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An Eyewitness Report on Happenings in My Community During the Period of Unrest

On Friday, March 29, there were some of my neighbors who were out after curfew. They were in front of their apartment with a record player. They were dancing and shouting. They should have known this would attract attention because there were National Guards only two streets away. The police and National Guards came down my street and stop in front of this apartment. They asked who lived there. The man, who I shall call Sam, sayed [sic] he did. They simply told him to take the record player in the house and to get all the teenagers the street [sic]. Everything was going well until one boy yell, "No one tells me what to do." Sam told the young man to go in the house. The young man kept talking and cursing. The law enforcement officers seemingly just ---

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---annoyed him. They moved further down my street where they picked up a couple who were trying to get a cab. They put the couple in the squad car. The police then got out of the car and the National Guards, which were in two jeeps with three men in each jeep and a truck with about eight men, jumped out with guns aimed and ready to fire. The policemen went behind the apartment building and returned with the young man who had done all the talking in front of the apartment in handcuffs. They had both the young man and the couple in the squad car. They just sat there for about a half an hour. They then let both the young man and the couple go and they then left.

On Saturday, March 30, there was a structure, which was to be an apartment, burned about three blocks from where I live. I was returning home from dinner at a friend's house. We were about to turn on the street that passed ---

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---by the structure when we saw police cars and National Guards. Suddenly there was a loud bang which we soon discovered was a shot. One policeman was shooting at something of someone which we couldn't see at that time. We very quickly turned and went in the opposite direction. I learned later that the policeman was firing at a car that he had ordered to stop by it kept going. The police caught the car and arrested the passenger. No one was hurt.

During the unrest of the past week, there were a number of incidents that occurred in my neighborhood. These incidents and all of the others everywhere in the city were no one person's fault but a combination of people; the policemen, the National Guards, Mayor Loeb, thugs, just to name a few. I am sure that the march last Thursday was just the right opportunity to release [illegible] that had been ---

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---stored up in many Negroes in this city. There will be continuous incidents if some type of agreement isn't reached by the sanitation workers and the mayor. This is only one issue that caused the

disburbances [sic] during the weekend. The other causes must be interpreted and solved by all involved. Then and only then can Memphis become peaceful and quiet again.