

"All-fated Feelings Was The Cause"

E.L.-1

On March the twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred and sixty eight, a Thursday, there occurred a march in Memphis for the sanitation workers which started out peaceful and ended up in a sort of riot.

I did not participate in the march and neither was I downtown when the disturbance started but I did get an eye witness look at a small disturbance in my neighborhood. The Friday morning after the riot at the end of Dison street, the police stopped two Black Power advocates in a car and questioned them. The two fellows weren't doing anything as I could see but the police thought they might have had a gun or knife in their car, but they found nothing. The police were about to let them go when one of the police got heated and started spraying gas in people's faces for no reason at all.

My father is the person I interviewed to find out what really happened. He was downtown the day of the March and was pushed into the disturbance when it started happening. He said that what really happened was that most of the young people and some older persons also, who were not primarily concerned with help-

ing the sanitation workers in their strike, started breaking windows and tearing up the town and getting all they could from the stores to take home. He said also that if some of the leaders, especially Martin Luther King, had tried to stop these people, they would have knocked them down too just as they did other people who tried to stop them.

I think that what really caused the riot was the fact that the Negro had already been displeased with certain racial inequalities, and the march for the sanitation workers gave them an excuse to revolt in the most revolting way they knew how.