

The Mass March last Thursday, which was led by the prominent civil rights leader, Dr. Martin

Luther King along with other supporters of the Sanitation Workers Strike ended in turmoil and mob violence.

It all started about 11 o'clock A.M. As a participant in the March, I consider my account of major events as valid.

I shall list these events as I saw them happen:

The large crowd of approximately two thousand strong began slowly walking toward Beale Street from Clayborn Temple. Ministers and other march leaders were passing the word to "keep plenty of space between lines to make us look larger."

I was in the middle  
 of the crowd, I could not see  
 to how the end or the front  
 looked, but as I was told, the  
 leaders, including Dr. King and his  
 close associated, had proceeded  
 up Beale Street and had turned  
 off onto Main Street as far as  
 Daverty's Furniture Store when the  
 "beginning of the end" of the march  
 started.

It appeared to me that a group  
 of about 25 or 30 outsiders, mainly  
 teenagers not participating in the  
 march, came into the crowd and  
 began breaking windows in stores  
 along Beale Street near Handy Park.  
 They used bricks, sticks, and  
 bottles. They entered the stores and

...began... they thought they could use... with themselves, the posters got what they could and began running away from the main body of marchers.

When the ministers on the roadside became aware of what was happening, they told us all to "turn around and go back to the Temple." "We can't go on if they're going to break windows."

Excited, afraid, and panicky could describe the crowd's reactions. Everyone began running.

The police had so far restrained themselves from interfering with us, but at this time they began using force to handle the mass crowd of approximately 99% Negroes. I saw two of the "brutes"

the church and began throwing the  
 mace bombs ~~that~~ seemed inhuman  
 to me, but who was I to be the  
 judge.

The march ended unfortunately  
 and unsuccessfully, but it was not a  
 sign that a non-violent march is  
 impossible. Dr. King is determined to  
 prove that a non-violent march can  
 be conducted and carried out success-  
 fully.

I was overwhelmed to see the  
 large number of participants in the  
 march. They were of all ages. Prac-  
 tically all wore signs sympathizing  
 the Sanitation Workers' spirit.

I guess one bad deed deserved ano-  
 ther, because throughout the remain-  
 der of the day, outbursts of violence  
 were all over the city. Vandalism  
 of all kinds, fires, injuries, and cru-  
 tality characterized the day.

I think that day in March will  
 always be remembered.