

Hatred prevailed high in the first day of the march for the sanitation workers, which was to be lead by the Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King. The march was aimed at giving the sanitation workers a raise and the recognition of their union.

The older people of the march had in mind just peaceful march to show the city that they would worry them if the workers didn't get their raise. The teenagers and the black power advocates, however, picked this day to demonstrate to the white power structure that "either we get or we will destroy" attitude.

The Police Department itself started the trouble when they tried to keep kids from leaving school to go to the march. This alone angered many of the students who really was for non-violence and a peaceful march. Then after a few policemen beat other teenagers in the restraint, non-violence easily shifted to violent attitudes.

As the march began, Dr. King had control only the people whose only intention was to march. Others were angry because the Mayor Henry Loeb would not grant anything in favor of the striking workers; some because they hated white for slavery of their grandfathers; then some was just retaliation to the police force. From the beginning the marchers were divided, non-violence and violence.

The black power advocates was also organized in that there would be a signal of the first window breaking as the start of it all. Orders for the marchers were "let us march in Peace". While orders for the rioters were "go to city hall- hear Dr. King- on our way back down Main street, it starts"

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The sound of breaking glass came, only it was just a bottle --which was a false alarm. Being tense, someone broke the first window of a pawn shop on fancy street. Then like spontaneous combustion windows were broken, looting started, and a few policemen ranned.

These few policemen got reinforcements from other cops with gas masks and helmets on. These stupid cops started firing tear gas at the marchers. The roiters and looters, however, stayed behind the marchers using the marchers as a diversioary tactic to cover up for them. A group of swing happy policemen started beating everyone in sight. This really begun the clash. Store supplies began to vanish windows were crashed, merchadise was looted or annihilated, and more policemen were beated. One looter was quoted saying, "for every Negro they beat, we got three of them".

Dr. King called a halt in the march as the trouble reached its intensity. With the policemen ready to shoot anyone who even spit to hard, Dr. King's aides rushed him unnoticed to a car, which took him back to his hotel.

The marchers and the roiters later felt nothing was accomplished that day. One marcher said, "we didn't want that to happen", while at the same time a roiter said "we didn't do enough". And do you know-- we didn't.

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