

SS081.mp3

David Yellin- This is Tape 2 Darell Doughty. We did leave off about the leadership role.

Darrell Doughty- Well you can of course you just take your schedule here and you realize the first mass, the first meeting of the garbage sanitation workers when they got together there were two outsiders there and that is Reverend Bell and Cornelia Crenshaw from the negro community were there. Now that man, no one was you know that was the people that were there. The first people to take up the cause of the sanitation workers that we were the NAACP and the Shelby County democratic club you have that right here on your list. And on the first next Monday the NAACP held this all night vigil and they got accused of bringing in the race issue into it and such thing and so NAACP began playing their traditional role in Memphis, taking this over and giving it support and organizing support for the sanitation workers. Now what happened where it all changed was that next Friday at the city council naturally when some ministers came down because the NAACP had gotten some ministers reverend Sparks for example to come down tot the city council meeting and then they all got maced walking down Main St. That suddenly got the ministers involved and that was a whole new ball game as soon as that happened, because they sent our 150 letters to all the black ministers saying ministers have been maced on Main St., come to a mass meeting on Saturday and we will organize. And they came to that mass meeting and elected Jim Lawson as the chairman of the Friday so called strategy committee and agreed to organize COME. That took it out of the hands of NAACP. Once this happens, this has happened before in Memphis and I understand it was happening when they were boycotting stores in Memphis in 1962.

David Yellin- Now this wasn't a voluntary relinquishment by the NAACP, it was just...

Darrell Doughty- It was just a recognition of where the (muffled) was the ministers, see the NAACP at that point then made the decision we will cooperate, we will work with them but we are going to stand on the sideline and let them carry the ball because when the whole thing with the way Vasco explained it when all the commotion is over somebody is going to have to pick up the pieces because NAACP was convinced that the ministers and all these demonstrations were never going to be able to force Lobe to give in. But this for the first time what happened you see is Jim Lawson got a position of power. Jim Lawson has never had power in Memphis before in any organization. So for the first time Jim Lawson had the ball and you know it was his to carry and then to lead this thing and so that is when Jim Lawson emerged as a leader.

David Yellin- Would you make a historical judgment that he sought it or that it was here?

Darrell Doughty- He was willing to take advantage of it certainly he has been certainly I would say perfectly willing and you could see almost sought it and could be thought the wanted to unite the ministers around the causes, always been the problem in the black community never been anyone to unit the ministers.

David Yellin- So he was in a sense putting the church in social action.

Darrell Doughty- It is just plain SCLC Jim Lawson thinks SCLC and he was at that time was thinking how SCLC could get the black ministers organized. And they did essentially at that time.

David Yellin- So he was flowing the Dr. King Selma, Birmingham...

Darrell Doughty- Sure and at this point the NAACP and the other groups then take a seat at the side and watch. Now on the strategy committee of COME it is a very interesting thing the strategy committee of COME was never...it was sort of a core committee and it was open so any number of people could come and sit in. I went to a number of meetings myself it was open you see and a lot of. But there were about ten core people in that strategy committee and you can divide it into militant and nonmilitant. The most militant people on the strategy committee were always the NAACP people.

David Yellin- Can you call some names?

Darrell Doughty- Certainly on the strategy committee it always broke down with Vasco Smith, strangely enough usually Cornelia Crenshaw sided with Vasco Smith, and Zeke Bell, Maxine when she was there, and more or less Billy Kyles over against reverend Starks, reverend Brown, Bill Smith was pretty.

Joan Beifuss- Who is Bill Smith?

Darrell Doughty- Reverend William Smith is a CME minister. That is the only thing I can say, Charles Thomas was more moderate you know so they broke down into two sides.

David Yellin- And the reverend Jackson?

Darrell Doughty- Reverend Jackson in the middle you se because he is always able to go one way or the other and plead his side.

David Yellin- And then reverend Lawson, I am trying to get the names.

Darrell Doughty- Jim Lawson always remained very neutral. I always felt I knew where he stood, but he always remained very neutral at least in the meetings I went to.

Joan Beifuss- How about Malcolm (muffled)?

=He didn't say anything, white people didn't say too much we observed.

David Yellin- How about Starks, reverend Starks, did he become involved?

Darrell Doughty- Oh certainly he became involved he isn't militant in any sense what so ever. In other words when I say militant from the very beginning, Vasco, the NAACP wanted to start mass marches down Main St. I think there is good reason to assume, I forget some of the reasons where, there is no doubt that some of that there was a deal made with Holloman that the marches would be on the sidewalk and that people would be spaced so far apart and all these agreements were made about how the demonstrations would take place. The militants naturally said no agreements should be made with anybody about anything. And this was the basic disagreement that went through the whole garbage strike about how much cooperation should be given with the police department in demonstrations and things. IN other words the NAACP simply wanted to draw the issue right away a massive march on Main St. and not put it off for 6 weeks. But they just knew...

David Yellin- Now who was in favor of putting it off?

Darrell Doughty- Oh certainly Lawson was and the people who were more modern.

David Yellin- I mean cooperated?

Darrell Doughty- This was, see Lawson in the beginning this changed later on because he came under so much criticism he was definitely playing on all sides as the chairman of the strategy committee and also he would be down at Holloman's office talking with Holloman, there were all kinds of communication on all sides everywhere at once. In the white community, and in the black community...

David Yellin- now are you saying this in the form of criticism Darrell, or do you think this was not his province?

+That is a subjective thing and I think it was probably strategically a mistake because I happen to agree more with the NAACP's position on this. I think strategically it was a mistake but anyway this is the why Lawson chose to operate, so they started the marches down the Main St. on the sidewalks. And no one was very disturbed by them but this was I think they reaches an agreement like I say. So the escalation was phenomenally slow in the whole thing. Practically no escalation and this went on and on and this contributed to frustration among the people. The NAACP would have escalated faster and probably (muffled) faster. But anyway this is the way it worked out. Like I said the established leaders sat on the sidelines and said we will wait Mr. Lawson will fail anyway. You see all this stuff at these marching on Main St. none of it is going to work. I think they were proven right, if King had not been assassinated they would still be marching today.

David Yellin- So that this was a real strategy difference and a basic one.

Darrell Doughty- Oh yeah definitely.

David Yellin- And all of this has to do the momentum or the lack of momentum anyway...

Joan Beifuss- That is why in the first 3 weeks of March everything just kind of sat there.

Darrell Doughty- See the NAACP would never have let things sit static or some of these people wouldn't have and this is why (muffled) criticized so much you see.

David Yellin- Now where was they in this ? where they ever invited?

