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Reverend Ralph Jackson- When they started breaking the glass and thing I remember Dr. Vasco Smith who was also at the front he said, go down and get them. Turn this march down Gayoso, turn this march down Gayoso let's don't go down Main St. At that time Jim Lawson I heard Jim Lawson's voice say turn around everybody, well Jim Lawson is chairmen of the strategy committee so no group no decision was made, when Jim Lawson said turn around even though we knew something had to be done but when Jim Lawson said turn around everybody all of us at the front began to say go back and go back. And this is where I had this encounter with some of these folk who causing, that I don't even remember who they were. They were saying no no we are not going to break it up. We were saying you go ahead on we are going back. Well at that time we began to turn everything back. But then the group that was going back down if you will remember the windows at York (muffled) I believe somewhere up in there right there is where we turned them around you see. Now I have been told that somewhere on the police log they have down there that it was reported that the leaders have all run. But that no police ever came up to me and I was at the head of the line. No police came to Lawson nor to me and said you must stop this march. That is the way the police stop it you must tell the leader you can't go any further no one ever told us that you see but when we turned around as you see I didn't stand. This is the march coming here and I am in the front of it. When I said turn around and people started going back I began to lead the folk and ht4e folk that were still coming I had to go and wave the from the rear, from Beale St. and tell them to go on that away we were not going any further. So those of us who were the leaders of the march who were scattered throughout of it would then turn the people around. And so any statement that the leaders ran or that Dr. King ran. Now the main thing that one of the main reasons that we did not want Dr. King to stay there because we didn't want any police or anybody else to do anything because we felt what would happen in this nation if something was done to King and for that reason we turned them around and we came on back. So this effort and this story of course, all of this about what went on at the, what went on that King and King running and advocating leadership all of this was picked up over the entire nation as an effort to try to discredit his poor people's march.

Anne Trotter- Where did you get the car that he left in?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- I don't even know what car he left in? I don't know there wasn't no car prepared there, I understand he left in some raggedy car and I don't know,. If we were planning a car to hold away for King to escape and I got a brand new Lincoln down there and as many Cadillac's as negros have in this place that we were paying cars we could have had cars there to carry King that would have been the type of the white man's culture the western culture which you ride those type of people in. So no car was arranged for that type of purpose. (Tape Break)

David Yellin- This is a continuation of the tape, same day, Friday March 24th it is now 4:15 pm and we have been joined by reverend Blackburn but we have been depleted by two of our reporters Bill Thomas and Joe Lowe. (Tape Break)

Reverend Ralph Jackson- I might start discussing now the youth march which was held each afternoon at 4:30 pm. At first the youth started marching the same route that the adults were marching.

David Yellin- Was that an addition to the march to the adults or instead of?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Yes this was in addition.

Anne Trotter- Who organized it?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- (muffled) organized it through the reverend Middlebrooke.

Reverend Blackburn- We had a youth committee of COME. And kind of an advisory group to keep them involved in the thing. There was a youth committee of COME which was responsible for working with the young people. And with the regular march leaving from here at 3:00 in the evening the earliest they could get down was about 4:30 and we ran into several problems. One was that we wouldn't really get a march started until close to 5 and except for Thursday or late openings the stores were pretty much closed by this time. Secondly as Dr. Jackson has said we, the young people were not satisfied with a repetition of a route and the kind of marching the older people were doing the adults were doing. So we sat down with the youth committee which consisted of several adults and some of the leading young people and we began to work out variations on the march. I think the first thing we did we decided to get a coffin, that was the first gimmick. The young people carried a coffin downtown to city hall and had a service where they buried justice in Memphis.

David Yellin- Why did you feel it necessary to get the young people involved?

Reverend Blackburn- Number one because they were involved they were there they were active, they were wanting to be a part of the movement. Secondly I think we recognized unless the young people were involved.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- You had no community.

David Yellin- So it follows to what you said before that this was the spark to uniting the whole negro community and this became a real black movement instead of just for the strikers.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- And had we not involved the young people that would have gone on a program of their own.

Reverend Blackburn- Their own or something.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Their own leadership, and with the more aggressive of a person helping them make up their mind of lesser.

