

### **I.J.S. -1**

My paper is an interview taken from persons [sic] who were on the scene [sic] of the march when the riot erupted. I will use no names so as to avoid incriminating anyone.

The first person interviewed I will call, Mrs. Jane Doe. Mrs. Doe is a teacher with the Memphis City School System.

The second was Mr. John Doe a prominent Memphis Retired Man.

The following are their accounts and reason why they felt it necessary to march in the first place.

Mrs. Jane Doe's Interview

She States:

As the march began everything was peaceful, the people were in high spirit and very glad to see persons that they knew.

1

### **I.J.S. -2**

There were [illegible] to lose our jobs.

After arriving on the scene we spotted twenty other teachers. We were already carrying signs but we turned them over and on the clean side we wrote in lipstick Memphis City School Teachers. After raising [sic] the signs people began to shout out and cheer, we turned the signs around so that all could see them. The people were happy to see that teachers felt that this was their problem too and wanted to do something about it.

It was broadcasted that Martin Luther arrived at the airport at 10:20 and he reached the march around 11:00 a.m. When he arrived we never knew [sic] he was there as far

2

### **I.J.S. -3**

As far as seeing him was concerned, but the persons in the front were all leading cheers and yelling as though there was a Pep Rally which gave us to know he was there.

As the march continued along we sighted people standing on the sidewalk. The march marshalls asked them to get off the sidewalks and into the streets but some of them insisted on being spectators.

While continuing to march you could see policemen blocking intersections so that traffic could not enter. They seemed very jolly as they stood conversing with each other.

By the time my section almost reached Main and Beale Streets, the people in front started running and hollering go back to the church. We stood still for awhile [sic] for the Marshalls had given us no signal. When it seemed almost like a stampede. We heard a window break and saw a group of boys running toward us. We began running too as we ran we heard

3

#### **I.J.S. -4**

Windows breaking. No windows were broken before we [illegible] Main and Beale. The windows that were broken were done so while running back to the church. The boys were running and breaking windows as they went. The looting occurred after the windows were broken for when the police chased the boys who broke them and passed by the businesses other boys went in and looted them.

When we arrived back at the church we all went in and sat down. After a length [sic] of time more of the marchers returned and the church became crowded.

The people were naturally scared and there was quite a bit [sic] of noise. The police began to shoot [sic] tear gas into the church as more marches would arrive and the door would be opened to let them in the police would shoot in more tear gas.

Rev. Lawson tried to get the

4

#### **I.J.S. -5**

People to [illegible] but women were looking for [illegible] from whom they had been separated and groups of people they had arrived with. There were shouts of hysteria and much crying but you couldn't possibly know whether the people were crying from being frightened or from tear gas.

After awhile [sic] Rev. Lawson went to call Police Chief Holloman and ask him to call off his men.

While we were still at the Clayborn Temple and the ministers were meeting with us, a group of people called "The Invaders" tried to take over the meeting by at intervals hollering out such things as "Black Power," "Suns and Bullets are what you need not peace."

One even went far enough to say "these ministers are going to cause you people to go straight to "Hell" because they aren't telling you the truth."

5

## **I.J.S. -6**

These persons called the Invaders wore naturals, black power emblems, around their necks, and what appeared to be Army fatigues jackets with either "Invaders" or "Black Power" on the back. These young men appeared to be between 19-22 years of age rather than high school students as was thought.

### **Mr. John Doe's Interview**

Mr. Doe states that after the people were headed back to the church and windows were being broken and looting started, the policemen began to ask no questions only to hit the first person he came upon. It mattered not if you just happened to be hit. You had to run to get away without any injury. You weren't running from them because you had done something but because whether you did or not you knew the policemen would beat you as though you had.

6

## **I.J.S. -7**

The policemen were beating little boys like they [illegible] men and anyone [illegible] was in the way.

Both Mrs. Jane Doe and Mr. John Doe felt that along with helping the Sanitation Workers, the march was for "Negro Rights." They stated that there were thousands of signs carried stating "I am a Man". They both felt that this was ridiculous to have to tell someone what they should already be able to see.

Mrs. Doe said, "Young people have read the Declaration of Independence that they are not free. The white man has set the stage for this play and the Negro's [sic] are just playing their parts. The white man could never understand what the Negro has had to confront, the only way he could understand is to be a Negro."

7