Darrell Doughty- Well they theoretically they had a man on the strategy committee even invited. John Smith was there Charles (muffled) was there, Bobby Doctor. But that wasn't..

David Yellin- Was Charles Ballard ever there?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah it was usually Cabbage and Smith. See the thing is being there is one thing you know being present, as long as Jim Lawson is moderating and chairman of that committee they might as well not be there because he is most inept in making them feel like they are included. He never asked them for, they are not going to give their opinion either even if they are asked, not in that meeting. They are just going top sit and walk out.

David Yellin- Why is that?

Darrell Doughty- That is just the way, that is the ball game they are playing.

Joan Beifuss- That is their thing?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah but Jim Lawson has a personal, I mean he relates to black people almost like a white man, he really does.

David Yellin- Well this is strange he certainly was way back closer to them than he would be to any of the others when he started.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah well he differs because of his pacifist problems too. Basic theoretical differences.

David Yellin- I see, good point, now suppose Jim Lawson makes the statement that he did invite them in?

Darrell Doughty- He did invite them in.

David Yellin- But he did not make them feel as part of it.

Darrell Doughty- Well sure he invites them in but he doesn't, doesn't give them any attention, or doesn't take them seriously, he allowed them to sit there, like you were allowed observers to sit. They knew they weren't included he would knock them down anytime they would say anything, which is a basic conflict. Whenever one of

them speaks Jim Lawson's eyes light you know he just tenses up he can't even relate to him. I saw it happen with every strategy committee meeting I have seen it happen other times and I saw it happen last night. I mean it happens every time Jim Lawson comes in contact with a black power fellow. No communication whatsoever.

Joan Beifuss- Then essentially Lawson retains control of the strategy too.

Darrell Doughty- Oh yeah. But this breakdown with Jim Lawson goes back to last year when Kobe and Smith and Charles were fired from (muffled).

Joan Beifuss- I thought Lawson defended them on that?

Darrell Doughty- Well sure he defended them, but he also had a fight with them outside you see. He (muffled) the problem with the other side.

David Yellin- And the basis of their fight do you recall?

Darrell Doughty- They were accusing Lawson of not being militant enough, and he was arguing he militant long before they were and you know it is just a basic breakdown in communication.

Joan Beifuss- That was when Cabbage and Coby Smith were accused of being communists? Back yeah when they were working with Wilkerson.

David Yellin- Is there anything as far as you know as to personal gain on either side?

Darrell Doughty- How so?

David Yellin- Somebody wanting money to function?

Darrell Doughty- Oh by far everybody always want money.

David Yellin- They want money for themselves as well as their organization?

Darrell Doughty- no for their organizations.

David Yellin- Not for themselves?

Darrell Doughty- I don't think so you know I don't know. I think these guys are pretty straightforward they want nit for their organization.

David Yellin- And why would they then be accused of wanting money for themselves suppose that accusation has been made.

Darrell Doughty- Yes, that is another interpretation that is hard to distinguish what it means for themselves or for their organizations. They want money for themselves because they are trying to get jobs you see, this is their thing they want to support themselves with the black organizing project.

David Yellin- So in other words they want the black organizing project to get money and then they put themselves on salary.

Darrell Doughty- Which they tend to do naturally.

David Yellin- Yeah they are being accused of seeking money for themselves.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah right.

David Yellin- By people who would probably be suspicious in the first place because they are well acquainted with this kind of operation.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah well every minister in that sense seeks money for himself when he seeks a job at a church they are just looking that is going to be their thing and they want to be...Now this goes back you see now what COME obviously did was buy off the black power guys.

David Yellin- During this...

Darrell Doughty- During the whole thing.

Joan Beifuss- Buy them off how?

David Yellin- By giving them money not to disturb things.

David Yellin- Whatever they wanted they gave them a little pittance/.

Darrell Doughty- A little pittance.

David Yellin- They learned this from having been treated this way by the white community didn't they?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah and well se the black power guys again plead just like a Willis tactic they will take the money and still break up the meeting.

Joan Beifuss- Is that provable?

Darrell Doughty- What?

Joan Beifuss- That they were talking money?

Darrell Doughty- Well I know it happened last night Jackson gave him \$500 not to break up last night's meeting and then they broke it up.

David Yellin- You mean he promised \$500...

Darrell Doughty- He gave him \$500.

David Yellin- He gave him \$500 not for, for however he would like to use it.

Joan Beifuss- A little mafia type, extortion,.

Darrell Doughty- Sure and they still broke up. He gave them \$500 last week not to break up this meeting and they came in yesterday and asked for another \$500 and he wouldn't give it to him and so they broke it up.

Joan Beifuss- But this was not happening in March?

Darrell Doughty- I suspect it probably was but not so much on a large scale. I think this is King's planning. I mean the rumor was that Charles Cabbage was on King's payroll, SCLC. I think King has definitely done this SCLC went out and hired guys to work for them you see.

Joan Beifuss- I am not following that.

Darrell Doughty- He went and hired the black militant people in various cities to work for them so that they aren't going to break it out. You see this is what he means and he just didn't have the right people when he came to Memphis.

David Yellin- And so when he talked to them that Wednesday he may have promised them money.

Darrell Doughty- Sure.

David Yellin- Ok let's go on except this is so interesting because this is really the heart of so much.

Joan Beifuss- Ok so Bob sitting in on the committee strategy meetings now?

Darrell Doughty- Some of them they weren't at all the committee meetings they were at some of them, now I can tell you about one personal meeting that was very important it maybe signifies some things. After the first march broke up the mini riot took place, Martin Luther King's men came to town to try to get the black power, you know militants on their side. The man who was in charge of that is a guy named Orange with SCLC. He had a meeting with all the black power, I guess they had a couple hundred guys there high school kids and older, all the black youth had a big meeting. And he asked them what they wanted in order to cooperate with King and guarantee that nothing would go wrong. They sat down 3 conditions. First condition was what they called representation on the strategy committee. Number 2 they wanted every press conference that was held by Martin Luther King or SCLC they wanted to be there also to be able to make a statement. The 3rd condition was that Jim Lawson resign as chairman and in his place they were accept either Ralph Jackson, their first choice was Ezekiel Bell, second was Ralph Jackson and then Billy Kyles.

Joan Beifuss- Do you have any idea how many black militants were talking about (muffled)?

Darrell Doughty- Do I have any idea? There were about 200 at that meeting but I you know in general they had last night at the meeting it was about 30 people, see

what...there is about 10 leaders 20 leaders, 10 leaders or so. But they feel they can control an awful lot.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah that is why I was wondering how much (muffled) by how much they (muffled) .

