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As we revisit the pivotal early months of 1968, we are privileged to be able to consult the *Memphis World*, a Black newspaper published in Memphis and available through the Rhodes digital archives. Every week, we'll share the issue of the *Memphis World* from 50 years ago as it documented a city, nation and globe in transition. Not only does it give us a glimpse into the history that produced the Sanitation Strike and brought Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to our city, but it demonstrates that these world-changing moments were part of much longer and broader contexts. As we reckon with the #MLK50 moment and beyond, the *Memphis World* offers us a critical resource.

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On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the *Memphis World* literally positions the escalating Sanitation Strike amidst a variety of other challenges and opportunities facing Black Memphians. Alongside a front-page discussion of the increasing hardship facing striking workers as they remain off the job, a large photo indicates the support of young people in an ongoing picket of downtown stores in support of the strikers and their call for justice. One of the young people who participated in those pickets was Payton Johnson Jr., who is memorialized in a story that documents his tragic killing outside a dance club just a few hours after he participated in a Civil Rights activity. And, in another reminder of ongoing tensions with law enforcement, the *Memphis World* amplifies the accusations of Mrs. Lucy Tunstall, who accuses police officers of beating her in her home before being arrested on charges of disorderly conduct. The tapestry on the *World's* front page bespeaks a tradition that is also spotlighted in a small item on the paper's society page. This item announces a recent meeting of the "Elite Literary Club," a reading group that featured local history teacher Robert Waller leading a discussion of historian C. Vann Woodward's *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. Woodward's pivotal text was a ubiquitous read among Civil Rights communities in this period – Martin Luther King was but one of its many prominent fans – documenting the legal and extra-legal means through which segregation was created and enforced in former Confederate states. While Mr. Waller's well-attended class was surely a unique opportunity to discuss this history, those who weren't present could page through this issue of the *Memphis World* to understand the depths of Jim Crow injustice and the strength of community resistance against it.