

## **D.L.G. – 1**

### GIVE ME JUSTICE

Hatred prevailed high in the (illegible) the first day of the march for the sanitation workers (illegible) was to be led by the Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King (illegible) march was aimed at giving the sanitation workers (illegible) and the recognition of their union.

The older people of the march has 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" attitudes.

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

As the march began [sic], Dr. King had to control only the people whose only intention was to march. Others were angered 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 were 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 "got to the city hall—hear Dr. King—on our way back down Main street it starts."

65

## **D.L.G – 2**

The sound of breaking glass came, only it was just a bottle—which was a false alarm. Our being tense, someone broke the first window of a pawn shop of famous Beale Street. Then like spontaneous combustion windows were broken, looting started, and a few policemen ran [sic].

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 rioters and looters, however, stayed behind the marchers using the marchers as a diversionary tactic to cover up for them. A group of swing happy policemen started beating everyone in sight. This really began [sic] the clash. Store supplies began to vanish, windows were crashed, merchandise was looted or annihilated, and more policemen were beaten [sic]. 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 too hard, Dr. King's aids rushed him unnoticed [sic] to a car, which took him back to his hotel.

The marchers and the rioters later felt nothing was accomplished that day. One marcher said, “we didn’t want that to happen”, while at the same times a rioter said “we didn’t want that to happen”, while at the same times a rioter said “we didn’t do enough”. And do you know—we didn’t.