Darrell Doughty- Yeah they are pretty organized and these are in the colleges and they are at the high school level too. A couple strategy committee meetings they had some fellows from (muffled) high and some high schools there, so they have roots all over. I am not saying all the kids will do what they say, but at least the kids won't do what they tell them not to do.

Joan Beifuss- Do you know what came out of this meeting between the SCLC people and the black militants?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah, the John orange came of the strategy committee meeting that night and presented these three demands.

Joan Beifuss- When would that be about 2 days before King came in?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah just about 2 or 3 days before King came back to Memphis. John Orange came and presented these to manage the strategy committee and naturally the answer was well number one they have representation already. Number 2 they can feel free to come to press conferences and number 3 the demand that Jim Lawson resign is absurd.

Joan Beifuss- Did SCLC take any position on this at all?

Darrell Doughty- They tried to remain, well I am sure they had a position since Jim Lawson is their man but this is anyway this illustrates I think some of the problems involved so I think they got to run it another way, but this again illustrates a basic disagreement with Lawson because they made this demand.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah because I know when King came in (muffled). The black militants were in agreement with him.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah they had reached some sort of an agreement.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah well go back before that to the first march were you at the strategy meeting that march was planned at all.

Darrell Doughty- Let me think. Yeah I was at the meeting the night before. You see the march, I was at the meeting, that was the one march was postponed wasn't it.

Joan Beifuss- It was planned and then it snowed.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah I was at the meeting about 2 days before the big snow when they were just planning that march.

David Yellin- The snow was the 22nd of March.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah.

Joan Beifuss- Who was the overall chairman of planning the march?

Darrell Doughty- Well Lawson was.

David Yellin- Can we go back tot eh 18th when Dr. King was here. Is there anything that happened or anything that happened in relation to that?

Darrell Doughty- This first mass meeting?

David Yellin- Yeah that you can recall?

Joan Beifuss- Were you at it?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah.

David Yellin- Do you recall how he was asked?

Darrell Doughty- To come? No I wasn't in any of the strategy meetings before that.

David Yellin- Before that I see.

Darrell Doughty- I do know that to illustrate what we are talking about earlier, Vasco Smith was hoping that King would have led a mass march that night from the Mason Temple through the town that night.

David Yellin- Without any arrangements...

Darrell Doughty- Without any arrangements what so ever.

David Yellin- Because he had the biggest crowd he had ever had.

Darrell Doughty- He had 15,000 people right there and he should let them go.

David Yellin- Was he ever asked to do this?

Darrell Doughty- No.

David Yellin- Did they ever ask anybody on the SCLC to do this?

Darrell Doughty- No it would have been the kind of thing Abernathy didn't say something that night about going out and stopping trucks the next morning, but this again was the kind of thing...

David Yellin- Just to be clear is Vasco Smith saying these things now or did he say them then?

Darrell Doughty- He said them then before the meeting ever took place...

David Yellin- That he wished...

Darrell Doughty- This would happen.

David Yellin- Ok alright, so after the 18th now Dr. King has made his speech and this big thing and he is going to come and lead the march on the 22nd.

Joan Beifuss- The thing I was trying to point, can you pin point responsibility for that that first march.

Darrell Doughty- Jim Lawson.

Joan Beifuss- Lawson.

Darrell Doughty- Sure it all goes to Jim Lawson.

David Yellin- So that when it was postponed the 22nd and the next thing it was scheduled for the 28th.

Joan Beifuss- And they had no idea, they thought the black militants...

Darrell Doughty- I thought it was a 28th the Thursday year I was at a strategy meeting the night before it took place.

David Yellin- That is the 27th on Wednesday.

Joan Beifuss- For instance the signs on the sticks, is there any way it pin point whose idea it was to put signs on sticks.

I am sure it was taken for granted they would have signs on sticks I don't think it was ever debated to do it or not to do it.

Joan Beifuss- Because that is not common practice.

Darrell Doughty- No one ever dreamed that there was going to be violence. I was over at 27th the night before the march I went to the strategy committee meeting and after the meeting we went over to Vasco Smith's house with Norm Haroldstein of the Wallstreet Journal and Baxton Bryant and some of us and Harold Middlebrooke and we were all at Vasco's until 4:00 that morning. And talking about the march you know it was a festive mood even then and we didn't, I remember Mary and some of those ladies that were going down to march, we had informed Vasco the day before and said is there any possibility for violence. We were worried about police violence and he said of course not. No one...

David Yellin- Now he thought you were talking about police violence?

Darrell Doughty- Well we were talking about police violence.

David Yellin- Well what did he think you were talking about?

Darrell Doughty- Her thought we were too, no one even dreamed there would be any other kind of violence.

David Yellin- I see.

Darrell Doughty- The first thing(muffled) Now the day of the march comes you know, and why was their violence, that is the question one raises.

David Yellin- Do you have any opinion?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah. I have a couple I will throw out, number 1 I think that it had gone on so long the whole strike that tensions had been building up that we weren't aware of. But above all I put so much weight into this incident out there at the high school.

David Yellin- Hamilton.

Darrell Doughty- Hamilton high school that morning, By the time that happened and the word got around not only to other young people, they came loaded to, that was the incident that did it.

David Yellin- The incident and the rumor, the false rumor that she was killed.

Darrell Doughty- Well even the fact that this took place, that the police did this, the police rioted you see but the police did this beat people, we are going to get our revenge.

David Yellin- So there was violence from the police that you were afraid of?

Darrell Doughty- That was at Hamilton High school.

David Yellin- Yeah well at Hamilton.

Darrell Doughty- We were sure I think we were definitely afraid of violence the police were all keyed up but obviously I mean you can blame the papers for creating an atmosphere of tension which they didn't need to create throughout this whole thing.

David Yellin- Was it ever stated in the strategy meeting or can you pin point why based on what you said about Jim Lawson, that he refused to cooperate with Holloman and tell him information that Holloman sought.

Darrell Doughty- You see by this time by the time this King march comes, Jim Lawson had been under a lot of criticism for cooperating with Holloman.

David Yellin- I see.

Darrell Doughty- Because he had gone for weeks and never done anything and they hadn't escalated because people felt at home and told Lawson not to escalate. So the relationships begin to break down with Holloman by that time you see. And so by the time of that first march came they weren't going to let anybody know where the march was going and remember I wasn't at the strategy committee meeting but this is 2nd hand from a very reliable source, Zeke Bell told me. That there was a big fight

at the strategy meeting about, between Baxton Bryant see who was one of the only white men who (Muffled). He got into a big fight whether they should let Holloman know where the march was going to go.

David Yellin- And what was he in favor of?

