

Last Thursday March 28, 1968, Martin Luther King asked that no one neither go to school no go to work, but come and participate in a ~~parade~~ march that was to go through downtown Memphis. This March was in behalf of the sanitation workers expressing dissatisfaction in the way in which Mayor Henry Loeb was handling the situation.

This was to be a peaceful and orderly March that was to start at Clayborn Temple and end at Clayborn Temple after the March had gone through town, down Main street. Before the March had begun many of the youths participating in the March seemed very enthused about the March.

After the March reached Beale, I was walking in front of a crowd that burst a window out of a liquor store. When this happened, this is when the March seemed to be anything but orderly and peaceful to me. There were many store windows broken, and after a window was

broken in a store many people began to E.T.
go in and get as much merchandise as he
could hold and bring it out of the store.
Many of the marchers were trying to reach
safety because if the police weren't
moving people then they were getting run
over by the people running from the
march. Many of the marchers were beaten and
stomped by police officers. This march
that started peaceful ended up in a mass
of confusion with many innocent people
getting hurt and arrested for something
that they either didn't do or because some
police officers got angry and beat them
or arrested them because they had the authority.

Before closing this paper I would like
to voice my opinion on three aspects of
this crisis. They are the violence that was
employed in the march by the police
department, Loeb's refusal to meet and make
some type of compromise, and the effect
of the march.

I think that a lot of the force exerted
by the police department during the march
was unnecessary. Sure, there is a
reasonable amount of force that has to be
exerted by the Police in order to preserve (59)

Order, but not to the point where there are five or six policemen beating a man when he's already down and almost bleeding to death. There were many people at the March that was forced to run from many club swinging cops because if they hadn't they might have been beaten to death. Like I said at the beginning force was necessary to break up the disturbance, but I think that this force was overused and misused.

Joel's refusal to recognize the union and give the sanitation workers a raise seems to be a rather trivial matter to cause all of the disturbance. The sanitation workers should be granted a raise because just as a bookkeeper has an incentive to go into his profession because it is a clean job; I think that the sanitation workers should get a raise and recognition of a union as an incentive to pursue their line of work because the job is dirty and back breaking. Joel's refusal to do this seems to be inhuman as well as a lack of common sense to me. Joel's main problem seems to be that of pride. He doesn't seem to want to be the first Mayor to recognize a union, but in order to conquer this problem Joel is going to have to step on some of his pride.

The March seems to have been very effective because it has put the pocket book of many businessmen. These businessmen are now beginning to put pressure on the Mayor to dissolve this problem. In closing, something will have to give because things can't just go on as they have.