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Sanitation March

In writing an actual account of the sanitation march held in Memphis Thursday, I decided to interview a friend, who was an active participant in the march. Also, in the interview I have selected initials instead of names. Miss E and Miss C. The interview went something like this.

“Miss C tell me all about the march don’t leave out a single incident include everything that your eyes witness,” replied Miss E. “Well, Miss E I went downtown Thursday morning about 9:00 o’clock to join in the march. The march was announce on the radio, that all the marchers meet at Clayborn Temple. So I decided to walk down Beale to the church. As I approach Clayborn Temple I decided not to go inside, but there were other marchers who did. I begin to mingle and talk with the other marchers, who were waiting. As we were talking one of the leaders pass handouts to the marchers. Miss E interrupted, “what was the leader’s name?” “I don’t know,” replied

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Miss C. “I won’t interrupt any more continue, replied Miss E. “But the leader informed the marchers to conduct themselves as orderly as possible. I remembered two rules, while I call rules (illegible) if any marcher approach by a policeman, who trys [sic] to (illegible) the march with mace please cover face with coat or any garment to prevent damage to the eyes (illegible) the marcher should notice the person in front, because if this marcher stops the one behind should stop .After the brief instruction we waited a few more hours more. I check my watch, and it was about 11:00 o’clock, and we were instructed to organize and arrange ourselves, and prepare for the march. The only delayed was Dr. King. Shortly after 11:00 o’clock I’ll say 11:15 Dr. King arrived, and the crowd cheered, and we began to walk from the church to Hernando Street. As we were walking I heard a loud crash, and I turned around to see what had happen [sic]. A boy or one could call him a man broke some glass. I hadn’t expected

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I hadn’t expected violence to enter in the march. At that moment, the marchers begin to panic. So one of Dr. King’s marchers foresaw other outsiders to participate in the march. The marshals were pleading and begging with the outsiders to participate in the march. But the outsiders completely ignored the marshals plead, and continued their rampage. Well, I still remain until the other marchers until some of the rioters begin to disband the marchers. So I decided to leave the march, because I was frighten [sic].” Glass was in the street, and people were screaming. I ran all the way home.

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My Reaction to the Sanitation March

I feel that the march was plan [sic] very carefully (illegible) marches held in Memphis . But I feel that the main drawback in the march is to insist, that teenagers (illegible) children (illegible) out of classes (illegible) in the march. Many (illegible) mature enough to engage in (illegible) activity. For example, in the paper I wrote about Miss C, how many teenagers would have remain in the march, when glass was broken as Miss C did? I could probably count the teenagers, who would have remain [sic] calm in the march. However, I feel that more concentration should have been placed on adults and college students. For example, examine McCarthy strategy members, which quite different from the sanitation march. But, I am trying to make point [sic] most of his support was from college students. I conclude on the whole the march was plan [sic] carefully, and as a result of the march it has been quite effective.