Darrell Doughty- He wanted to let Holloman know naturally because he was another one of these mediators so he wanted to kind of mediate. They said no we are not going to tell him and Baxton Bryant told them anyway.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah because it was in the paper.

Darrell Doughty- So Baxton you know so he was called his relationship..

Joan Beifuss- Then it is your understanding for instance there was no police except several at street corners for that march that would be why, there had been no accommodation made with the police.

Darrell Doughty- I think at this point, yeah there were very few police down there and they didn't want...(muffled) they had 15,000 police, people marching the best thing for the police were going to do was to stay out of the way assuming it was going to be nonviolent.

Joan Beifuss- Tell us what you did that day, was that the day that national council of church people come in that day for that march?

Darrell Doughty- Well these weren't really national council of church you know...this goes way back, we had been trying you know for many weeks to get financial support for the garbage sanitation workers through any source possible. Through the national council of churches and through church from the united and various organizations. No one was, well for a number of reasons we just couldn't get the money but national council of churches was keeping through the department of Christian life and ministry was keeping up on what was going on in Memphis.

Joan Beifuss- Were you at the (muffled).

Darrell Doughty- I was a public liaison with them. Or to the department of Christian life and ministry, to the department of social justice there as many people. I don't want to go into politics and the national council of churches because it is a mess. Since that time the managers in charge of the department of Christian life ministry has left the national council of churches, partly over the Memphis situation and their failure to respond. But anyway I was acting as liaison with them through this thing and keeping them informed by telephone calls every day about what was going on in Memphis and by written sending them information and everything.

David Yellin- Was the thrust of this relations hip from you to them? Rather even part way the other?

Darrell Doughty- Oh no, to begin with it was me to them and then they got more and more interest. The article in the Wall Street Journal generated a lot of interest you see.

Joan Beifuss- Now did they send anyone down here early in March?

Darrell Doughty- Nothing they did.

David Yellin- So it was the 28th however that made them much more interested.

Darrell Doughty- Oh sure the 28th thing.

David Yellin- But before then there wasn't it was your relationship..

Darrell Doughty- No see I remember I am also in what we call a communications network. It is an organization of concerned clergymen or Christians because not all of them are ordained and not all are related to the church. Although most of them probably wouldn't want to be called Christians but throughout the east united states who are committed to making the church relevant to the urban crisis.

David Yellin- What is it called?

Darrell Doughty- The communications network. Very committal term.

David Yellin- Yeah is there any literature on that, I have seen it seems I have seen it were there any articles on it.

Darrell Doughty- One article has appeared some place. Now this is not something that was publicized that much .

David Yellin- I see do you have any information on it?

Darrell Doughty- I have tons of it.

David Yellin- Can we have some of that to copy and so on so that we can know what this network is?

Joan Beifuss- No you don't want to know what it is?

Darrell Doughty- I will tell you about it, What we essentially have is about, we have people in every city in the united states who are very opposed as to what is going on in those cities. In the ghettos, in the black communities and in the white communities. We have relationships we try to have relationships with all the grass organizations in the cities and then we have denominational church men who are concerned wit the church relating to the urban crisis and we have therefore what we call a communications network and mainly it is an information passing, see we keep everyone informed about what's going on in the various places and try when a crisis appears to make the church relate to that crisis. You see one of our best things we did was to fight in Rochester with Kodak company, the communications network placed a major role there of mobilizing national support for...

David Yellin- F-I-G-H-T.

Darrell Doughty- Right. You see and they also played a large role in the election in Gary Indiana, getting the church to work in that election.

Joan Beifuss- But they operate without publicity.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah they usually operate without publicity.

David Yellin- Now do you have anything, you therefore supplied the rest of the country with information from here.

Darrell Doughty- That's' right.

David Yellin- Do you have copies of these things that we could have for the...

Darrell Doughty- I can also give you a copy, see I sent the ministers information in new York and they wrote it up and said I can send you the...see in the day of the King march we then sent out telegrams and information to you see about 150 key people all over the east United States asking them to come to Memphis to march but we sent hem out. See here is typical organization problem. I asked Jim Lawson on Monday of that week when is the march going to be. Remember the confusion of that road. We were trying to get, we were trying to bring church men in all over the eastern united states to march in Memphis and he said Friday.

David Yellin- Yes.

Darrell Doughty- Our telegrams went out, our letters went out, they changed it to Thursday.

Joan Beifuss- I need just a minute just on the operation of this thing. You yourself didn't send 150 telegrams, you sent them to a single source which then sent them out.

Darrell Doughty- I sent them to New York who then sent them out.

David Yellin- Right, but we could have a copy of all of these things for the archives.

Joan Beifuss- Ok.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah any ways so we had a cancellation on it. Because we didn't know it was going to happen, so what happened was some guys did come on Thursday who could make it. We had some people, a man down from St. Louis and from New Orleans and (muffled). We had about 10 mean come in.

Joan Beifuss- Now did you meet them that morning or did you...

Darrell Doughty- No I just...actually I met a couple of them down at the march. So I had been at school that morning and they went down to march. They were here to observe and to help anyway they could you know and it had been so fouled up since

they had been postponed on Friday and everything had been moved up and everything had changed and we had all kinds of plans for that Friday and they didn't work out either. But anyway they came just mainly as observers and to help in anyway they can. Actually we were very concerned about trying to get the Memphis clergymen involved.

Joan Beifuss- The white clergymen.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah the white clergymen. Get them involved in any way we could but mainly the people who came were men who had been through riots and crises already in Detroit and in Newark and one of them had been in Watts and so they were really experts on really these sort of crisis situations. And they came again, because this was the first crisis they had this year, they were very interested in the community dynamics in terms of what this might prophesy for the future of the summer.

Joan Beifuss- (muffled).

Darrell Doughty- See. They were interested in how police departments handled mass crowds and things. SO they were studying this. And so they were here, that was the first march.

David Yellin- Did any of them make any conclusions that you know of?

Darrell Doughty- Oh yeah we..

Joan Beifuss- (Muffled)

Darrell Doughty- We kind of took root at the Holiday Inn after some, they wouldn't give us rooms to being with.

Joan Beifuss- Ok now go back now.

David Yellin- They wouldn't what?

Darrell Doughty- They didn't want to give us rooms to begin with.

Joan Beifuss- Why?

Darrell Doughty- This is very interesting (muffled) no downtown. Let me tell you about this, this is very interesting. We had let's see the fellow from New Orleans had phoned for reservations and he had a room there. So we showed up down there after the riot, see we came down there.

Darrell Doughty- This is now the 28th?

