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LeMoyne Reflections on Sanitation Strike March pp. 290-291 -- B.W.

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"What Happened On March 28th?" B.W.-1

The week of March 24-30, I was out of town. I went on the trip to Freedom City with a group of Le Moyne's students and faculty.

During the time I was away a march was led and halted by the Rev. Martin Luther King due to an outbreak of violence on March 28. I heard many rumors while I was away. So I decided to investigate them by asking questions of persons who really saw and participated.

I heard that Hamilton High School had burned down prior to the halting of the march. So I talked to my brother and sister who are students at Hamilton. They told me that they reported to school as usual with many other students. The attendance that day, March 28 was very few. So about 9 o'clock they and other students started to catch buses to go downtown and join the march. My sister said that one bus let the students on without paying their fare and remained at the stop until the students unloaded the bus.

The police came and kept the students from boarding the buses. This led to rock throwing by the students at the police. The chasing of students by the police developed into a "cat and rat" game.

I heard about the destruction on Beale so I talked with Miss K, a 19 yr. old student at one of our high schools, who doesn't wish her name to be revealed, that participated in the march on March 28th. She said everything got underway from Clayborne Temple successfully. When they turned on Beale the sound of glass breaking and teen-agers looting the stores carrying bolts of material and other merchandise out was seen. The police moved in and started beating any and everybody that was in their way. She said they returned to the Church. While sitting in the Church she heard screams and felt a burning in her eyes this was the result of police men throwing tear gas or mace in the Church.

My personal opinion is that if the newspaper would tell the truth and don't stir up uneasiness among the people by their remarks

then people wouldn't be so much on edge at times like these. I think that the teenagers and police shared an equal cause in the outbreak of violence. The fact that the teenagers started beating and the policemen beating everybody innocent or not was wrong.

Personally I believe that violence would have eventually broke out. Because many of us youth had said weeks before the the Mass march that if Gov doesn't hurry and make a fair decision that violence surely would erupt. Because that seems to be the only thing this "whitey" will listen too.