

~~Thursday~~

I, myself had not the opportunity to personally witness any of the activities that occurred on Thursday. I did not participate in the march, unfortunately I cannot truthfully say I saw what happened.

But, on the other hand, I talked with several students who participated in or witnessed the march on Thursday. One student, Curtis Bond, age 21, said that the rioting and looting that occurred had been planned for a long time by these teenagers who participated and the march was their answer. He said that they had no intention of marching for the sanitation strikers' cause, but for their own cause. He said that even his friends that he never thought would do such a thing, were in store windows looting. I questioned him about the shooting of the teenagers, but he knew nothing personally about it.



I talked with another student, Louise McFarland, who is an active member of the NAACP and participate in all marches. She told me of the police brutality that she encountered and that which she saw. She said that she and several other girls were sprayed in the face with tear gas for no reason at all. She said she saw policemen shove and hit the marchers without just causes. She said that even after the march had been turned back and returned to Marin Temple the police still attempted to shoot tear gas and beat the marchers. Her reaction and statement about the sixteen-year old youth was that he was innocent and had his hands above his head and that he had to do nothing. She said a youth had run to the place where Larry was and when the police ordered that person to come out, Larry came out and his hands were over his head. I, also talked with Mark Jones, twenty-three year of age, he, too, stated that the youth had no knife, but a friend with him had a



knife and this is where the knife came from.

The only comment I can make on the march and its activities on Thursday is that I hated to see all of this happen in Memphis, but maybe this is the only way that the Negroes can prove that they are people and that their desires and wants are important. And perhaps riots and violence are the best methods because the white man has dwelled on violence for years, but his violence wasn't called violence because it was done to the Negroes and not by the Negroes.