David Yellin- Would it be disturbing your train of thought if we stopped for a moment and discussed the relationship of the young people in the community and I think it is very important.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- No it won't disturb me.

David Yellin- What was the relationship with the young people, did you find that they were falling away from the church or falling away from adult leadership, were they any different from any other?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Well I do not feel that we ran into any, we didn't run into any particular problem of their and this was not an effort by the ministers to regroup support for their church. There was only one program involved here and this was the sanitation workers and these folk were involved. The police to these young people represented Lobe, they represent the power structure. And when they saw us marching and talking and carrying on conversations with them, to them this was like carrying on conversations with the enemy. Because the police represent the power structure, they carry out his orders which we all were to learn, but this is what it meant to them and even though we try to say to them that we had no particular fight at that time with the police, they could not see the difference. They were anxious, after they carried the coffin and then they decided rather than to have the police drive along right beside them as if they were going to do something wrong they decided to split their rank and walk opposite traffic so the police cars could not run that way. Then when the police cars try to run around the block to find them all they decide to go through an alleyway and when they got around to find them they were not there. And so this was their idea of disrupting the power structure and not cooperating with them in keeping them into this type of bondage which is one of the fundamental ideas behind passive resistance. That I refuse to cooperate with you in anyway in enslaving me.

David Yellin- Did the attitude of the young people in relation to the police and the power and the establishment mean that it made it difficult for you people to communicate to the establishment and the police, would you be a suspect if you did.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Well yes, to some extent it made it harder but our men problem was to keep the young people willing to go along with us. Rather than to take on their own, they are more radical.

Reverend Blackburn- You see every time anything happened the young people wanted to go further. You see when we first went into some of the schools, some members of the youth committee went to schools and recruited some of the young people. Now these came in and they wanted to be busy right away they wanted to be active, they wanted to be doing something and they were always 1 ½ steps ahead in terms of action than the rest of us were. When we first started going out to demonstrate to picket the trucks coming out of the yard there the first morning we went out

we had 8 or 10 young people at 6:00 in the morning and they wanted to sit down in front of the trucks right then. When they started on these marches and has he said we had these gimmicks that they thought up or we thought up the coffin and the next day I think we had the garbage cans that we carried downtown empty and then the idea of changing the route of the march, the march had always gone the same way down here across to Beal across to Main, down to City Hall and back again. And the young people came up with the idea one day they bust out of the church here as they usually did to march but they didn't stop in group in front of the church. They just went out of the door and the opposite direction to Vance and crossed to 2<sup>nd</sup> St. and went up 2<sup>nd</sup> St. which was a one street the other way so the police couldn't follow them in cars and motorcycles, one or two tried to and got fouled up in traffic. Much to the delight of the young people and came across Madison which is one way that way and came down 3<sup>rd</sup> St. which is one way this way.

David Yellin- I see.

Reverend Blackburn- We got a lot of static on this from the police that this was disruptive, this was disturbing things. And the young people's attitudes was always let's do this, they weren't afraid of what the police thought and everything else. They wanted to do this was a form of escalation and it was making the police very nervous and jumpy. When we were doing picketing downtown the young people weren't satisfied of falling into the routine of arriving at a certain time and going to such and such a store and quietly picketing they had to go down in groups of 10 or a dozen and sing as they went and chant and dance as they went and this is when the arrests really started and that is about when John Ferguson was first arrested.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- This is when the arrests begun and certain young people were picked out, and from that time John Ferguson as he has mentioned has been arrested 8 times.

Anne Trotter- What do you mean certain young people were pulled out? Were picked out?

Reverend Blackburn- Singled out, singled out you see.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Singled out.

Anne Trotter- Random or did they know?

Reverend Blackburn- No, 9 young men went down to relieve a picket line one day and they got only half way because they were talking and talking back to people and making a noise as they went down the street and chanting and so forth and the police arrested them on disorderly conduct and out of these 9 came John Ferguson who has been arrested 8 times, Will James Kemp who has been arrested 2 or 3 times, Harold Nelson who was arrested several times. You see they became a group that the police called troublemakers.

