

### **E.T. – 1**

Last Thursday March 28, 1968, Martin Luther King asked that no one neither go to school nor go to work, but come and participate in a protest march that was to go through downtown Memphis. This march was in behalf of the sanitation workers of 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

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broken in a store many people began to go in and get as much merchandise as he could hold and throwing it out of the store. Many of the marchers were trying to march safety because if they police weren't marching then they were getting run over by the people running from the mace. Many of the marchers were beaten and stomped by police officers. This march that started peaceful [sic] 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 give my opinion on these 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

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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 [sic] 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.

Loeb'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 perform their line of work because the job is dirty and back breaking. Loeb's refusal to do this seems to be inhuman as well as a lack of common sense to me. Loeb's main problem seems to be that of pride. He doesn't recognize a union, but in order to conquer this problem Loeb is going to have to stop on some of his pride.

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The march seems to have been very effective because it hurts 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.

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