

Riot, Memphis, Tenn.

To assist in the investigation of the Memphis riot, I interviewed several persons who were witnesses. To begin with, there were many accusations of police brutality. One of the instances of this case was the beating of a six year old negro youth by eight or more policemen. Further investigation of the case showed that the boy was cursing and shouting all types of obscenities to the policemen. But says witnesses, "that was little reason to beat the boy in such a manner!"

Another instance of this nature was the policeman's use of tear gas. One witness, who also termed himself a victim, recollected that he was inside the church, "Clayborn Temple," into which policemen shot gas and then held the doors. The witness commented, "Why they shot gas into the church I'll never know!"

(117) There has been an accusation that the reverend King is to blame for the violence and destruction in the streets. However upon interviewing some of the looters themselves I found that many of them were just

The March was just waiting for such an incident as
day which was led by the group
the strike and march as a purpose for looting.

Porters of the Sanitation Workers
Luther King along with other sup-

violence.

It all started about 11:00
clock A.M. as a participant in the
March, I remember an account of

major events as valid.

I shall list these events as

I saw them happen:

The large crowd of approx-
ately two thousand street-began
slowly walking toward Gene Street
from Clapton Temple Ministers
and other march leaders were
passing the word to keep plenty
of space between lines to make