David Yellin- Were they members of the invaders or that was just something that the police were saying.

Reverend Blackburn- No there were members of our youth...

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Part of our youth group at that time. I would not be surprised if they are not members of the invaders now. This is the thing that we were trying to keep from happening. We were trying to keep the young people that who were attempting to follow us to be content and not to be driven with other groups you see.

David Yellin- At any time did any of the police or any city officials come to you or to whomever and say look these young people are annoying us they are disturbing us why don't you stop them because of so and so , and so so.

Reverend Blackburn- This was said, anytime anybody had a conversation I suppose with Chief Holloman or someone like this, this thing would come up. Try to control these young people.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- And at the same time we were trying to show them that these young people had to have some way of expression. If they couldn't find it with COME they were going to find it without COME.

David Yellin- So that it would be accurate in a sense that your concern about the young people was that you knew they had this energy, this anger and this disturbance and you wanted to channel it for the best interest of the community and so on.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Yes. And then plus the fact you see a protest is not to be carried on in cooperation. We would have been marching until right today marching down there waiting on traffic lights. And Lobe would have been continually bringing in scabs and working and saying well if that is all they are going to do is march then let them march. And we will just go on and let them march until their tongue fall out. And this is what the young people said they were not going to do, their intent was to block traffic, their intent was to disrupt you see and also to increase the expense upon the city in policing the various marches. You see this is a part of the protest. You don't cooperate with the person that has you in bondage and so this while we do want to try to avoid what you might call rioting and etc. You don't want to cooperate to the place that your protest is ineffective and this is what the young people felt was trying to be done and this is what they wanted (muffled). Long as your protest don't stop nothing. When your protest ends up stopping something then you are not doing anything and so this was, and the same thing about the escalation and this brings it right back here to why you have to bring these other people in, because our marching meant nothing to them. Lobe was sitting out there like he was king and his is why everybody went to him and the only thing that they could come back and tell you, you know Lobe is a stubborn man. The first time I heard stubborn as referred to as it was a virtue. And everybody was all over town saying he is a stubborn man as if this is his virtue, He can't do nothing with him he

will not hear, same time he continues to say that he had X number of telegrams from the east end. I told him this is not surprising, Memphis is a racist city and the active racists are the ones that send the first telegram, always. Even if as he concluded that he had a 1000 telegrams endorsing his movement, Well then there are approximately 400,000 people in the greater Memphis area. So if he had a 1000 whites I mean a 400,000 whites, so if he heard from a thousand of them there were 399,000 that didn't endorse his move and maybe some of them would have and maybe would have been on his side but this did not mean he had the whole white community which we know he did not have. But he sat up there as if though he had the whole community and this is how you had the slogan only god is king, Henry. All these type of things because this is the type of attitude he took.

Anne Trotter- Let me ask you a question about the morning of the march that ended in the riot.

David Yellin- Yes March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Anne Trotter- March 28<sup>th</sup>. The young people that were involved in smashing windows and who made weapons out of the signs were not the young people in COME were they?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- No, by the most (muffled) this we all know the young people who were a part of our march were in the streets. And you cannot break windows from the street, however, you had an incident that cannot be overlooked and this is out at Hamilton school. When the police said that they did not mace the children but everybody in the neighborhood says they did and including the students who went to school. And the police went out there that morning and maced these kids, because they were trying to get others to come and join the march, and when the police came and they tried to get back in the school they had locked the doors which left the children running up against a locked door and could not get in that school and police is coming upon them with clubs and mace and then after that some 2,000 of the children left. So coming down here to where we were marching many of them got here we were already marching Some of those coming from Hamilton were so mad they never got in the march with us they were ready to fight anybody. At that time and this was another provocation with the police. That new toy because mace was new with them you see and this was that little toy they ran everywhere and was spraying.

Reverend Blackburn- For the record the march that day did not end in a riot.

David Yellin- Well we call it a miniriot.

Reverend Blackburn- Well it wasn't even that. It wasn't a riot.

David Yellin- Yes we heard from reverend Jackson about his activity on this situation on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Can you tell us were you involved in this at all?

