

My report is an interview with a young man on the scene. I chose to call him Sam Doe to avoid incriminating anyone and endangering him as well as myself.

On March 28, 1968 what began as a peaceful march at Beale and Hernando turned into a startling event which no one ever expected. As the march proceeded a group of well-known black power advocates charged ahead and began smashing windows of many famous stores.

The march continued on to Main Street and it was here that the police began to strike the crowd with their billys, and as could be expected the group retaliated. The marchers proceeded to Goldsmith's where the police forced them to make an about face turn.

The group did so, and about 3/4 of the group turned down second; little did they know what would happen ahead. A police helicopter had notified the police and here they headed the group off with tear gas.

With this, the group returned to their headquarters, Claybourne Temple where they were still followed by police and again tear gased; to complete the action many of the police jumped on people as they came out of the Church.

Upon returning home, I found that action was still occurring. At Pic's Furn. Company a group of young militants were attempting to destroy it. Since not a window was broken, the job was difficult; so to alleviate this, one of them kicked the window enough to cause it to crack; the rest proceeded from there.

Upon securing illegal entry M.R. - 3  
they stole everything they could get  
away with, all ~~the~~ ~~things~~ ~~but~~ they took  
either thrown in the street or destroyed.  
One of the militants did destroy  
one of the T.V.'s by completely  
kicking the inside out.

Not far away from this scene  
a laundry cleaners was being vic-  
timized. The crowd was taking  
the cleaners for everything they  
could, an adult male even  
went so far as to drive his car  
in and drive off with two car-  
loads of clothes from the cleaners.

If it had not been for the  
young militants and black-power ad-  
vocates on the scene, the looting  
and rioting would not have even  
occurred. What caused a labor dis-  
pute to turn into a racial dispute  
is still a mystery.

My personal feelings (M.R) is that Memphis has ~~been~~ and has been fooling herself regarding the race relations in the city. The fact is that

Memphis Negroes had never united together; the majority of the race had simply kept quiet and watched as they were being trampled on. Then too maybe they were waiting for the right time and circumstances.

But now Memphis, the so-called City of Good & Hope has turned into anything but, the big question is WHY? Memphis had better wake up before she finds herself in a situation which will be too difficult for her to solve, because she has fooled herself so long that it's impossible for her to see where she's headed.

I whole-heartedly support the

labor dispute between the sanitation workers and the city, for I strongly feel that if the government heads of Memphis can pay for extra police protection, they can just as easily pay the sanitation workers which would be less than they pay for police protection. It's true that we need police protection, but we also need a clean city, so why not pay the people who clean your city like you pay those who protect it?

I think Memphis should re-examine her ideals and intentions and decide what to do, before its too late.

The question I present Memphis is simply - Are You Ready? If not you had better, because one day when you wake up you won't have a city. Memphis, wake up so you can live.