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Mr. FAUNTROY. And your recollection is that it never occurred to you to do that?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. That is my recollection that it did not occur to me at that time to do it, myself. I was depending upon the commanding officer of the police department to do what was necessary under the circumstances.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. McKinney.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Holloman, my colleague from Connecticut and my colleague from Washington have covered most of these points, but I want to clarify two basic things that bother me.

One of the reasons this committee sits here spending the taxpayers' money is because a great many people have written that there was either a conspiracy or complicity on the part of the Memphis Police Department and the FBI in the assassination of Martin Luther King.

I remember, though it was 10 years ago, the municipal strike in Memphis as a really rare occurrence. Municipal employees didn't make a daily habit of going out on strike 10 years ago. What even made it more incredible was that it was a Black against white, and it was basically the poor against the city establishment, and it was a daily subject of conversation in the eastern press, making the headlines.

You sat with J. Edgar Hoover, and I understand from your testimony that you interpreted his jottings on memorandum and so on to make sure they were carried out; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I have had the experience on this committee of reading many of Mr. Hoover's jottings, and his jottings for not even making a telephone call were northern Siberia. Yet here you had a police department that totally failed to function when a national leader was killed. You stayed on until November of 1970, and nobody was demoted, fired, removed or anything else. Why?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. As I have already testified, I cannot explain that, sir. I would say that it was a dereliction on my part that I didn't.

I would like to say that in the first part of your comments regarding the activities of the committee, that Mark Lane has made the allegation or made the original allegation that the conspiracy evolved itself around the fact that I removed Detective Redditt from the security detail. I heard Detective Redditt's testimony over the radio this morning in which he stated that he had nothing whatsoever to do with the security.

Mr. MCKINNEY. All right, I worked very hard this morning eliciting from Detective Redditt that he was never really on a security detail except when he presumed he was on at the airport, that he was in fact a Black officer hired essentially to report, to the police department the activities of those surrounding Martin Luther King, those of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and those surrounding the sanitation strike. But what I am trying to say, Mr. Holloman, is that we have to somehow or other on this committee make a decision as to what happened.