

Bruce Watkins was with Rev. Blair at the memorial service in the Jackson Ct. bldg. on Tues. when they heard of the students marching downtown.

Watkins went across the street with the mayor and others to see about Vern Thompson's release. Watkins remembers something about Thompson being released in the custody of Tuckie Saunders or on his bond. The field secretary of the NAACP, a _____ Williams was with Watkins, Lebo and Thompson when the release was made.

On Wednesday morning, Watkins called the B. of Educ., City Hall, and KCPD to ask them to lower their flags in the memory of Dr. King. The city said that they had to ask the American Legion first; The KCPD said they had to have the OK of the police commissioners. At the B. of Educ. Watkins spoke with Mr. Hanks who agreed to lower school flags -high and grade. The Federal Bldg. was first to lower its flag, finally by afternoon, city, and police followed.

At the stadium meeting, kids asked to select 35 or so to attend dinner that nite at Heart of America Restaurant. Watkins promised to have all elected Negro officials there to hear hear

their gripes. Watkins told other officials this was something they would have to sit thru and take.

On Thursday Watkins spoke with Thompson and Lebo about arranging a meeting with the mayor and the militants. Thursday afternoon, Watkins finally got in touch with mayor and arranged appointment for the next afternoon in the mayor's office.

Friday seven or eight reps from the Wed. dinner met with Davis, Chief Kelley, Com Kelly, 2 police commissioners (not Bryant) and Dr. J.W. Williams, St. Stephens Baptist. The Militants made several demands: asked that NG and Police withdraw from area-- chief said no. Asked for specific permission to go into certain areas to help cool things--answer no. Asked that curfew be lifted--no.

It were as tho they had rehearsed their answers
Watkins impression was that Kelly controlled dept. After these

refusals, kids wanted to stage a sit-in in mayor's office. Watkins and others tried to convince them that it would serve no purpose, but if they wanted to, the Negro leaders would sit-in with them. It was Dr. Williams who was finally able to persuade them to leave.

There was to be a meeting the next day, but it never happened--next day was cooler.

Watkins is ardent in his praise of Davis during whole disturbance. Thought he had little power, he acted bravely at Parade Park and city hall, knowing he could be in danger. He calls Davis one of the real heroes of the riot.