Darrell Doughty- The 28th, after the riot we down tot the Holiday Inn and we decided to make that our headquarter s because we knew these guys were all going to be coming, after the riot naturally guys start coming in you see because they all came to Memphis. So we wanted to get a number of rooms and we went in and said

can we get 5 rooms. They said no we are all filled up. So we didn't know what to do we all went and sat around Sam Adam's room...

David Yellin- Were you all in your clerical?

Darrell Doughty- No Dick Moon was but as we walked up tot eh desk everybody was panicked you know how Memphis was that day everybody was just panicked well they looked down and said you are the people that put the ad in the paper. And we still don't know what she meant, but the only thing she could figure out was that she must have been referring tot eh (muffled) we put in the east Memphis shopping news.

Joan Beifuss- How would she have known that?

Darrell Doughty- Well we don't know how many people talked about it , we don't know how broad, what kind of reaction that had in east Memphis.

Joan Beifuss- but how would she know that you were the people...

Darrell Doughty- She might have known Dick Moon. When we give our names, see our names were in that ad.

Joan Beifuss- Because I can't remember any ad at all that was in...

Darrell Doughty- Yeah that is the only one I can think but yeah she said that, you are the people that put the ad in the paper.

Joan Beifuss- Who was she do you know?

Darrell Doughty- She was just a lady in the desk there. Anyway they said they had no rooms available.

David Yellin- She then said that?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah. And but then we went upstairs and obviously there is no on eon that floor and we started that they didn't want to give us any rooms (muffled) And then on...as we got into the room I got a long distance call from Massachusetts, from one of our guys.

David Yellin- And you got rooms however?

Darrell Doughty- No this was, first you get the long distance call from Massachusetts in Sam Allen's room and I answered that and talked to him for about a half an hour and then our telephone lines went off, we couldn't even get an out line out of the hotel. And then Sam Allen immediately informed the manager, got the manager. And he just started screaming and yelling, we couldn't get any lines out and wanted rooms and things and about 20 minutes later we got rooms and lines cleared up and things were fine but I don't know what happened.

David Yellin- Kind of amazing.

Joan Beifuss- I would have thought I would have seen that ad.

Darrell Doughty- Well I don't think the ad I think that we did try to set up a room for another fellow and said he was from the national council of churches and I think without a doubt they just regard the NCC as communist.

Joan Beifuss- (muffled) Well go back..

David Yellin- This would be Mr. Johnson's?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah I think without a doubt the NCC is a (muffled).

Joan Beifuss- Now go back tot hat morning, what time did you get down to Clayborne Temple that morning? A longtime before King?

Darrell Doughty- Oh yeah I was there about 9:00. He got there at 10:30 didn't he?

Joan Beifuss- I think he got there at 11:00.

Darrell Doughty- I forget the times.

David Yellin- Yeah 11 something.

Darrell Doughty- 11:25 he came there and I got there about 10:00 I got there about an hour and half before and there were a lot of people there when I arrived. I wasn't the first on the scene and they wanted me to be a marshal and I didn't do that so I got there (muffled).

Joan Beifuss- Ok so did you talk to anyone before the march started?

Darrell Doughty- Oh yeah sure.

Joan Beifuss- Were people getting dubious about it looking at the crowd?

Darrell Doughty- The fact that he was late certainly didn't help I mean it definitely increased the tension in the crowd. No it was festive and beautiful weather, I remember it was a beautiful day for a march you know everybody was festive until we started getting the reports from Hamilton high school and what not but even at that time no one suspected anything was going wrong. And I was up in front so I think I saw you there, maybe I didn't.

Joan Beifuss- No we were in the back.

Darrell Doughty- That's right I was up in the front.

Joan Beifuss- I was with Moon (muffled).

Darrell Doughty- It was well planned out. I can just say what I already told the reporter from the school paper and he quoted me and all that stuff. It had been planned that King would lead the march along with the various dignitaries and behind King would come the ministers and behind the ministers the sanitation

workers and the union people. This all planned out and that is more or less how we lined up. But as we lined up you see it took so long that people had been shifting around you know and then King arrived on the scene and that intersection was just you know that intersection of, is it Beale or Linden? Linden and Hernando which was packed with people, I was right there in that intersection.

David Yellin- But could you see Dr. King?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah well I could see his car but I couldn't see him because there was too many people.

David Yellin- His car?

Darrell Doughty- Well he was in a car when he came.

David Yellin- Do you remember what kind of car it was?

Darrell Doughty- No I didn't even see that much I mean it was just packed with bodies but I remember Jim Lawson then as people packed into that intersection you know there must have been 2,000 people in that one intersection just packed shoulder to shoulder, Jim Lawson, well you would have to call it in his preaching way, you know saying the march will not begin until the intersection is cleared, we will not begin the march until the intersection is cleared. Over the horn he was saying this and when Jim Lawson does this, the way he does it you see it is just like a white man does things, like a police captain does things. No one responds, no one moves.

Joan Beifuss- Well there was no place for them to move.

Darrell Doughty- Sure they could have moved...I still believe today that if Vasco Smith had been atop of a truck and said you know like he would have said get your damn out of this intersection, they would have moved. It is just a question of who can move people and Lawson cannot move people.

David Yellin- Now these people.

Darrell Doughty- Those people, he cannot move masses of people. If you have ever heard him speak at meetings he doesn't move people. He doesn't get the response there is no fire.

Joan Beifuss- No he is more of an individual I think almost.

Darrell Doughty- That is right, he just doesn't move bodies you see. And so right at that point control was lost.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah because King got kind of squashed I think.

Darrell Doughty- There was no control of the march at that point so as we began to march of Beale St. it was just a mob marching up Beale up the street.

Joan Beifuss- Now were you close enough that you could see King marching at all?

Darrell Doughty- No I was too far back.

Joan Beifuss- Were you with Dick Moon?

Darrell Doughty- No, I was although I was in the same group, the ministers, see it all there was all ministers, nun, catholic clergy, you know.,

David Yellin- Interesting why did the ministers get to follow the leaders and the strikers behind them

Darrell Doughty- Well this is the way the whole strike had been set up you see from the very beginning and this was from our point of view the communications network the people are concerned about community organization this was a mistake from the beginning that the ministers after they took over the thing that Saturday were always in front of the strikers, whether it was done at the city council meeting or wherever they were the ministers up front and the strikers behind.

David Yellin- Was this ever imparted to the ministers, this kind of information?

Darrell Doughty- No, no. Because it would have been useless this would have been the difference between northern and southern approaches. People are sophisticated in community organizations would never run thing that way. But it is a traditional SCLC is a thing.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah it is especially for public relations value you see the whole body of ministers.

Darrell Doughty- Sure in terms of group dynamics and effectiveness..

