

**J.H. – 1**

“The Riot in Memphis”

On March 26, a number of incidents took place that set off a somewhat chain reaction. The first link in the incidents was the walk out of high school students at Hamilton High School.

One of the students at Hamilton was asked what caused it, or the walk out of class, and he said that, “It all began when garbage trucks [sic] passed by the schools and the student stood in front of them and hurled rocks at the trucks causing the assistant principal to call the police in. When the police were called in this caused the student to rebel [sic] more. The incident ended with one student injured seriously and a few other injured along with one of the officers injured.”

The second link in the incidents was a mass meeting of Negro leaders and then supporters at Clayborn Temple in an attempt to march down Main, so as to help the Negro to gain justice and equality, but in this attempt violence broke out as the middle of the march approached Beale and Main. One of the participants in the march was hit in the head with a club by an officer causing several of the marchers to go into battle with the officers. This caused more and more officers and marchers to become involved and the Negroes began to run down Main smashing windows as they passed. The smashing of windows and looting was done mostly by high school students and or students of that age, about five hundred of the marchers out of an approximate twenty thousand or more participated in the looting.

The third and final link was the calling of the National Guard, and the Mayor putting a curfew on the citizens of Memphis or the Negroes of Memphis. The curfew was lifted April 1, and everything went on as usual. There is still tension, but everything remains quiet.

John Holloway