Reverend Blackburn- Well we were all involved in it because...

David Yellin- Yeah can you tell it can you kind of trace what you really...

Reverend Ralph Jackson- The people who got maced you mean there?

Anne Trotter- No, the Thursday the march was broken up.

David Yellin- Yes when Dr. King was here and late and the same day as the Hamilton situation.

Reverend Blackburn- Well I imagine it would be pretty much a duplication of anything Dr. Jackson has said.

David Yellin- Well let's see because what comes out interestingly is just a little item here that maybe...

Anne Trotter- Where were you?

Reverend Blackburn- Right around here when the march started, I mean we had been out here since 7:00 in the morning and by 9:00 about 9:00 I think, Dr. Jackson and I walked up to Vance and back as far as 4<sup>th</sup> St. I remember to see what kind of crowd there was and there was a lot of people until you got up till that corner and when you got to that corner there was at least one attack squad on the corner of the Lobe's laundry there.

Anne Trotter- Attack squad do you mean police attack squad?

Reverend Blackburn- Yeah.

Anne Trotter- What is that?

Reverend Blackburn- Well it consists usually of 3 or 4 emergency cars with 4 or 5 policemen in riot equipment with riot weapons.

David Yellin- Were they in the car?

Reverend Blackburn- Some of them in the car and many of them standing out around, neither directing traffic nor being helpful in any way. I can remember they weren't looking at us very kindly at all that morning and we walked up. Then we came, back down here and about this time the crowd had grown and I remember it was about that time when the students from Lester arrived and I remember it was kind of like a new contingent had come in and they came in on this side street and they were cheering.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- On Pontotoc.

Reverend Blackburn- On Pontotoc. It was about this time to we began to notice, we began picking up some of the sticks from the placards.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Because this is right after we heard that they had this affair at Hamilton.

David Yellin- There were rumors about somebody getting killed at Hamilton wasn't there?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- No it was a girl got beat but she did a girl got hit in the eye. Over there. Commissioner (muffled) called me here this office on the phone to tell me that he had checked into it and no mace was used at the school. So I went back downstairs and told the adults who were there I had just talked with the commissioner and no mace was used. And then the kids begun to arrive from the school and they said who said no mace, they are a liar (muffled). I have a daughter who attends school over there and why she was not in that riot and was upstairs in the classroom and she said she saw the mace in the police hand as they were running and after the children and things. But this is part of the thing that triggered this type of reaction also, and from that note breaking that they had at that time and the newspaper reported after that and the way they attempted to talk about Dr. King made it imperative that we come back with the next march, which was the march we were setting up for and was also imperative that we escalate as to bring to an end as soon as we could the sanitation strike.

David Yellin- By escalate can we define that in the way that you mean it, you intensify your activity.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Intensify your activities to the part. And you must keep in mind that a protest must always be done in such a way as to disturb the status quo, the power structure. And so you must increase and you must do more, what we had been doing had not disturbed enough so we must do more. We cannot get it out through the newspapers so we must bring in somebody that will bring the press with them, all of this is ways of dealing with what you are trying to do, cut that off for a minute. (Tape break)

David Yellin- And we, we are now at what we will all agree to call the disruption of March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Alright now on that day is the time when the police somewhere go their word to get tough. And believe me they did. There have been reports of a type of brutality from the police in Memphis, everything from macing people in their mouth to gorging them in the eye. When the curfew was on it was primarily for the black community. At the same time when we were members of COME, officials were having to have police badges in order to drive downtown, white children were having a rock and roll dance down in the Peabody Motel. And this time everybody was ordered off the street by 6 pm. We had a meeting with Commissioner Holloman and on leaving there I stopped by the hotel with the labor union officials and the rock and roll dance for white kids was going on during the time of the curfew. And then later when the curfew, they began to raise it well if you could show that you were going to the theatre or dinner then you could be out., but the poor person who couldn't afford a theatre or couldn't afford to go out and buy dinner had to stay in his house. The police went on the porch of people, people who walked out on the porch were intimidated. This building where we are speaking



from now the police opened the door and shot tear gas in this building because we were sitting on the third floor looking down at them (muffled). We reported this to the commissioner and the commissioner told us that according to his information this building was not gassed.