Joan Beifuss- Well..

David Yellin- Then again it becomes, well okay this is now...

Darrell Doughty- You see this, that night you see a long night when our communications network sat and talked about the whole thing. We always well we maybe had Malcolm Blackburn there just raking over the coals but they made a fundamental mistake a long time ago by calling Wilkins and Ruston, these guys are community organizer. They organized the garbage men to work their own problem out. But they got charismatic leadership, and charismatic leadership can't control mobs too well if there is no charisma around. Anyway, so we began marching up the street you know, and you know (muffled) a hundred times where suddenly the (muffled).

Joan Beifuss- Ok so then when it broke out did you go back down Beale St. or...

Darrell Doughty- No you see I was already up Main St. when they turned back the march. I had been up Main St. I saw the first window broken turned the corner I was on Main St., we went back down Main St. through that vacant lot. As we marched down Main St. the police came and threw a line of men about 20 policemen

in front of us and steered us through that vacant lot. Probably a mistake they should have let some of those people disperse because you know, they left....that's alright it is a tactical thing, they steered back to the vacant lot towards the church. It was very orderly they did a fairly good job. I was terrified the policemen, I remember though I was trying to stop people from running. You see the people turned around and started running down Main St. and I didn't know whether to put up my hands and try to stop them from running because I didn't know where I stood in all that stuff but I knew they couldn't run because if they ran into the policemen they would probably you know. I tried, I remember hitting Walter Bailey and saying Walter stop them from running you know. But we finally stopped these kids that were just storming down the street and I just threw out my arms and stopped them from running. So we steered back around through that vacant lot and at that time as we went through the lot John Ferguson doubled up and fell on the ground, you see he was laid out. I went over to him and then Vasco Smith was standing over him and most of the people around there thought he was putting on. He was just faking something but Vasco told me later that he actually had been hitten by a policemen with a club. Those policemen just swung on him as he walked through the lot.

David Yellin- They knew him?

Darrell Doughty- Hmm, yeah they knew him yeah t hey John Ferguson. Anyway so we walked through that to and went back to the minimum salary building where see we had an office set up for the national council of churches people in the first floor of the minimum salary building. That was when I went back tot hat office.

Joan Beifuss- Ok and then who was in the office then?

Darrell Doughty- In the office was myself and Dick Moon and reverend Bell and his wife and his two children were in this office and Sam Allen from New Orleans. These were the council of churches. He is in Baton Rouge Louisiana. So we were all in this office there and then from that office we had a view of the whole street. But not of the church really, couldn't se the church.

David Yellin- Now are we going to talk about the phone call?

Darrell Doughty- Well if you want to.

Joan Beifuss- Well go ahead you when in the office and then what happened?

Darrell Doughty- Well the phone call came somewhat later.

David Yellin- What happened in the office anything happen?

=No we just sat there and watched everything going on outside, we saw the people running back and forth in the street and of course you probably heard Dick describe the incident where the boy was standing in front of our window throwing rocks at the policemen across the street and they all had shotguns trained on our office and we ducked you know we saw everything happening a the end of the street but we

didn't really witness what you could call or what was traditionally called police brutality, there was none at that point. There may have been police tactical mistakes but we didn't see any..

David Yellin- Also things were getting thrown at the police.

Darrell Doughty- Oh yeah sure, I mean the tactical question was should the police ought to have been there.

Joan Beifuss- Would the minimum salary open could anybody go into it?

Darrell Doughty- At that time yes it was open.

Joan Beifuss- Were there lots of people coming into your office or?

Darrell Doughty- No we had our door locked. This was a very difficult and bold decision to make and later on it got more difficult and actually should we let everybody into our office or not, and we had a direct line to New York at that time and we were passing everything play by play to New York.

David Yellin- To your council?

Darrell Doughty- To the council people in New York see. Telling them what was going on here and so we decided because of that we couldn't you know...

David Yellin- Do they have a transcript of what you said?

Darrell Doughty- They probably do yeah.

David Yellin- Is it possible to get it?

Darrell Doughty- I don't know.

David Yellin- How could we find out?

Darrell Doughty- I could probably ask them?

David Yellin- Don't you think what a wonderful thing this would be for history to have.,

Joan Beifuss- (Muffled).

Darrell Doughty- No I don't, Sam Allen was saying, Sam Allen used to be a radio reported so he did a professional job reporting the whole thing over the telephone in New York.

David Yellin- Well that's what I, this would be great. I mean better than anybody trying to recall now what happened.

Darrell Doughty- But you know that only went on for a little while.

David Yellin- But even so would it be possible Darrell if...

Darrell Doughty- I doubt it really, I can try I just don't know.

David Yellin- You mean if they have it they wouldn't release it.

Darrell Doughty- Probably not and if they have it, I don't know how much they took down from the secretary there and if she took it down at all she took it down in shorthand.

David Yellin- Yeah and it was never transcribed...

Darrell Doughty- No I doubt it I have never seen anything like that.

David Yellin- Well can we at least make an inquiry.

Darrell Doughty- Sure.

David Yellin- Can we remind you of this?

Darrell Doughty- Yes.

Joan Beifuss- Darrell could looters have been coming into the minimum salary building? We picked that up somewhere that some of the looters were coming in there kind of hiding out.

Darrell Doughty- Looters?

Joan Beifuss- Or people carrying merchandise.

Darrell Doughty- Well a guy could have come in with a bottle of liquor I mean why not? You know how the minimum salary building is set up there are three floors.

Joan Beifuss- Yeah.

Darrell Doughty- And we were up on the 3rd floor and the second floor there weren't many people on the 3rd floor it was fairly organized up there. Second floor was probably a little more chaotic and the first floor was a mess you see, the hall was packed but most of the people in there were just you know.

Joan Beifuss- Did the police come into the minimum salary building?

Darrell Doughty- No, they threw tear gas into it which Holloman admitted.

David Yellin- They threw it into the building?

Darrell Doughty- Into the building sir.

Joan Beifuss- Into the downstairs hall.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah.

David Yellin- Did you see this?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah we finally had to leave because it got so bad in our office.

David Yellin- You saw them throw it into the building?

Darrell Doughty- No I didn't see the m throw it into the building.

David Yellin- Or it could have escaped into the building.

Darrell Doughty- No, no, no this could not have escaped, I mean this was, it was so thick you see we couldn't, in the hallway. See we heard them throw it in we heard a crash, we heard it explode in the hallway we were in the office. And Sam Allen at that time was up on the 3rd floor, as he came down the 3rd floor and opened the door to the elevator he opened it up and there was all this tear gas you know it was just soup. And he crashed on our door and we opened the door to let him in and it all swept into our room I mean it must of filled the whole room it was sitting right outside our door there inside the building. They were in the building we heard people gasping.

