

MARCH 28, 1968 (Thursday) continued

In an Article in the Commercial Appeal of 4/1/68 captioned: *King Sees Fascist America If Riot Conditions Continue* Martin LUTHER KING JR., admitted that the rioting in Memphis on March 28, 1968 forced a delay in his planned poor people's march on Washington. 288)

Do short the effect of the March 28, 1968 disorders on the career of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., as a Negro leader was negative; and criticism of his behavior and practices as a leader kept coming in from both the black and white communities following the Memphis Disorders.

In the Press Scimitar of 3/29/68, Bill Evans in a story captioned: *A Dark Night in Memphis Filled with Fires and Looting*, summarizes the events of March 28, 1968. He quotes Asst. Chief U. T. Bartholomew, a 26 yr. Veteran with the Memphis Police Department as saying, "It was probably the worst night since I have been on the Police Force." He reports too, approximately 150 fires. He also reports on the effectiveness of the Tactical Units patrolling the City, and notes that Liquor stores seemed to be one of the favorite targets of the looters. Many arrests were made and the effectiveness of Tactical Unit Patrol was perceptible even on the night of March 28, 1968. 289)

MARCH 29, 1968 (Friday)

Instances of threats, vandalism and harassment continued to come into the Police Department at an increased rate through the day of 3/29/68. At 9:45AM 3/29/68 a Police car was shot at in front of 2090 Ryals. 290)

Intelligence sources reported that there was a plan on the part of demonstrators to use ammonia as a counter measure against the Police for their use of Mace during the riots. 291)

At 12:10PM 3/29/68 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. held a press conference at the Rivermont Hotel, in which he announced that he planned to return to Memphis April 3, 1968, and that there would be a massive march in the City which would be peaceful. He further announced that the sidewalk marches and protests would be continued until then. He blamed the Police for the Disorder on Beale Street., He left Memphis via Eastern Airlines for Atlanta at 3:20PM 3/29/68. 292)

MARCH 28, 1968 (Thursday) continued.

At 12:13PM Officers found a crowd of approx. 250 in front of Clayborn Temple interfering with their attempts to get the women and children out of the temple. At 12:18PM Director Frank C. Holloman asked that the Temple be closed. At 12:19PM REV. H. RALPH JACKSON said that people would leave the temple if the Police left the area. At ~~12:22PM~~ 12:22PM Firemen answering a Fire call to Fourth and Vance found 50 to 75 youths interfering with them. At 12:23PM A public address system was ordered to Clayborn Temple. At 12:24PM Chief J. C. MacDonald ordered officers at Clayborn Temple to give people plenty of time to leave. At 12:25PM Burglary & Looting was reported in the area of Mississippi and Walker, and Mississippi and Vance. At 12:45PM Looting was reported at Sears at 900 S. Third, and groups at Hernando and Linden were reported breaking windows. At 12:51PM Police were ordered away from Clayborn Temple as the people there were harassing the officers., and an officer was injured at 243 Hernando, and an ambulance was called. At 12:52PM Larry Payne, a young Male Negro looter, was shot fatally at 900 S. Fourth, after he drew a knife and attacked an officer. At 12:54PM Looting was reported at 906 S. Third. At 12:59PM groups leaving Clayborn Temple started throwing rocks at the officers in the area. 273)

At 1:01PM March 28, 1968 assistance was sent to the officers at Clayborn Temple, and at 1:02PM the officers asked permission to use tear gas IN FRONT of Clayborn Temple, where unruly crowds were blocking their entry to the Temple. At 1:06PM Governor Ellington authorized a curfew for the City of Memphis. This followed the request by Director Frank Holloman to Mayor Loeb that a curfew be placed.

