

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATION SECTION

MAR 5 1968

TELETYPE

FBI MEMPHIS

1101 PM DEFERRED 3-5-68 DND

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS (157-1092)

~~GENERAL MATTERS~~

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE, MEMPHIS, TENN., RM. Training Office

*Memo*

RE MEMPHIS LHM DATED MARCH TWO, LAST, REGARDING SUSPENSION OF POLICE OFFICERS IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ARREST OF PERSONS FOR JAYWALKING IN CONNECTION WITH THIS STRIKE.

CHIEF OF POLICE JAMES C. MACDONALD, MEMPHIS, TENN., MADE AVAILABLE A TELEGRAM DATED MARCH FIVE INSTANT, SENT TO HIM FROM BROWNSVILLE, TENN., SIGNED "V. DOYLE ELLINGTON, GRAND DRAGON, TENNESSEE." THIS TELEGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS:

"IN RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN TOWARD THE CITY OF MEMPHIS POLICE DEPT. HAS CREATED GREAT CONCERN TO THIS OFFICE OF THE U.K.A. REALMS OF TENNESSEE, WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER AND THE OFFICERS TRYING TO ENFORCE IT. YOUR SUSPENSION OF THREE OFFICERS TRYING TO ENFORCE LAW AND ORDER IS THE BEGINNING OF THE BREAKDOWN OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. WE WANT NO PART CONCERNING YOUR RACIAL GARBAGE STRIKE AT THE TIME BUT WE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THESE LAW OFFICERS. WE GRATEFULLY RESPECT ALL POLICE ON THE MEMPHIS FORCE AND WISH THAT THESE THREE OFFICERS BE RESTORED TO DUTY WITH FULL PAY INSTRUCTED TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES AS AN OFFICER

AUG 30 1968

END PAGE ONE

Included in letter to White House

55 MAR 13 1968 Date 3-6-68

157-9146-X25

*Handwritten notes:*  
B.C. ...  
Patty  
TR ...

PAGE TWO

AND DUTIES NOT BE ALTERED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY GROUP. MEMPHIS IS ON THE VERGE OF AN ALL OUT RACIAL WAR WITH THE ALTERING OF POLICE DUTIES IS GROUND GAINED FOR THESE GROUPS. WE ARE SWORN CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE TO UPHOLD LAW AND ORDER AND I HEREBY COMMIT THIS OFFICE TO THIS DUTY. WE FURTHER COMMIT THAT WE WILL NOT STAND BY AND SEE ANY DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICER BE CUT DOWN WHILE ENFORCING THE LAW. WHATEVER IT TAKES TO STOP THIS WE STAND READY. YOURS FOR GOD AND COUNTRY."

AT ONE ZERO FIVE PM, MARCH FIVE, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, SPECIAL AGENT OF THE FBI OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY FIVE HUNDRED SANITATION WORKERS AND SYMPATHIZERS CARRYING PLACARDS DEPARTING CLAYBORN TEMPLE, A.M.E. CHURCH, TWO EIGHT ZERO SOUTH HERNANDO, MEMPHIS, AND PROCEED ON FOOT TO BEALE AND MAIN STREETS, DOWNTOWN, MEMPHIS, WHERE THEY FORMED A SINGLE LINE AND AT ONE FORTY FIVE PM, PROCEEDED TO MARCH NORTH ON EAST SIDE OF MAIN ST. TO CITY HALL. MARCH WAS LED BY THE REV. RICHARD MOON, A WHITE MALE, DIRECTOR, WESTMINISTER HOUSE, A STUDENT CENTER, LOCATED JUST OFF THE MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, AND THE REV. EZEKIAL BELL, NEGRO MALE, PASTOR, PARKWAY GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. MARCHERS ORDERLY AND AT TWO PM, FILED INTO MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL. APPROXIMATELY FOUR HUNDRED MARCHERS OBTAINED

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SEATS IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER AND APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED STOOD IN CITY HALL LOBBY.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT FIVE TWENTY FIVE PM, THE REV. JAMES LAWSON, NEGRO MALE, PASTOR, CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH, MEMPHIS, AFTER REQUESTING PERMISSION FROM THE CITY COUNCIL, STATED TO THE COUNCIL THAT "WE WILL SIT IN THIS COUNCIL ROOM UNTIL WE GET A SETTLEMENT OR UNTIL THEY PUT US OUT."