Joan Beifuss- Where the doors tot eh minimum salary building itself ever locked.

Darrell Doughty- Well they were broken see after by that time.

Joan Beifuss- Sot here was still people in and out of it.

Darrell Doughty- Sure they broke all the glass out of them.

Joan Beifuss- Ok so tear gas in the minimum salaries building.

Darrell Doughty- So we were there you know we stayed there as long as we could and it finally got too bad and we had to go out the windows. David Caywood was with us for awhile. He came in the window to make some phone calls. But it was right about after the tear gas had been thrown and everything that I got the phone call from Holloman.

Joan Beifuss- Now what was that?

Darrell Doughty- Well he had been evidently trying to find out what was going on so I got a phone call, I had received earlier a phone call, Pallman had phoned earlier and we had directed the phone upstairs. This time I got a call again and I said you want the number upstairs this is downstairs.

Joan Beifuss- What was upstairs?

Darrell Doughty- The minimum salary, that was where Jackson was and Lawson was it was upstairs and he says no I will talk to anyone I cannot get through to upstairs. He said I will talk to anyone. I said ok. He said who am I talking with as police always do this. I told him my name.

David Yellin- Did he know you?

Darrell Doughty- No.

David Yellin- So he didn't call you.

Darrell Doughty- No he would call anybody but after then he wants to know who he was talking with and I got in the paper misspelled but he asked me he wanted to make the point he says, your people are picking up rocks and bringing them through the church and throwing them at the men. I said I don't know I can't see the church. You see. He said our men have not been in the church. I said I don't know that either I can't see the church. He says well (Muffled) the guy on the helicopter is telling me they are picking up rocks behind the church and taking them through the church and throwing them at the policemen. I should have told him that is when I think the policemen should have withdrawn which they eventually did anyway. I said I am sorry Mr. Holloman I can't talk to you the tear gas is too thick here we have to leave.

David Yellin- And what did he say?

Darrell Doughty- He says well do the best you can and hung up.

David Yellin- What do you think he was trying to do in this call? Explain himself or trying to reach somebody?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah he was trying to explain himself and trying to get the people to stop throwing the rocks.

Joan Beifuss- Did you try and get this message out to Jackson?

Darrell Doughty- No there wasn't a chance and I didn't think it was very significant anyways.

David Yellin- But there were throwing rocks.

Darrell Doughty- I don't know if they were or not?

David Yellin- I thought you said earlier they were?

Darrell Doughty- No I couldn't see the church...no out front we saw a guy out in front pick up a rock and throw it but he was claiming that they were picking up rocks behind the church coming through the church, they may have been doing that too it is possible.

Joan Beifuss- Then you didn't go over tot the church at all.

Darrell Doughty- No so after talking to people in the church we knew what was going on there.

David Yellin- The amazing thing is that Holloman would make this call under the circumstances. I mean to call this way...

Darrell Doughty- I have a feeling that he was out of communication and didn't know what was going on there, really (muffled) helicopter, he wasn't in contact with men on the ground and he was trying to get a hold of someone on your side, because he says your people.

Joan Beifuss- So then you left the minimum salary building?

Darrell Doughty- We left the minimum salary building and walked up Hernando street and got our car and drove up to Holiday Inn.

Joan Beifuss- Did you go past Clayborne Temple at that time.

Darrell Doughty- Well we saw Clayborne temple at that time yes it is right next door. We walked out and saw it. We went north we didn't walk past it but we left very carefully when we walked out.

Joan Beifuss- What was happening over at Clayborne Temple?

Darrell Doughty- The (muffled) was pretty quiet. We saw things take place and we know, we saw that the policemen were all out in front of Clayborne temple that we saw, we saw that David Caywood and Starks and John Spence and Jesse Turner were out there talking to the policemen trying to arrange something for when the people came out.

Joan Beifuss- So then this was the national council of churches people and you and Dick went back to the Holiday Inn.

Darrell Doughty- Right.

David Yellin- I am very interested in the national council of churches reaction to this and their comments and their opinions and so on. Because for one thing I think they are valuable in light of their experience elsewhere and secondly I don't think we have any body we could get it from.

Darrell Doughty- What we did after that when we got together that night in the hotel, you see, everybody began talking about what was going on, and trying to assess what happened and how it happened and the general feeling was that it would probably be impossible to ever have a peaceful mass march again under any sort of normal conditions. Now that excludes the fact of the possibility where you have troops lining the streets or obviously excluded the conceivability that King was killed through a different thing, But we reached the conclusion that it would be impossible to ever have a traditional type of mass march again.

David Yellin- Why?

Darrell Doughty- Because the tensions with black community and the tendency towards violence was so great it would probably always explode into some sort of violence either during or that night perhaps after the march.

David Yellin- Even in Memphis?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah.

David Yellin- Where there had been no sign before of this kind of tension.

Darrell Doughty- Well yeah, this is the place that we are in our society today now.

David Yellin- And this we could have learned from having happened in other cities and now Memphis is falling behind.

Darrell Doughty- Sam Allen said that in Baton Rouge Louisiana they had a mass march there last year with the black people all marched and then the ku klux klan all marched during the day, heavily guarded. It went off peacefully but that night they had a mini riot you see.

Joan Beifuss- That is also what happened in Washington.

David Yellin- So that what you are saying in essence is that a peaceful march leads to violence.

Darrell Doughty- No, not a cause and effect thing, you see the peaceful march doesn't cause the violence, they may have violence without a march too.

Joan Beifuss- Did they council of churches people feel then that King had pretty much lost control of the civil rights movement?

Darrell Doughty- Oh yeah sure and then see our communications network did not favor or support the poor people's march on Washington but from teaching point of view they thought it was useful information. They didn't think (muffled).

David Yellin- And again making a judgment would you say that probably then it becomes a subjective viewpoint on the part of the council, because they were not in favor of this then here is another further evidence of why..

Darrell Doughty- (muffled) council of communications network, these people who were here that don't represent the viewpoint of national council of churches.

David Yellin- The communications network.

Darrell Doughty- And oh no...

David Yellin- Want to turn it off.

Joan Beifuss- You don't want to miss anything you mean?

David Yellin- No can you turn it off.

Joan Beifuss- No I don't know how to turn it off. Ok this is the communications network people then.

Darrell Doughty- Well eh asked whether it was subjective evaluation, I don't know I think the possibly but from our meeting we had earlier this year in Washington, we all got together to try to assess what was going on in the cities. The general conclusion of that meeting was we were headed towards a violent summer. And that any type of confrontation situation was created violence would erupt either on the side of the police or the other side but it couldn't be avoided. That people were ready for violence on both sides.

