

CH – 1

#### HOW VIOLENCE MARCH TURNS INTO A NIGHTMARE

The march, Thursday March 18, 1968, that started from Clayborn Temple turned into a nightmare. The march was a non violent march which was to begin at 10:00 a.m., but was delayed because the plane Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was to arrive on was not on schedule. He finally arrived at 11:00 am. He arrived at Clayborn Temple at 11:45 a.m.

By this time everyone was tired of waiting, and they went right into the march. Dr. King felt that the Marchers had been organized and instructed on the behavior that was expected of them, but he did not anticipated [sic] the outside force of youth that were rolling against the idea of nonviolence. So they started from the Temple down Pontotoc Street to Beale Street.

Twenty minutes after the nonviolent march had began a group of youth on the side all ran between some of the Marchers and began to crash windows, looting stores, throwing bricks stones, bottles and sticks at the officers standing by. The Marchers were told to turn back by the Marshalls for their own safety because of the disturbance. The police were shooting in the air and shot mace in the crowds and begin to beat a lot of innocent people because they did not know how to handle the situtation [sic]. Many persons were injured because of this.

It did not matter to the police whether you were innocent or guilty, they were the white factor giving out of the blows and you, the black factor taking the beatings.

I felt that the situtation [sic] could have been brought under control in a few minutes if the policemen had performed their duty without prejudice feelings and went after the ones that ---

C.H. – 2

--- were causing the disturbance and not miscellaneously beating innocent people. The hold [sic] Negro community would not have had the suffer for what a few did. Some policemen did not feel that beating and kicking the Back man was enough so, he wanted to make a reputation for himself. One wanted to be above all the others, so he lowered his gun on a helpless, unarmed, young sixteen year old Negro boy and shot him to death, as thou [sic] he was target practicing with a moving target.

I personally feel that the strike and march could have been avoided as is evident of the "Sanitation Workers' Prayer". How could Loeb be so hard-hearted as to cause the whole city to suffer the consequence just for simple Dues Checkoff and Union Recognition. But because of the problems of the color line, and the [illegible] of fellow man, America has become a country of "So little done, and So much to do."

I also feel that because of the strike and the marches that the Negroes as a whole have become more unified and they seems [sic] to be working and striving for the same common goal or common interest. Now, they are willing to fight as long as it is necessary for the right and freedoms [sic] that every man

should enjoy. They feel that the time for getting things done is now; and if they donot [sic] achieve their goals now, they will never be obtained.

And now History was made in Memphis as the nonviolent March broke out of control and turned into a Nightmare.

C.H. – 3

SANITATION WORKERSS [sic] PRAYERS

The Henry, who art in City Hall.

Hard-headed by thy name.

The Kingdom C.O.M.E.,

Our will be done.

In Memphis, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our Dues Checkoff,

And forgive us our boycott,

As we forgive those who spray Mace  
against us

And lead us not into shame

But deliver us from Loeb.

For Ours is justice, jobs and dignity.

Forever and ever.

FREEDOM!