

5-113a ((9-29-65))


Domestic Intelligence Division

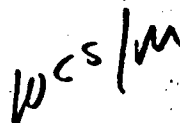
INFORMATIVE NOTE


Date 3/28/68

The attached specifically relates to Martin Luther King's involvement in the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, Tennessee, the mass march which occurred 3/28/68, and resulting violence. When violence began King said "I've got to get out of here," and departed scene. A separate summary teletype has been sent to you relating to the violence which occurred today, 3/28/68, in Memphis Tennessee.

A copy of attached has been sent Inter-Division Information Unit of Department, and Attorney General. Pertinent parts of same to be included in racial summary teletype to White House, military, and other appropriate agencies.


JFM:chs




157-9146-34

FBI WASH DC

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

MAR 28 1968

TELETYPE

FBI MEMPHIS

813PM URGENT 3/28/68 CAF

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS (157-1092) 4P

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

W.C. Sullivan
McLean
John
W.C. Sullivan
T. J. [unclear]

① SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE, MEMPHIS, TENN. *Racial Matter*

RE MEMPHIS TELS MARCH TWENTY EIGHT.

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MASS ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED STRIKE WHICH BEGAN FEB. TWELVE, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT.

ON MARCH TWENTY EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, LT. E. H. ARKIN ADVISED THAT SOON AFTER STRIKE STARTED, A GROUP OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE NEGRO MINISTERS CONNECTED WITH MEMPHIS INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE FORMED A STRIKE SUPPORT GROUP KNOWN AS "COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE FOR EQUALITY" (COME).

THIS GROUP SPONSORED DAILY MARCHES IN DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS AND BOYCOTTING OF DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS IN EFFORT TO FORCE CITY TO GIVE CONCESSIONS TO STRIKERS. THE COME GROUP INVITED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND SOME OF HIS SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) TO COME TO MEMPHIS TO SUPPORT STRIKE.

ESTIMATED TWELVE THOUSAND PEOPLE AT MARCH EIGHTEEN RALLY IN SON TEMPLE. MARCH TWENTY-FIVE, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT ISSUED A STATE DEFENDER REPORTED PORTIONS OF KING'S SPEECH. HE HAD COME TO ESCALATE PRESSURE IN SUPPORT OF STRIKERS AND THAT

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TIME HAD COME TO SET ASIDE A DAY FOR A GENERAL WORK STOPPAGE AND BOYCOTT OF SCHOOLS SO MOST STUDENTS AND WORKERS ALIKE COULD PREVENT MEMPHIS FROM FUNCTIONING. HE SAID THAT NOTHING IS EVER DONE WITHOUT THE APPLICATION OF PRESSURE. HE SAID, "AMERICA HAS GIVEN THE BLACK MAN A CHECK THAT HAS BEEN BOUNCING ALL AROUND AND I WANT IT BACKED UP WITH MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL RESERVE. ANYBODY WITH EYES CAN TELL THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS NATION. WE ARE SPENDING FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO KILL ONE VIET CONG AND ONLY FIFTY THREE DOLLARS A PERSON TO FIGHT POVERTY." HE TOLD THE NEGROES THEY WOULD HAVE POWER WHEN THEY COULD MAKE MEMPHIS MAYOR HENRY LOEB SAY, "YES" WHEN HE WOULD RATHER SAY "NO." HE ASKED THE CROWD, "WHAT PROFIT WAS IT FOR A MAN TO GET THE RIGHT TO EAT AT AN INTEGRATED LUNCH COUNTER WHEN HE DID NOT HAVE MONEY FOR A HAMBURGER AND CUP OF COFFEE OR TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO STOP AT A MOTEL WHEN ONE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO TAKE A VACATION; IT IS NOTHING SHORT OF CRIMINAL FOR A MAN TO WORK FULL TIME AND RECEIVE A PART TIME INCOME." HE PREDICTED THAT AMERICA WOULD GO TO HELL IF IT DID NOT USE ITS VAST WEALTH TO END POVERTY. THEREAFTER, KING AND THE COME GROUP CALLED FOR A MASS MARCH IN DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS MARCH TWENTY TWO. ARKIN ADDED THAT THIS MARCH CANCELLED DUE TO SIXTEEN

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PAGE THREE

INCH SNOW STORM RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH TWENTY EIGHT. HE SAID THE MARCH STARTED ABOUT ELEVEN AM, MARCH TWENTY EIGHT. KING MADE NO SPEECHES PRIOR TO MARCH AND IN FACT DID NOT JOIN IT UNTIL IT HAD PROGRESSED ABOUT ONE BLOCK. HE WALKED WITH NEWSMEN AND OTHER MINISTERS TO INTERSECTION OF MAIN AND BEALE STREETS. THERE HE BECAME AWARE THAT RAMPANT BREAKING OF STORE FRONT WINDOWS AND LOOTING WAS BEING PERPETRATED BY MARCHERS BEHIND HIM. HE TOLD ONE MINISTER, "I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE." KING, ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL ASSOCIATES, RAN AHEAD TO MC CALL AND MAIN STREET, JUMPED INTO A CAR AND DROVE ONE BLOCK WEST TO FRONT AND MC CALL WHERE THEY INDUCED MEMPHIS PD LT. M. E. NICHOLS TO ESCORT THEM TO VERMONT MOTEL SEVERAL MILES SOUTHWEST OF TROUBLE AREA, WHERE HE REGISTERED IN AT ELEVEN TWENTY FOUR AM. ARKIN SAID KING AND ASSOCIATES REMAINED IN ROOM ALL AFTERNOON.

AFTER SPORADIC LOOTING CONTINUED ALL AFTERNOON, AND THIRTY FIVE HUNDRED NATIONAL GUARDSMEN PLACED ON DUTY IN MEMPHIS AND THE IMPOSITION OF A SEVEN PM CURFEW, ARKIN SAID KING IN A TAPED T.V. INTERVIEW SAID HE DID NOT FINISH WHAT HE STARTED TO DO. HE DIDN'T REPORT. KING'S ASSOCIATE, REV. RALPH D. ABERNATHY, APPEALED TO STRIKERS AND STRIKE SYMPATHIZERS TO STAY OFF STREET BUT DID NOT

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TELL YOUTH TO STAY OFF STREET. REV. JAMES M. LAWSON, JR., "COME"
LEADER, CALLED FOR ADDITIONAL MARCHES MARCH TWENTY NINE AND
MARCH THIRTY.

END

BAP

FBI WASH DC

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Included in letter to White House
and Attorney General. Date 3/29/68

CSB

CROR- MR- Bishop
W. J. Trainor