

## **R.L.J. -1**

### **My Interview with a Participant in the March**

The march reached Lowerstein's department store when ministers and nuns began asking the marchers to go back to Clayborn Temple. The policeman started beating people. They beat an old man mercilessly. The policemen did not endeavor stopping the looting on Beale Street but when the riot got to Main Street, the police shot in the air. Witnesses stated a sixteen year old boy was shot while his hands were up. Some people were sprayed by tear gas while sitting on their porches.

Black power advocates were influential [sic] in insighting [sic] the riot. The rioters seemed to have certain stores that they looted. As a result of the riot, there was a seven o'clock curfew enforced in Memphis for four days. The sanitation workers are still marching, this causes the stores downtown, to lose thousands of dollars daily.

1

## **R.L.J. -2**

The march for the sanitation workers began around 9:00 o'clock. The approximate number of marchers numbered one-thousand. Before the marchers could get on Main Street, the marchers were turned around because high school students started rioting, they threw rocks and bricks in the department store windows. There was an estimate of \$400,000 damage. The merchants on Beale Street suffered the most damage because nearly all of the white establishments were looted.

One can go on Beale Street today and find one-third of the store windows boarded up because of the riot. Some of the articles that were stolen were guitars, radios, suits, watches, etc. I talked to two of my colleagues and they told me that they were downtown Thursday, March 29 when it happened. They were victims of the tear-gas spraying.

The rioting was believed to have hurt the Negro cause rather than help it because it produced killing, the entrance of national guardmen [sic] and all of this has not made Mr. Loeb compromise and give the sanitation workers more money.

2