

INTERVIEWER: Kenneth King  
RESPONDENT: John L. Frazier

#### INTERVIEW

John L. Frazier, disc jockey from KPRS during the time of the march. He entered the march on Troost Lake with the purpose, - his original purpose in entering the march was to divert the students going to City Hall to Holy Name Church, where he had records and a record player set up. He noticed that - at first he went through the lines to try to get " a feel" of what the kids were - of how the kids felt and what they were up to. He saw that most of the students were just going along to see what was happening. They really didn't care about going to City Hall, but they wanted to go to see what was going to happen - so he mentioned this to them and the idea seemed to - the idea of going to Holy Name seemed to catch on pretty well. When he mentioned to the leaders - to the people he called the leaders, he said that they were not very receptive to his idea. He also stated that the kids were actually being used - the people who had assumed leadership during the march had - well, were just using the kids as - "these are my people, you know, and I'm leading them. I asked him who these leaders were and he wouldn't tell me - he said, he couldn't tell me - he didn't know. He described them as "Black - dashiki- wearing, bead wearing fellows" - so he went on downtown with the kids. He drove - he wasn't driving, he was in a car with Skip Carter - president of station KPRS, and the two of them went downtown. They were making a live broadcast of the march situation. Upon arrival downtown - and after all the speeches had been given, John L. asked Skip Carter if he could try to get the kids to go to Holy Name. At first, Skip told him no and then after awhile Skip told him to "Go ahead" and see what you can do. John L. got the microphone on the steps of City Hall and told the kids that there would be a dance at Holy Name Church. At this time he said, the kids turned around and started walking.



and spotted some busses - ( I guess these are the same buses that had brought the police to City Hall - and they went toward the buses. John L. at this time - walked over to one of the busses and tried to get on. He looked back and noticed tear gas - first he noticed students running and - toward the bus - and an increase in activity and then he noticed the tear gas - he said - around the steps of City Hall.

John L. got onto the bus along with Father Gibbons and the bus proceeded to go - went toward 12th and Locust - went past 12th and Locust. At this time, tear gas started seeping into the bus and the bus went one block and let - the kids started pushing and so - the bus driver stopped the bus and let the kids off. He also complained about money - his money being taken. His money was gone and he said, what he thinks - what John L. thinks happened is that someone took the container that he had his money in or else it fell - in the rush of the kids getting off the bus and the money was picked up by the students. After the bus driver stopped - he refused to go any further, - so John L. and Father Gibbons got off the bus and hitchhiked to Holy Name Church. They don't remember who took them, they just hitchhiked. The equipment was already set up in the basement of Holy Name Church and it was set up because there was a dance at Holy Name every Sunday and John L. was the regular disc jockey. About 200 kids were at the church when John L. arrived and about 300 had come in about 20 minutes. He said he played music for about 20 minutes and it had been about 300 kids in the basement - when he noticed a group of kids come down from the east steps - from the west steps and go toward the east steps. Some of them ran up the steps - but he heard someone yell "They're over there too", which he said they were probably referring to the police. At this time he looked up through the window and saw policemen in uniform - then he heard the glass breaking and he



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saw tear gas come through the window and into a closet. The kids didn't leave right away because they knew police were outside - so - after about a minute or so - they went out through the east door. John L. was one of the last ones out and as he - (there were about 5 D.J.'s there) and as he went out the kids were standing on the corners and the police had started tear gassing them on the corners and they were very mad. The way he describes it is - that at this time the kids were very "uptight". And - John L asked one of the policemen = "Why did you throw gas in the church"? and he said the policeman replied - "I thought it was a disturbance, I heard some noise down there , and so I tossed the gas in!"

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