Reverend Blackburn- And we had councilmen Blanchard in the building.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Yeah there was a time there was gas and the marking is still down there where it burned the floor.

Reverend Blackburn- They put two gasses in my church next door, we have pictures of the police coming out of my church with their masks on.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- They absolutely went inside of the church building and gassed.

David Yellin- Reverend Blackburn, where were you during this, where were you when the trouble started?

Reverend Blackburn- I was at the head of the march, there was a line of marshals behind Dr. King but not directly behind him. There were a group of maybe 15 or 20 young people, mostly males right behind him, close behind him and then we had a little space behind that where the marshals were keeping the next group of the crowd back from him.

David Yellin- Now those 15 or so young people were they taunting Dr. King?

Reverend Blackburn- No they were just up close to him, close behind him and close around him.

David Yellin- Who were they, was there any reason they were there, because there picture was in the paper.

Reverend Blackburn- Yeah they were not part of the, at least I could not identify them by the pictures any of the young people that had been in the movement, Some of them were Dr. King's staff a few people had (muffled) at the front of the march. Or leaders of the movement, but right behind that there as a group of young men that looked to be about 15 to 20.

Anne Trotter- Well what about the story that they were to put there to keep Dr. King away from seeing what was going on behind him?

Reverend Blackburn- I hadn't heard that story and to say I was immediately behind that and you didn't need to have your view hidden from it because the noise became windows breaking you could hear it. And the first window that was broken was back to my left about 20 feet maybe, it was the shoe store on this side of Beale that went out first. And then as you turned around to watch..

Reverend Ralph Jackson- This side of Beale or on Beale this side of...

Reverend Blackburn- On Beale but on this side of Beale St. This side of Main, yeah and then you could see a few shoes go up in the air and then another window and by the time we had turned the corner to Main St. the windows along that last block of Beale are pretty badly broken out I think by that time. And then we turned onto Main and it seemed to e it was a matter of a few minutes turning when not much was happening on Main St. and then the windows began to out on Main St. Not so much behind the line of march but coming up to the front of the march now and even getting in front of that and the march for all intensive purposes had stopped.

David Yellin- But what were your feelings can you recall then, what did you think of when this happened?

Reverend Blackburn- Well all I could think of was it doesn't look like we are going to make it to city hall at this rate. And then it began to aggravate, this kind of feeling.

David Yellin- Well were you concerned about your safety about someone else's safety? Were you concerned about the movement, about Dr. King?

Reverend Blackburn- I know I was awful concerned I don't know what I was concerned about at that moment, but as the word began to get around we are going back to the church. Have everybody turn around and go back to the church. And we started to do this and people were turning around and reverend Lawson had gotten the bullhorn I think from inspector Lutz or whoever it was and other leaders of COME were encouraging and so forth. It was a kind of you moved back and forth across the street wherever you saw somebody and they were still moving up Main St. and you said we are going back to the church, everybody, you know this kind of thing. And then I began to move back through the crowd because there were still people back there coming forward and telling them we are going back to the church. They were asking questions, what is happening and we were just, I was just saying things like well we don't know at the moment but we are all going to go back to the church. Well we got started moving back down Main St. and instead of turning back on Beale, instead of retracing the route of the march, a lot of us were being shepherded or herded or just naturally following down Main St.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- See I led that group down Main.

Reverend Blackburn- I was back behind you somewhere.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- You were coming up from Beale and we were going back there rather than just to stand and wait on the folks to turn around on Beale the group that had turned onto Main we were carrying them back down to Linden.

Anne Trotter- Was Lutz cooperative? Did Lutz help you write it first I know you said he gave Lawson the bullhorn?

Reverend Blackburn- I didn't see inspector Lutz at all once the march started but he evidently hew was, he gave reverend Lawson the bullhorn.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- I heard Lawson talking over the bullhorn after I had gotten back from as far up as Gayoso back down in front of the Malco. When I first heard Lawson say turn back he did not have a bullhorn but by the time I had gone from Gayoso back down to Malco, then I heard him speaking over a bullhorn, and I thought it was a loudspeaker.