AT FIVE THIRTY PM, CITY COUNCIL WAS ADJOURNED AND AT FIVE FORTY PM, AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE OVER PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM BY ASST. CHIEF OF POLICE HENRY LUX THAT CITY HALL WAS CLOSED AND HE REQUESTED ALL PERSONS IN COUNCIL ROOM AND LOBBY TO LEAVE OR THEY WOULD BE CHARGED WITH DISORDERLY CONDUCT. AT FIVE FORTY FIVE PM, A SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY ASST. CHIEF LUX, REQUESTING THAT ALL PERSONS LEAVE THE COUNCIL ROOM AND CITY HALL.

AT SIX PM, A THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY ASST. CHIEF LUX THAT ALL PERSONS IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AND LOBBY HAD TEN MINUTES IN WHICH TO LEAVE OR THEY WOULD BE PLACED UNDER ARREST, CHARGED WITH DISORDERLY CONDUCT.

AT SIX TEN PM, ASST. CHIEF LUX ANNOUNCED TO APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED PERSONS REMAINING IN THE CITY COUNCIL ROOM THAT THEY WERE

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UNDER ARREST, BEING CHARGED WITH DISORDERLY CONDUCT.

ASST. CHIEF LUX REQUESTED ALL PRESENT TO LINE UP TWO BY TWO AND MARCH TO CENTRAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS, APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF BLOCK FROM CITY HALL. ALL ARRESTS PEACEFUL, NO INCIDENTS.

THE MARCH FIVE, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT ISSUE OF THE MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR, DAILY NEWSPAPER, REFLECTS REV. JAMES M. LAWSON ANNOUNCED HE HAD INVITED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, TO MEMPHIS TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF SANITATION STRIKERS. KING'S OFFICE IN ATLANTA, HOWEVER, TOLD THE PRESS-SCIMITAR KING WOULD NOT COME TO MEMPHIS THIS WEEK. REPORTER FOR PRESS-SCIMITAR VOLUNTEERED TO AGENT THAT KING'S OFFICE IN ATLANTA ADVISED THIS REPORTER THAT THE REV. KING HAD SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS DURING THE ENTIRE WEEK OF MARCH ELEVEN THROUGH FIFTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, AND HIS ITINERARY SUBSEQUENT TO THAT TIME WAS UNCERTAIN.

CAPTAIN JEWEL RAY, INSPECTIONAL BUREAU MEMPHIS PD ADVISED THAT ONE TWO ONE PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN CITY HALL COUNCIL ROOM, ALL CHARGED WITH DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND WERE RELEASED ON THEIR OWN RECOGNIZANCE BY CITY COURT JUDGE RAY CHURCHILL AFTER BEING FINGER-PRINTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY MEMPHIS PD. ALL ARE TO APPEAR MEMPHIS CITY COURT MARCH SIX NEXT.

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PAGE FIVE

AMONG THE INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED WERE FIVE SIX CITY OF  
MEMPHIS EMPLOYEES, THREE NINE OF WHOM ARE MEMPHIS SANITATION DEPT.  
EMPLOYEES.

MAXINE A. SMITH, NEGRO FEMALE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY<sup>RTARY</sup>, MEMPHIS  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)  
WAS ARRESTED ALONG WITH EIGHT MINISTERS, INCLUDING, REV. JAMES  
MORRIS LAWSON, THE REV. RICHARD MOON, AND REV. MALCOLM DOUGLAS  
BLACKBURN, MALE WHITE, PASTOR AT THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH, CLAYBORN TEMPLE, TWO EIGHT ZERO HERNANDO ST., MEMPHIS

<sup>Memo</sup>  
LHM FOLLOWS. Pending

CORR PAGE FIVE LINE FOUR WORD ~~SEVEN~~ SHLD BE ~~SECRETARY~~

END

SAA

FBI WASH DC