the mayor said the curfews apply to those with illegal business on the street, and those with legal business could go about their normal business. Upon asking some neighbors, who just arrived home after the curfew start, I founded [sic] 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 Guardsmen, who didn't know except what they were told by others officials, I knew someone, somewhere was getting it.

92

E.S. – 3

Upon calling a friend on the weekend, I founded out what he was arrested for breaking in a store. I ask him how it all happen [sic] and he told me. He said that he was about 20 feet from (illegible) at a telephone booth, when policemen said he had broken in a store. His appearance, which consists of house shoes and other house clothing (the shirt and old dirty short pants) should of answer the officers questions about the break in beforehand, from just a physical point of view. Fortunately, he wasn't beat up or misused 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 [sic] been violent.

93

E.S. – 4

By not sticking together as a group and having every possible reason for doing what we do, then we will never achieve (illegible) other goals worthwhile in the eyes of the whites unless we fought hard to unite with unity of mind and oneness of purpose, in our marches.

94