

'I'm Not Firing It—I'm Only Pulling the Trigger'



ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

MARCH 30-31, 1968

GLOBE-DEMOCRAT PUBLISHING CO.

Twelfth St. at Delmar (1) Published Daily, Monday through Friday, and Weekend Garfield 1-213  
G. DUNCAN BAUMAN, Publisher

HAMILTON THORNTON, Editor of the Editorial Page

GEORGE A. KILLENBERG, Managing Editor MARTIN L. DUGGAN, Associate Managing Editor  
BEN MAGEVITZ, Advertising Director

The Globe-Democrat is an independent newspaper printing the news impartially, supporting what it believes to be right and opposing what it believes to be wrong without regard to party politics.

## THE REAL MARTIN LUTHER KING

The Rev. Martin Luther King has long posed as America's foremost exponent of non-violence to advance the cause of civil rights for Negroes.

Surrounding himself with a sanctimonious air and basking in the afterglow of his Nobel Peace Prize, he has assumed an attitude of injured innocence when violence erupts after his inflammatory speeches and when he organizes and leads protest marches—such as the most recent uprising in Memphis, Tenn.—that explode into violence.

Memphis was Chicago and Birmingham all over, again. King came into Memphis when it already had become a racial tinderbox. The need was for a call to reason; striking Negro city sanitation workers already were in a rebellious mood.

Rev. King knew that the Memphis march could push the tense situation above the boiling point. He had made advance plans for this. When 20 or 30 youths broke away from the march of some 6000 Negroes and started smashing windows and looting, King sprinted down a sidewalk to an awaiting automobile and sped away.

It seems to us this was but one of many instances where the Kings, the Carmichaels and the Browns have hotfooted it to safety and then blamed everyone but themselves for events of a "long, hot summer." Obviously summer is not needed, nor the reason for such riotous outbreaks.

It is time that all Americans look at Martin Luther King and see him not as they wish him to be, but as he is. By his actions he is proving to be one of the most menacing men in America today.

Rev. King is more dangerous than Stokely Carmichael because of his non-violence masquerade. He continues to talk non-violence even as it erupts all about him. He purports to be genuinely distressed when it breaks out after his incendiary speeches or during marches he leads.

This deception no longer hoodwinks intelligent Americans. Still Rev. King goes on. Memphis could be only the prelude to a massive bloodbath in the national capital in several weeks as Rev. King moves ahead with plans for a "camp-in" of 3000 Negroes to pressure Congress into passing a special \$20 billion welfare program for the poor, including a guaranteed income.

In an attempt to enforce his dictates on Congress, King has said his "Poor People's Army" may stage sit-ins at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor. As a "last resort," he says he may use "human barricades" to block the bridges and other arteries coming into Washington in order to halt the machinery of government in Washington, D.C.

Rev. King also has been reported meeting with black power militant H. Rap Brown and with Stokely Carmichael, who toured the Communist world vowing to overthrow the "imperialist, capitalist, racist structure of the United States."

A King lieutenant is quoted as saying, "It may be necessary to create such disruption and disturbance in the system that it will have to reform itself or destroy us."

The Johnson Administration, of course, should not permit Martin Luther King to carry out this seditious "camp-in." Every government has the inherent duty to protect itself, and ours had better not lose any more time in exercising this fundamental obligation.

This is not a matter of race. Responsible Negroes have disavowed Rev. King.

In criticizing King's plans for the "camp-in," Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told the Reader's Digest that King is "bowing to the trend" of rights militants to give once peaceful demonstrations an "alarming twist."

"Today," says Wilkins, "the goal seems to be not the exercise of freedom to dissent, but the disruption of services to other citizens. Obviously, there is present today the threat of bodily harm. This is not freedom of speech but Mafia-like dictatorship."

This is the real Martin Luther King—a man who stoops to using anti-Democratic and dictatorial means to try to force his will on the highest legislative body in the United States, a man who hides behind a facade of "non-violence" as he provokes violence.

Rev. King has lost all claim to being a responsible leader of his people. Unless he is checked, he could wipe out most of the impressive civil rights gains made by Negroes in recent years and further divide Americans at a time when unity and moderation are desperately needed.