

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

One Fatality During a Storm of Rioting

The single fatality in yesterday's wild day of window-smashings, looting, beatings—and at least one stabbing—was Larry Payne, 16, Negro, of 3023 Parker Road, W. P. Huston, chief of detectives, said.

Frank Holloman, director of fire and police, said Payne was killed while looting a store on South Fourth and after he attacked the ar-

resting officer with a butcher knife.

Three persons telephoned The Press-Scimitar with parallel versions of how Payne died. All reported that the youth was shot at the Fowler Homes housing project about two blocks from the store.

John Stinson Nolan, 17, of 878 S. Fourth, in the project, said:

"Larry Payne was coming

out a door of a work room or repair room in the project.

"He threw up his hands. He had them up before he came out the door. Larry stood there. The policeman put a gun in his stomach and pulled the trigger. It was a shotgun. Larry's hands were still above his head."

Willie Smith, 25, a concrete worker of 221 Jones, said he was at Fowler

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Homes to see his mother how lives there.

Smith gave this version:

"Larry Payne was standing against the wall with his hands in the air. The cop went up and pushed the gun in his stomach. The gun went off."

Asked if the gun fired accidentally, Smith replied:

"I don't know whether it was accidental or not. It went off. That's all I know."

HOUSEWIFE

Mrs. Letha Spears, 32, housewife of 378 S. Fourth, said she was upstairs on the porch of her apartment. "I was looking down and saw it all," she related.

"The boy (Larry Payne) ran up with the police car behind him. The boy ran in the door and one policeman got out of the car with a shotgun. The policeman hollered, 'Come out. If you don't come out I'll shoot the door down.' The boy came out with his hands up. The policeman shot him."

Told the substance of the foregoing versions, Holloman declared:

"The man was shot after being caught in the act of

looting and trying to attack a police officer with a knife . . .

"That is the information I have. And I have no reason to believe other than that."

Standing by Holloman as he spoke was Phil Canale, county attorney general.

THE BEGINNING

Memphis' day of anguish began bright and clear. Trouble wasn't long coming.

Police, called to a disturbance at predominantly Negro Hamilton School, 1478 Wilson, were met by a shower of grapefruit-sized rocks and bottles.

Officers, soon leaping in the air to avoid bouncing rocks, watched projectiles smash squad car windows, and after 10 minutes of bombardment, charged.

Policemen were credited with using restraint in dealing with the students.

The crowd of school children fled when charged, then regrouped and began marching downtown to join the King-led demonstration scheduled to start from Clayborn Temple.

At the temple, a large

crowd had gathered. Obscene words were being shouted. Many youngsters in the crowd were armed with pipes, clubs and ax handles.

In different parts of the city small groups of Negroes armed with clubs and sticks—moved toward the route of march.

About 10:22 King's plane landed at Metropolitan Airport.

Shortly thereafter, the brief march started, and quickly turned into a tornado.

Thousands carried 'I Am a Man' signs.

As the march moved from Beale to Main, parade marshals tried to get the people marching ahead of King to stop and wait.

Suddenly the tornado of

violence touched down, and Beale Street glass splintered.

The crowd moved in march form along both sides of the street, and the head of the line opened. Front-rank marchers began throwing clubs into store windows. Marchers on the sidelines ran into the stores, looted, and returned to the line. The sides and rear of the line remained solid, preventing policemen or police cars from entering their ranks.

Windows smashed. At Willie's Drive In Liquors, 241 Linden, a man rushed out with an armload of whisky bottles.

Youths, including girls, broke glass.

Bricks and bottles flew.

At 11:30 march leaders decided to turn the marchers back.

Dr. King broke from the

procession, got into an old car and sped away on Front Street to the Holiday Inn-Rivermont.

Later, at a news conference, King said he had felt violence in the air. He blamed it on conditions in the city.

TEAR GAS

On Main Street, Councilman Jerred Blanchard, running south, asked about the smoke in the air. Told it was tear gas, he said:

"Oh, God."

From then on it was pandemonium.

On Beale and parts of Main looters ran wild, glass exploded and the crowd surged from one side of the street to the other.

Lt. Williams, standing on Beale with a walkie-talkie, "was pushed through a window.

By now, Beale looked like a battleground."

At Holloman's request, Mayor Loeb telephoned Gov. Buford Ellington, asking for National Guard troops. Guardsmen began arriving in Memphis by mid-afternoon. The governor's private plane took off for Memphis.

Then charges of police brutality were heard.

"Police charged into the crowd, clubbing and gassing everyone in sight," said Harold C. Moore, Negro real estate agent.

Squire Jesse Turner, Memphis NAACP president, said he watched police beat a Negro man, M. G. Williams, 20.

"It was one of the most brutal attacks I've ever seen," Turner said.

At noon police formed a wedge at Beale and Hernan-

do and moved east, clearing sidewalks, restaurants and pool halls along the way, in some cases, officers went inside and put customers out bodily.

Said Clark Porteous, Press-Scimitar reporter, in reference to brutality charges:

"I saw police take a lot, in the way of bricks and bottles. I didn't see any police brutality. Many of the officers were taking a lot, and doing it bravely."

STORES CLOSED

At 12:15 Mayor Loeb ordered all Memphis liquor stores closed.

Three bus drivers were hurt, one stabbed. Memphis Transit Authority pulled its buses off the streets.

Looting continued, here and there.

Payne was shot.

Participants in the march, told Brown Alan Flynn, Press-Scimitar staff writer, that radical elements, not marchers, started the riot when they became angered by the order to turn the march around.

The swirl of violence continued, and between 1:30 and 1:45, Loeb's Laundry, 348 Vance, was hit by a fire bomb. police near Clayborn Temple were targets of rocks and bottles, the G&B Sundry and Grocery, 989 Looney, was looted.

COUNCIL MEETS

Later, City Council met in urgent session, and heard Holloman report:

"Without the highway patrol and deputies we couldn't have controlled the situation. I think you should realize what the police department did. They used restraint."

Negro Council members, Fred Davis, Rev. James Netters and J. O. Patterson, were present. Netters said he saw police do some things they shouldn't have done but also saw some good police work. He blamed the trouble on "Black Power" young men.

STATEMENT

Later Loeb made his statement, invoking the curfew:

"When the march, which was permitted, degenerated into a riot, abandoned by its leaders, the police with my full sanction, took the necessary action to restore law and order, and to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Memphis."

"The police are continuing and will continue to do so with the aid of the sheriff of Shelby County and his officers; Gov. Ellington's repre-

sentative; Claude Armour; the Highway Patrol and National Guard units which are presently in the city."

"By the authority invested in me as Mayor and jointly with Sheriff Morris as sheriff of Shelby County, there is hereby ordered and invoked a curfew which requires that all citizens be off the streets of the City of Memphis by 7 p.m. tonight (Thursday) and remain off the streets until 5 a.m. Persons on the streets during these hours, who do not have legitimate business, or emergency reasons, will be subject to arrest.

"What needs to be done will be done."

"Meanwhile, as further information is received and confirmed, you will be kept fully informed."

Shortly thereafter, Guardsmen were being fanned out over most of the city.