Reverend Blackburn- Yeah well we were together at McCall Street you had come back and I met you at McCall and by the time you got down to the Malco I was still around that area.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Yeah it was McCall, I said Gayoso, I did not get as far as Gayoso, it was McCall.

Anne Trotter- (muffled)

Reverend Ralph Jackson- It was McCall the street I had the streets wrong.

David Yellin- Now were people excited were they nervous did you have to calm them, were they easy to lead.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Yes.

Reverend Blackburn- They were easy to lead. They were behaving very calmly, I am sure they were excited we all were excited. And it was as we got down Main St. almost to Linden where the block was being raised, there as a chain link fence that ran from the corner of the (muffled) plaza and it ran back across the (muffled) parking lot on Main St to the first building that was there. Well this fence I think had been knocked over in the course of raising the property there but it wasn't all down and by the time we got there the police then were herding, and they were blocking off Main St. at an angle and forcing us over this chain link fence and I stood there for awhile helping some of the people over including some of the sisters, the Roman Catholic sisters. What is her name? Marie. And some of the others helping them over because they weren't going to make it with this chain link fence in their robes kind of thing. And got some of them over and then some of the young people and other people started then getting into that parking lot and then coming directly to the (muffled) plaza. And somebody there was hurt by some of the policemen, I don't recall who it was, for going back onto Linden directly but we went back through the bank parking lot, the 1<sup>st</sup> national parking lot there and then got onto Linden and then up Linden up to this corner.

David Yellin- Yeah you said the police were herding and that means herd they were collecting.

Reverend Blackburn- Yeah they were actually herding us around this way.

(muffled)

Reverend Blackburn- and anytime the crowd of people got so great that it threatened to come out further into the main streets, instead of getting off Main St

and through this chain link fence you know they would be forward. Now reverend Bill Smith was standing there and I think he had a bullhorn and was trying to tell the people be calm and go over this way and the police were not, my impression was that they were kind of pushing him and I don't mean physically, I mean not giving him enough room and not giving him any cooperation despite the fact that he was standing there and the people were paying attention.

David Yellin- Now when this you went back and all of this, if there were nay incidents that you can think of that might be of interest...but what about later when it was somewhat cleared away, 3:00 or so what were your chief concerns can you recall?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- That was the first time I reacted it was after we finally got all the folk out of the church and the police were shooting tear gas all up and down this street here and clearing out of this building. The thing that really came to my mind was the first time I began to ask where was King because I didn't even know where he was staying. Neither did I know at that time that they had put out the lie that he had runaway, see I didn't even know none of this at that time and so when they told us that he was talking at the Rivermont I think then...

Reverend Blackburn- We went over there that was bout 4:00.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- 4:00, in the evening, was that the same day we went there?

Reverend Blackburn- Yeah because remember we had to come back here after just before the curfew.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- And close up.

David Yellin- And you went to the Rivermont.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- we went to the Rivermont.

David Yellin- And did you see Dr, King?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Yes.

David Yellin- and what did you do, did you go up to his room?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Well we went up to his room.

David Yellin- Do you remember his room number?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- I don't remember the number no.

Reverend Blackburn- It was the corner.

David Yellin- What floor do you remember ?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Was it 6?

David Yellin- 6th floor, and who was there when you went?

Reverend Blackburn- A lot of the leaders of COME and the SCLC staff and...

Reverend Ralph Jackson- It was decided, among the things it was decided that we would have another march.

David Yellin- Like right at that time?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Right at that time. Right then and there it was decided that we would have another march and we would show that a peaceful march could be held in Memphis.

David Yellin- Would it be too difficult for you gentlemen of kind of recall as much as you could of the detail of this meeting.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- I couldn't do it.

Reverend Blackburn- Several reasons for that not only because of the confusion and you know the state we were in that kind of day but there were a lot of people in a relatively small sort of bed sitting room and people some of us coming and going, this kind of thing and the telephone going so that....

