

Director

INSP. DON H. SMITH

FROM: DET. J. C. DAVIS  
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October 27, 1969

NAACP MARCH, LOCAL 1733  
AND RELATED GROUPS

Oct. 25, 1969 the NAACP LOCAL 1733 and related groups formed at Clayborn Temple at 10:15 AM and began to move out at approximately 11:35 AM. The following is a chronological description of the march.

At 10:15 AM arrived at Clayborn Temple at which time we observed the following people known to this Department.

JAMES SMITH  
WILLIAM DAWKINS  
BENNY LANG  
THOMAS NELSON

GAIL HENTZ  
CATHY ROOT  
MICHAEL WELCH

There were approximately forty (40) persons observed in front of Clayborn Temple.

10:35 AM We observed MALCOMB BLACKBURN leave the Minimum Salary Building and go into Clayborn Temple; REV. JOHNSON and WALTER HEARN were also observed.

10:38 AM We observed JOE WARREN and REV. JACKSON in front of Clayborn Temple. Approximately one hundred and twenty-five (125) people had gathered in front of Clayborn Temple.

10:45 AM We observed the following in front of Clayborn Temple:

MYRTLE SYKES  
FATHER MAHONEY  
BOB BOLB  
ROOSEVELT JOYNER  
DENNIS HENDERSON

MARVIN WOMACK  
TERESA MANGOLD  
MELVIN WADE  
FATHER MARTIN  
(NUN) FW, St. Joseph picketeer

10:50 AM IDA 4 observed REV. H. RALPH JACKSON standing in front of Richmond Bros. Clothing Store.

11:00 AM Crowd began coming out of Clayborn Temple at which time we observed the following:

GEORGE PRYOR  
FATHER MARTIN

WILBURT JAMES, @T.C.  
FATHER LYTE

11:25 AM The group formed for the march in the middle of the street at Hernando and Linden with approximately 260 participating.

At approximately 11:35 AM the marchers started moving out north on Hernando led by JESSE EPPS, MALCOLM BLACKBURN, FATHER LYTE, WILLIAM DAWKINS, JAMES SMITH, REV. H. RALPH JACKSON, REV. DONSON, and JOE WARREN (driving a black & red cadillac).

Other known participants in the march were:

JAMES WADE  
KATIE SEXTON  
OTIS PARNELL  
YVONNE ACEY  
MARLENE HERRON  
MURRAY ERVIN  
PEARL ELLIS  
KNOWLEDGE DAVIS

RAYBURN HAWKINS (schoolteacher)  
CHARLES GILDERSLEEVE (Vista)  
MRS. RUFUS THOMAS  
CYDE NEAL  
CALVIN TAYLOR  
JACK SIMPSON  
MINERVA JOHNICAN  
W. L. WILLIAMS

12:30 PM The marchers arrived at City Hall where a public address system was set up. JAMES SMITH told the group, "Let's sing real loud where we can disturb the peace; so we can go to jail, but they (police) are to smart to do that".

12:45 PM The last of the group arrived at City Hall. At this time THOMAS NELSON led the group in a song and a chant.

12:50 PM JESSE EPPS introduced the speakers who spoke in the following order:

The FIRST speaker was DR. ROBBS from Flint, Michagan who stated theeyes of the world are on Memphis and we must be more than our brother's keeper; We must be our brother's brother. When you are your brother's keeper you can let little children go hungry and exploit your fellowman, but when you are your brother's brother, you cannot do this.

The second speaker was FATHER LYTE who stated DR. ROBBS has again held up to our minds the philosophy of DR. KING who said, "We must give a whole new value of our society". FATHER LYTE further stated when speaking of the police, we are talking about more than adding new police, we are talking about the way they look at people.

The THIRD speaker was JESSE EPPS who stated when the White Citizen Council made their statement about White Monday, there was not one word from HOLLOMAN or LUX; it makes us wonder if they are holding meetings with the Council. There is a hard and difficult road ahead, this town has not learned. Remember, DR. KING said, "Freedom will not be given, it must be taken". Memphis we will be your conscience even if some of us have to be moved over.

The FOURTH speaker was FATHER MARTIN who stated this town is sick and will not be healed without pain.

The FIFTH speaker was REV. R. JACKSON who stated that there is a trick in this town. They are trying to disturb us about numbers, all black people must be together. The schoolboard stated they will arrest the parents of children who stay out of school, that's a lie.

The SIXTH speaker was EZEKIEL BELL who stated that as president of NAACP, I ask you to keep your children out of school this Monday and the following Black Monday, November 3, will be a Legal Holiday; and no one that is black will go to work. We are holding a mass meeting on 10-26-69 at Mt. Olive Church where we will have a young black man who had his leg shot off in Vietnam and was beaten by five or six policemen.

The SEVENTH speaker was REV. LAWSON who stated there are some black people in the community who are against the movement; they are saying there will be trouble. We must go home and call people and ask them to join the movement.

At approximately 1:07 PM EZEKIEL BELL arrived at City Hall.

At approximately 1:20 PM REV. LAWSON, MAXINE SMITH and JOSEPH CRITTENDEN were seen to arrive at City Hall.

Many of the marchers appeared to be under the influence of an intoxicant. REV. JACKSON could not control the actions of some of the marchers.

2:10 PM Marchers formed and returned to the Temple. WILBURT JAMES, OTIS PARNELL and a MN who appeared to be intoxicated left the assembly and went to the 100 N. Main Bldg. PARNELL and JAMES returned to the crowd.

At 2:31 PM as the end of the marchers passed the 100 N. Main Bldg. a bottle was thrown from the second floor which struck a squad car.

At Main and McCall a MN approximately 8 yrs. old left the march and attacked a small MN who was selling newspapers on the side walk. The uniform officers contained the incident. OTIS PARNELL was seen talking to this MN and four other MNS before this incident occurred.

Approximately 3:00 PM the marchers arrived at Clayborn Temple; At which time we observed WILLIE BURNS, JOE CALHOUN and ARLANDER WARMSLEY @TONY WARREN.

3:30 PM The crowd came out of the Clayborn Temple and dispersed.

CC:

1--Director  
1--Chief  
File

SE:MM/fo