

Sanitation Workers went on strike. It was reported that they were striking for a number of things but among these were higher wages and recognition of their union as a bargaining agent.

Mayor Loeb gave the sanitation workers a small percentage of the raise requested but he refused to recognize the union. Due to Mayor Loeb's stand strong feelings were aroused in the negro community and on March 28th of 1968 this resentment came to a climax.

On this date the late Dr. Martin Luther King was to lead a non-violent demonstration beginning at 10:00 A.M. He was late because his plane didn't arrive until 10:22 A.M.

At 10:30 A.M. the WLOK newscaster reported that the march was about to begin because Dr. King had arrived at the airport.

At 11:00 A.M. I heard that the march had begun and that the march was proceeding down Beale Street.

At 11:30 A.M. the newscaster reported that the march had gotten out of hand because about 400 negroes had entered the demonstration into a riot. All stations on the corner of Beale and Main were being blocked. Police had been called to the scene and Dr. King urged it had had leave the march immediately.

At 12:00 P.M. there was a report that the police had been called to the scene of a rock throwing incident at Hamilton High School. The incident had occurred because about 200 students had refused to let other students enter the school building because Dr. King had asked all Memphis negroes to support the sanitation strike by staying home from work and keeping their children home from school.

At 12:30 P.M. it was reported that the rioters were looting stores on Third and that a 16 year old negro by the name of Larry Payne had been killed by a policeman who said this was in the line of duty and in the protection of his own life due to the fact that he was attacked with a butcher knife. Although many witnesses reported that Larry Payne was shot with his hands

in the air. At 1:00 P.M. the news reported that some 1000 National Guard troops had been ordered into Memphis. He also said that Mayor Loeb had ordered a curfew for Memphis to begin at 7:00 P.M. and end at 5:00 A.M. and that the sale of alcoholic beverages would end until further notice.

Later in the evening I talked to others who had observed incidents during the course of the day. They reported cases of police brutality. Policemen were attacking people for no apparent cause and most of the looters were teenage boys.

I noticed and talked with the people around me. Most of them were afraid to get involved and that the incidents were too close to our neighborhood.

Everyone blamed Mayor Loeb for the whole thing.