

NON VIOLENCE MARCH TURNS INTO A NIGHTMARE

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The march, Thursday March 28, 1968, that started from Clayborn Temple turned into a nightmare. The march was a non violent march which was to begin at 10:00 a.m., but was delayed because the plane Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was to arrive on was not on schedule. He finally arrived at 11:00 a.m. He arrived at Clayborn Temple at 11:45 a.m.

By this time everyone was tired of waiting, and they went right into the march. Dr. King felt that the marchers had been organized and instructed on the behavior that was expected of them, but he had not anticipated the outside force of youth that were rebelling against the idea of nonviolence. So they started from the Temple down Pontotoc Street to Beale Street.

Twenty minutes after the nonviolent march had begun a group of youth on the sidewalk ran between some of the marchers and began to crash windows, looting stores, throwing bricks, stones, bottles, and sticks at the officers standing by. The marchers were told to turn back by the Marshalls for their own safety because of the disturbance. The police were shooting in the air and shot nao in the crowds and begin to beat a lot of innocent people because they did not know how to handle the situation. Many persons were injured because of this.

It did not matter to the police whether you were innocent or guilty, they were the white factor giving out the blows and you, the black factor taking the beatings.

I felt that the situation could have been brought under control in a few minutes if the policemen had performed their duty without prejudice feelings and went after the ones that

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were causing the disturbance and not miscollaneously beating
 innocent people. The hold Negro community would not
 have had to suffer for what a few did. Some policemen did not
 feel that beating and kicking the Black man was enough so, he
 wanted to make a reputation for himself. One wanted to be
 above all the others, so he lowered his gun on a helpless, un-
 armed, young sixteen year old Negro boy and shot him to death,
 as thou he was target practicing with a moving target.

I personally feel that the strike and march could have
 been avoided as is evident of the "Sanitation Workers Prayer".
 How could Leeb be as hard-hearted as to cause the whole city
 to suffer the consequence just for simple Dues Checkoff and
 Union Recognition.--But because of the problems of the color
 line, and the relation of fellow man, America has become a country
 of "So little done, and So much to do."

I also feel that because of the strike and the marches
 that the Negroes as a whole have become more unified and they
 seems to be working and striving for the same common goal or
 common interest. Now, they are willing to fight as long as
 it is necessary for the right and freedoms that every man
 should enjoy. They feel that the time for getting things done
 is now; and if they donot achieve their goals now, they will
 never be obtained.

And now His ory was made in Memphis as the nonviolent
 March broke out of control and turned into a Nightmare.

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SANITATION WORKERS PRAYER

The Henry, who art in City Hall.

Hard-headed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom C. O. M. E.,

Our will be done.

In Memphis, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our Dues Checkoff,

And forgive us our boycott,

As we forgive those who spray Mace

against us.

And lead us not into shame.

But deliver us from Loeb.

For Ours is justice, jobs and dignity.

Forever and ever.

FREEDOM!