

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Sullivan

DATE: 3/28/68

FROM : G. C. Moore *han*

SUBJECT: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
RACIAL MATTERS

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| Tolson | _____ |
| DeLoach | _____ |
| Mohr | _____ |
| Bishop | _____ |
| Casper | _____ |
| Callahan | _____ |
| Conrad | _____ |
| Felt | _____ |
| Gale | _____ |
| Rosen | _____ |
| Sullivan | _____ |
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| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Holmes | _____ |
| Gandy | _____ |

C. Moore

A sanitation workers strike has been going on in Memphis for some time. Martin Luther King, Jr., today led a march composed of 5,000 to 6,000 people through the streets of Memphis. King was in an automobile preceding the marchers. As the march developed, acts of violence and vandalism broke out including the breaking of windows in stores and some looting.

This clearly demonstrates that acts of so-called nonviolence advocated by King cannot be controlled. The same thing could happen in his planned massive civil disobedience for Washington in April.

ACTION:

REC-19

EX-105

157-9146-38
APR 2 1968

Attached is a blind memorandum pointing out the above, which if you approve, should be made available by Crime Records Division to cooperative news media sources.

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

TDR: fhd (6)

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Deakin

(on a strictly confidential basis)

wied.

OK

D. Deakin

APR 5 1968

Handled pm 3/28/68

RACIAL INT. SECT.

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-101670-1

Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, injected himself into the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, Tennessee, and the result of King's famous espousal of nonviolence was vandalism, looting, and riot.

Previously, King involved himself in this strike, called for a general strike, and called for a mass march. Today he led the mass march in an automobile at the head of the line. Negroes began shouting "black power" and trouble began. King, apparently unable or unwilling to control the marchers, absented himself from the scene; window breaking and looting broke out.

Police officers were forced to use gas to break up the march and to control the crowd. It was necessary to activate the National Guard. Martin Luther King claims his much-heralded march on Washington, scheduled for April 22, 1968, will also be "nonviolent." He says he has persuaded militant black nationalists to abandon violent extremism in Washington, D. C., during the march. Memphis may only be the prelude to civil strife in our Nation's Capitol.

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APR 4 1968
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157-9146-38
ENCLOSURE

~~1576-1-1381~~

SANITATION
WORKERS
STRIKE

157-9146-X39

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

if this provoked arrest.

On March 19, 1968, Lt. E. H. Arkin, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and Inspector G. P. Tines, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, advised that there had been no known arrests on the part of people throwing themselves in front of sanitation trucks, and there was considerable activity scheduled for March 19, 1968, namely, a mass march on the part of strikers and strike sympathizers to the Memphis City Hall to attend the weekly meeting of the Memphis City Council which begins at 2:30 p.m.

Lt. Arkin stated that the strikers who have daily meetings at the Firestone union hall plan to arrive early in order to obtain some of the 407 spectator seats in the City Council chambers, and another group of sympathizers will march from Clayborn AME Temple, 280 Hernando, to the City Hall single file on the sidewalks.

Lt. Arkin stated that King and his group stayed at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, a predominantly Negro motel, during the night of March 18, 1968, and shortly before noon, King left, ostensibly to go to the state of Mississippi in connection with his "Poor People's Camp-in." Arkin stated that Ralph D. Abernathy remained in Memphis and was conferring with some of the ministerial leaders who are supporting the strike, namely, James Morris Lawson Jr., Dr. H. Ralph Jackson, and others.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



JAMES BEVEL

Bevel, in early March 1966, was observed to be present at the offices of the West Side W. E. B. DuBois Club in Chicago (DCA). Discussion took place at this time centering around reaction to a recent notification that the Attorney General of the United States intended to label the DuBois Clubs as a Communist front. Bevel, in conversation, stated that he would have ignored this notification and kept about

SANITATION
WORKERS
STRIKE

157-9146-X39

**SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

REV. JAMES MORRIS LAWSON JR.

On May 9, 1967, source four advised that on a WHBQ-TV panel discussion on Sunday, April 30, 1967, Rev. James Morris Lawson Jr., Negro male, pastor of the Centenary Methodist Church, Memphis, and who had been a leader in the April 1967 demonstrations in Memphis opposing United States policy in Vietnam, was asked by Panelist Clark Porteous, "Press-Scimitar" reporter, if he, Lawson, was a Communist. Lawson replied that he was not a member of the Communist Party, but he felt that the Communist program had many good points and much to offer the United States.

Source three advised that Rev. James Morris Lawson was one of the original founders of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960 and has since that time been considered as a leader in so-called nonviolent tactics and source recalled that constantly during April, May, June and July 1967, Lawson regularly participated as a leader in demonstrations in Memphis opposing United States policy in Vietnam.

As recently as February 23, 1968, source three advised that Lawson was preparing to make a trip to Czechoslovakia.

On the same date, source five advised that Lawson had stated on that date that he planned to leave the United States at New York, New York, March 28, 1968, to go to Belgium, Germany and Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he could be a delegate to a Christian Peace Conference. The date of the Conference is not known but was presumed by source to be probably in late March or early April 1968.

On March 8, 1968, source four advised that during the television program, "Press Conference," on Sunday, March 3, 1968, at 12:30 p.m., on WHBQ-TV Channel 13 in Memphis, Tennessee, Rev. James Morris Lawson Jr. was