

THE NEGROES MARCH ON MEMPHIS

It was on March 28 of 1968 Thursday morning that I arrived uptown to participate in a march that was supposed to be non-violent, for the Memphis sanitation workers. When I arrived uptown the other marchers were already assembled. At that moment it looked to me as if there were about or over a thousand people there. When me and my friends stood talking about school and all the things that didn't go, the march started. After we had gotten to Beale Street the people in the march started getting loud. There was ~~so~~ many people that I didn't know what was going on until I heard windows being broken. The next thing I knew, this fellow beside me had seized a brick and had thrown it threw the window of Pape's men's shop. Then a couple of fellows broke the rest of the window and got the merchandise that was in the window case. After this a repetition of window breaking and looting occurred. A couple of fellows broke into Lensky Bros. and pull whole racks of clothing out into the street. They broke into the pawn shops and took electric guitars, radios, jewelry and anything they could get their hands on. All this time I was just standing looking in awe, not knowing what to do. There were bricks, broken glass and valuable merchandise lying all over the streets. It was at this time that I heard sirens and the next thing I knew

Was the march had disrupted and the participants had become
panic. The police came through the crowd swinging their Billy
sticks and girls and almost half of the people in the march
were running, screaming and falling. I was trying to run for safety.
I saw a policeman grab a sixteen age boy and beat him
blood streamed from his head. The policemen were hitting
and everybody. After the police had beaten so many of
the people with their Billy Sticks, some of the boys decided to
fight back. (All this was happening as I was steadily running
through the crowd.) I saw a policeman get his head basted by
a flying brick. I saw a fellow stab a policeman in the
back with a knife. The policemen did things I never
thought they would do. Some of them look as if they got
joy out of beating Negroes. I saw them beat a fellow
across the head until he couldn't stand up. After the teen
agers started fighting back. The policemen started using tear
gas. This is the only harm that came to me that day. The
gas seemed to spread, it got into my eyes, burned them, after
this, I got as far away from the crowd as I could. After
reaching my car, I started home, I saw policemen chasing Negro

Youths. After getting ~~out of the march~~, trying to escape what seemed like a dream of ~~the~~.

I wish all of this hadn't happen, but, I feel that it is the fault of Mayor Loeb. If he had given the Sanitation workers a raise, all of this would have never happened.

The breaking in and looting was caused by outsiders and not by the participants in the march so I think that the march isn't the cause of this, but, the looters use the march as a aid in their looting.