

Lucille Bluford
1715 E. 18
KC Call

On Wed. late afternoon, Miss Bluford received a call from Irene Thomas, one of the Call's reporters, who said she was *at* the police station and could Miss Bluford come get her. Miss Bluford started out toward the little substation at 35 and Prospect where she thot the girl wojl'd be. At 31 and Prospect, Miss Bluford got caught in the traffic; Policeman was diverting traffic away from area, but Miss Bluford held press pass out window and asked police why she couldn't go thru. Police said there was gas- sing up the street; just then Miss Bluford caught a whiff of it and her anger turned to belief in the seriousness of the situation. At 35th, Miss Bluford couldn't find the girl, so she started back. She was curious then about the gass and started up 30th st. to Indiana. As she was driving toward Prospect, she heard someone yell, "turn you lites off, get back!" She decided to park and walk the rest of the way to where the excitement seemed to be. She did, as she was walking toward 31 & Prospect, a policeman shouted out to her, "Get back, get back!" At first she was mad, then she heard gunshots and was frightened. She returned to her car and went to the Heart of America Restaurant Meeting .

She had first heard about the restaurant meeting Wed. afternoon when she went up to the stadium. There they said that the most militant had just left. The ones speaking when she arrived were talking about cooling, it, organizing their grievances etc. She ~~down~~ not remember any committees. It was at the stadium that she heard mention of the dinner. That nite when she arrived at the dinner after her close brush with events at the Byron, she was struck by the irrelevancy of their talk

while so much was going on, unknownst to them, outside. She listened awhile to what they were saying about grievances, remedies, etc. , then she stood up and said, "You all are in here talking, while there's a war going on outside." But t ey talked some more until they heard the fire engines and then the meeting slowly broke up with Ollie Gates going up to his place to see if it were on fire.

It was 10 or 10:30 by this time and Herman Johnson offered to follow Miss Bluford home; they decided it would be safer to go home by way of the freeway than to use the side streets. After arriving home, Miss Bluford still wasn't content to just stay put. She had heard on TV about fires around 31st and she was curious about whet er OG's pbase was hit. So Miss Bluford got in her car again and drove up to 31 where she got the story about volunteer firemen. She thot a picture would be good so she called Percy Meyers, Call photographer. Myere was protecting his studio, so Miss Bluford went and picked him up. and he took the pix.

Next, Miss Bluford decided to go back down to police headquarters and pick up Irene Thomas where she'd been waiting all this tme. She was driving, sometimes with lites, sometimes without, not knowing which was the right way. At Linwood and Prospect, a policeman stopped her and asked where she was headed. She showed her press pass and said she was going to headquarters. The policeman said he'd radio ahead and tell the othefts that her car would be coming through. She asked this officer if there were really snipers and he said yes. She asked if she should use her lites or not. He said to turn them out.

At the police headquarters Miss Bluford found the girl reporter who'd been waiting all this time, since

nobody would take her home. Miss Bluford did.

After the riot, Miss bluford told the Chief that the policeman at the Byron who had told her to get back, had no right to do so. The chief agreed, but said she would probably gone and got herself killed. Miss Bluford granted that this was so.

25% COTTON FIBER
SOUTHMOUTH CO. U.S.A.
RACERASE BOND