Reverend Ralph Jackson- We decided we had to have a press conference(muffled)

David Yellin- Yeah it was about 5:00 or so./

Reverend Ralph Jackson- That's right. And that who of us should be at least present for the press conference whether it be the gist of the type of, I mean what would be the gist of the press conference. All of this had to be decided in a hurry and then Dr. King had to go back to Atlanta and they would contact us later, so between that time this was the kind of layover. The next thing was decided that was that our march must go on that we would not let this prohibit us from having a march the next day.

Anne Trotter- Did you notice any change right after the trouble, was there any change in the city attitude, did you think that perhaps the city might be...

David Yellin- Before we get into that please, I just want to ask reverend Blackburn. Were there any other white people at that meeting?

Reverend Blackburn- In the meeting at...

David Yellin- At Dr. King's suite.

Reverend Blackburn- No.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- No. Because (muffled)

David Yellin- I think this is certainly historical, the fact certainly should be recorded.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- No no one was there at that time.

David Yellin- Right ok. Now...

Anne Trotter- After the trouble came, did you think that perhaps the mayor might yield that perhaps city council might do something?

Reverend Blackburn- No.

Anne Trotter- Alright then do youth in the troubles hardened attitudes on all sides? You were determined to have another march to prove that it could be done.

Reverend Blackburn- We were determined to carry on our protest.

Anne Trotter- That's right and the city was determined that you....

Reverend Blackburn- I didn't see any particular change in attitude one way or the other because they had been just as hardened before we had it, you see. And if we had seen any type of light we wouldn't have even invited Dr. King.

David Yellin- Yeah did you think that it would be difficult to get the people to come out again?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- No.

Reverend Blackburn- No.

David Yellin- In spite of the fact that...

Reverend Ralph Jackson- We never questioned that.

Reverend Blackburn- I recall wondering how many people we would have, whether we would have the regular size for the march the next day and it was double what we were getting.

David Yellin- Oh I see now you mean about the daily marches?

Reverend Blackburn- Yeah.

David Yellin- When you said however that it was determined that there would be another march you meant another...

Anne Trotter- A daily march.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- I meant another mammoth march.

David Yellin- Another Mammoth march similar to the one that was stopped.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Yes and that was decided we would have another one and there was never any question that in our minds that we would have the people.

David Yellin- You didn't think they would be frightened after that?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- No.

Anne Trotter- Did you think that they could be controlled?

Reverend Blackburn- Yes.

David Yellin- And Dr, King's point that this was the first march that he had ever been involved in where he had not sent his people ahead of time and his not charge but at least allegation that perhaps the young people had not been consulted.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Well when you use the term young people there you have to define young people this is the problem. What they were referring to as young people there is really the more militant. This is what they are talking about.

David Yellin- And there are more militant people.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Oh yeah definitely right here in this city don't let nobody fool you there, they are here and well organized.

David Yellin- And you were aware of that they were...

Reverend Ralph Jackson- Oh yeah we had them in our meeting. We had them in our meetings and we had talked with them.

David Yellin- Are we talking about the invaders?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- We are talking about the invaders and others.

David Yellin- Other groups, what other groups are there?

Reverend Ralph Jackson- I don't know the names of the different groups but there are several different, a group of young people if you want to go depends on the age limit what you are talking about young people. Certainly younger than I am but they are not children we are talking about. And a lot of time well you get the idea, but when they say we are not involved the young people, what Dr. King was really saying in that, was that we had not particularly involved some of the people that were the very people that we were trying to keep from taking over too many of the youth that we were trying to.

David Yellin- Oh you mean the young adults say in the 20's and early 30's.

Reverend Ralph Jackson- The age is not the important thing and it is alignment. I might say the more militants, the young people they were saying that we had not involved the young people (muffled) the better word would have been we had not involved the militant more actively because when we came back for the next march that King was to have led and that Mrs. King led in his place many of the militant were marshals. This come from experience that King and his group knew how to do and some of the things that we did not. We, (muffled)

David Yellin- The next thing then after the 28<sup>th</sup> being the day of the march in which there was difficulty. And the next thing was organizing for the next big mammoth march.

Reverend Blackburn- No just shut that off a second. (Tape End)