

February 17

[1966]

Meeting was scheduled for tonight at 361 Magnolia in the rear ~~wh~~ in the ~~w~~ section called ~~Light~~ Lightning. A meeting had been held there on Monday. When people arrived they were told by the man who lived in the house that ~~he~~ he didn't want them to hold the meeting there. Mr. Shaffer had been to his house the ~~ay~~ day after the first meeting and apparently warned him that if he held any more meetings he would end up out in the street. Mr. Williams went around from house to house asking if anyone would allow the meeting to be held in their house, but ~~n~~ everyone seemed afraid. Some even refused to talk to him. The group, made of Markham Area and Vine City Council people and one woman from Lightning gathered on Magnolia street and began to hold a street meeting. After ~~it~~ ~~an~~ prayer and song, the group gathered in front of a house where a group of men were standing on the porch. Mr. Williams addressed the group, saying that they ~~must~~ stand up and fight for decent housing. That they had been living in these kind of houses for too long—houses with holes and leaks, houses without heat or electricity. He said this was a battle so that our children would not have to be raised up like we were. One of the ~~men~~ on the porch replied ~~that~~ that he wasn't interested in ending up in the street. That he had no complaints against ~~Joe~~ Joe Shaffer. That he could go even two months without paying rent and Shaffer would not throw him out. He said his house ~~didn't~~ didn't leak and didn't have any rats. He said that Shaffer paid him \$2.85 an hour and besides he wasn't going to fight Joe Shaffer because where would he live. He had to look out for his family. Williams and others replied that it was time ~~for~~ people stood up against Joe Shaffer, that they were already living in the streets for all the shelter the houses they were now living in provided. After some more exchange, the group sang some more songs and marched down Magnolia street to Northside where they dispersed.