Joan Beifuss- Ok then if you eliminate the confrontation strategy what does that leave for the civil rights movement?

Darrell Doughty- What do you mean?

Joan Beifuss- If you take away King's whole philosophy escalation, confrontation, marching, what is really the alternative?

Darrell Doughty- Well a whole alternative black organizing project following in Memphis.

Joan Beifuss- The what?

Darrell Doughty- The whole alternative with the black organizing projects trying to develop in Memphis. Which is political social organization, mass, you don't have the mass marches the mass marchers are meaningless now because strategically...

Joan Beifuss- Yeah what King did for 15 years is no longer valid.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah is no longer pragmatically.

Joan Beifuss- Ok I want to go back to that night was that, did Mary not stay home that night?

Darrell Doughty- Yeah she was home.

Joan Beifuss- She was home that night but Glenda went.

Darrell Doughty- Now we have to think that was night that King was killed.

Joan Beifuss- Night King was killed yeah.

Darrell Doughty- Night King was killed she (muffled)

Joan Beifuss- Did these people leave Memphis then the next day the communications network people.

Darrell Doughty- No but they stayed one whole day and some of them... see the next day is the day we tried to get some ministers together about 40 ministers.

Joan Beifuss- White or black?

Darrell Doughty- White to try to tell them what had happened in Memphis you see.

Joan Beifuss- Who did that?

Darrell Doughty- Well Dick Moon and a couple of guys but you know we did it, we told them we had some men here from the national council of churches that want to talk to them if they want to talk about it. We got them to come to the Westminster house.

David Yellin- And (muffled) know who they were?

Darrell Doughty- No.

David Yellin- Does anybody?

Darrell Doughty- No, Dick would probably name some of them. It wasn't, it is the fact that we didn't make any lists or anything, closed to the press sort of thing and a very you know.

David Yellin- And what was the essence of that meeting?

Darrell Doughty- It was very interesting because we left the meeting we had to leave right as the meeting was almost over we got a call from Chicago that these buildings were burning in Chicago. So we left town...

David Yellin- We were there.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah we left panicked and went back downtown because we thought Chicago was going. So we left the meeting in this high note, you know Chicago is burning and out the door we went.

David Yellin- Who are we you and?

Darrell Doughty- Well all the guys on the national council of churches.

Darrell Doughty- Oh really and you left the others there?

Darrell Doughty- Just sitting there. But I think it had some affect, there were differences some were less depressed than others and this was serious and you know the ministers all had different reactions but it was probably the beginning of the first prods towards by some sort of concern amount white clergymen. I know particularly among the Anglicans and the Methodists they began to become concerned.

David Yellin- Who?

Darrell Doughty- Bill Kipphard for example was there and he got some concern and the Methodists. See one of our men was a Methodist men a pretty high denominational fellow, Ben Henderson. So his presence here with us helped the Methodists to become involved a little more perhaps and it led to the eventually the bishops, you know when the bishops the catholic and the Episcopalian and the Methodist bishops made the statements. And Father Greenspun was at that meeting

although he had been in various relationships all along, but I think it did some good, we tried to have a similar meeting with a church from the united but couldn't bring it on. So that is what we did the next day and as some people left that evening and some people left the day afterwards.

David Yellin- What was there prediction about Memphis or what was their advice. I mean not now but can you kind of recall.

Darrell Doughty- I know I am trying to think after that first march. Well there was no advice, they knew King would be back to march again.

Joan Beifuss- Were they planning on coming back to march with him again?

Darrell Doughty- No we hadn't made any, probably not because we had made a decision that the marches were pragmatically not a ...

David Yellin- So therefore what did they think of King coming back again?

Darrell Doughty- They saw it as a show down between King and black power people.

David Yellin- Black power people here or the whole country.

Darrell Doughty- Oh well this was the question whether it would be, the question in their minds and I am not necessarily agree with the interpretation that this summer there would be ultimately a showdown between black power is a very agree phrase to use, black violent militants and King whether it would take place in Memphis or in Washington, King was trying to make it take place in Memphis before he got to Washington and so it might have taken place in Memphis.

David Yellin- And then so this was the real, to be the battle ground or the trial.

Darrell Doughty- Well what they thought was that they would try to shoot King.

Joan Beifuss- they thought who would try to shoot King, the black power?

Darrell Doughty- The black militant people. They were worried for King from that side.

Joan Beifuss- ok well then.

Darrell Doughty- But you know , nothing worked out and when they decided they wouldn't support King they already decided they wouldn't support him in Washington.

Joan Beifuss- That's funny that would have never occurred to me that they would have shot King.

David Yellin- It was mentioned by King's won men.

Darrell Doughty- You have to talk to, you have to know these guys the radical black power are violent people in Washington.

Joan Beifuss- It just occurs to me that they couldn't have defeated the King movement without shooting him.

David Yellin- You mean the black power people?

Joan Beifuss- Yeah.

David Yellin- Well one of King's men was supposed to have said that when he does go a black brother...

Darrell Doughty- May do it.

David Yellin- Yeah I mean the Malcolm X thing.

Darrell Doughty- They shot Malcolm X.

David Yellin- I would like to just ask one thing. The postponement in your opinion of the March 22nd march the snow, did that dull the edge of enthusiasm do you think?

Darrell Doughty- Oh certainly.

David Yellin- And that of course had something to do with eventually.

Darrell Doughty- Sure.

David Yellin- Another thing a charge has been made that the riot of the 28th whatever you would call it was caused by another element in the black community the real thieves and that, not an organized element but the people who did want to loot and so on. Do you think there is any credibility to this.

Joan Beifuss- About the march you mean?

Darrell Doughty- No I don't think there is any at all. Younger, youth who were very violently stirred up that morning and had (muffled) throughout the weeks had been stirred up.

David Yellin- I didn't hear, I actually spoke about this when you were out but did you think that if it were the youth did they plan this?

Darrell Doughty- You can't talk about, you are talking about a revolutionary organization now and it is not organized in any traditional sense that white people always think about particularly this is the kind of thing that is always going on among oppressed peoples and if I ever get the opportunity I am going to do this or some day I am going to get me a (muffled), you know they talk and talk. So there is sort of a common understanding that if the opportunity ever arises we are going to take advantage of it giving it a recommendation. And the incident that morning in at the high school gave the motivation and the march gave them the opportunity.

David Yellin- So that when somebody said that there were people there ready to do what ever happened, if it would be peaceful it would be peaceful.

Darrell Doughty- Yeah sure they just came and you know they play it by ear you know. (Tape End)