At 1:06PM the Cleaners at Mississippi and Georgia reported they were being looted. At 1:11PM A Police car called for assistance at Lauderdale & Porter, at 1:13PM Looting was reported at 346 Vance; and at 1:16PM Officers were accused of invading Clayborn Temple and using tear gas. However, the officers at the scene denied this. At 1:20PM Bus service was discontinued. At 1:20PM 20 -30 were arrested at Booker T. Washington High School. At 1:26PM Rev. H. RALPH JACKSON requested that Mr. Frank Holloman come to Clayborn Temple. At 1:30PM Looting was reported at Fourth and Vance, and at 1:45PM Negro Youths were reported starting fires at Hernando & Fourth. At 1:51PM Looting was reported at Decatur and Ayers, and at 2:02PM Police Helicopter #421, observed broken windows at Lane and Ayers and Lane & Decatur., and at 2:03PM a Molotov cocktail was reported thrown, starting a fire at 4th and Vance. At 2:06PM a looter was apprehended at Vance and Hernando, and at 2:08PM tear gas was used to disperse a group at Linden and Danny Thomas. And at the same time a disturbance was reported at 1333 Florida, and at 2:09PM a crowd had to be dispersed at Fourth and Beale. 274)

APRIL 3, 1968 (Wednesday) continued.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. deplaned in Memphis at 10:33AM April 3, 1968. He was met by local S. C. L. C. (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) leaders JAMES MORRIS LAWSON JR., and MRS. THOMAS MATTHEWS, who were approached by the Security Detail sent to the airport by the Memphis Police Department, and MRS THOMAS MATTHEWS told Lt. G. K. Davis of the Security Detail, when he asked her if she had made the arrangements to transport Dr. King wherever he wanted to go, "we have not invited no police if that is what you mean" inferring that the Security Detail was not welcome, and at no time would she tell Detective Lt. Davis what her plans were, or what they were going to do.

Later while following MRS. MATTHEWS and the REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. down the hallway to Mrs. Matthews car, Lt. Davis overheard MRS MATTHEWS tell DR. KING, "we are just not receiving any Police cooperation." and DR. KING was overheard making the answer, "Well, as soon as I get time, I will see what I can do about it." (35)

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., held a short Press Conference at the Airport after which he started for the main lobby from Gate #17 where he had deplaned, and while he was walking down the Hall way, INSPECTOR DON. H. SMITH, who was in charge of the Security Detail approached REV. JAMES MORRIS LAWSON JR., and after identifying himself, asked REV. LAWSON where they were going after leaving the airport, to which Rev. James Morris Lawson Jr., answered. "We have not fully made up our minds." (36)

At no time was police protection asked for by DR. KING'S group, and the Security Detail simply followed the automobiles carrying DR. KING, and his party to the Lorraine Motel. The detail secured all entrances to the Lorraine Motel staying there until he left the Lorraine Motel at 12:05PM to go to a meeting at the Centenary Methodist Church, and after this meeting returned following Dr. King's party which returned to the Lorraine Motel. (37)

At the time INSPECTOR DON. H. SMITH, spoke with REV. JAMES MORRIS LAWSON JR., at the Municipal Airport, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING was right beside Rev. Lawson, and Inspector Smith explained to him at that time that he was in charge of a Security Detail sent there by the Memphis Police Department for the purpose of protecting Dr. King. (38)

APRIL 3, 1968 (Wednesday) continued

Members of the Invaders (local Black activist group) were noted around the Lorraine Motel between 1:25PM and 6:30PM April 3, 1968. At 2:25PM Federal Officers were noted around the Lorraine Motel, and at 2:45PM Federal Marshalls served the injunction restraining DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING from Marching in Memphis. At 2:50PM American Civil Liberties Union Lawyers, LUCIUS BURCH, DAVID CAYWOOD, et al. arrived at the Lorraine Motel along with REV. JAMES MORRIS LAWSON JR., and REV. SAMUEL KYLES and JESSE EPPS and at 3:17PM there was a Black Power meeting at the Motel. (339)

At the mass meeting at Mason Temple for April 3, 1968 in speeches preceding those of X DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING to an audience of approx. 2000, the REV. JAMES MORRIS LAWSON JR., stated that the shooting of LARRY PAYNE (who was shot during the looting 3/28/68) was cold blooded murder, and pointed out the Policemen in the audience at which time Detective E. E. Redditt, and Plt. W. B. Richmond left the audience. Threats against the life of both of these officers were made on April 3, 1968. MRS. THOMAS (TARLEASE) MATTHEWS had threatened Detective Redditt when he was there in the Security Detail on the Arrival of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. in Memphis 4/3/68. (340)

In a speech at the Mass Meeting at Mason Temple April 3, 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King addressed about 2000 persons, and pleaded for unity. He stated that the injunction would not stop the march, and made an address which many regard as his own obituary for his own death. (341)