

The University of Baltimore is launching a two-year investigation called “Baltimore’68: Riots and Rebirth,” a project centered around the events that followed the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and their effects on the development of our city. UB administration and faculty members in the law school and in the undergraduate departments of history and community studies are planning a series of projects and events to commemorate the 40th anniversary of this pivotal event. We are currently working with the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History, The Jewish Museum of Maryland, Maryland Public Television and the Enoch Pratt Free Libraries to pursue funding for projects that may include conferences, a website and a library traveling exhibit.

Your potential participation in an oral history project would contribute to the very foundation of this project – the memories of Baltimoreans who lived through the riots and saw the changes that came about in response to them. Your life story can fill in the limited knowledge we learn from newspaper accounts and the television footage.

If you choose to participate in the project you would be interviewed by students from the University of Baltimore. They will ask you questions, but your memories will determine the direction of the interviews.

If you agree to serve as an oral history informant in this project, you will meet with a team of undergraduate students. The students will take a still photograph of you. In addition, if you have a photo of yourself in or around 1968, we would greatly appreciate it if we could borrow it, scan it, and return it. We would reserve the rights to reproduce those photos and use them on the website, conferences, exhibit or publications.

The students may conduct the interviews at a location of your choice, or you may meet them at the University of Baltimore Langsdale Library for your interviews. During the interviews, your recollections will be recorded in two forms: audio and video. The students will be responsible for operating the equipment. You can expect the interviews to last for a minimum of 30 minutes each.

Sometimes talking about events that occurred decades ago will unearth forgotten memories. Undoubtedly, some of those remembrances will be negative. We greatly appreciate your willingness to take the risk of exploring a potentially painful past so that your life experiences will be recorded.

After the interviews the students will transcribe your oral history. They will provide you with a copy of the transcription for your review before the transcription is published. The transcription, video and audio records will be archived in the Langsdale Library Special Collections and will be accessible to the public. Your name will be attached to these documents. The University of Baltimore may use your image and/or your words in any future documentaries, exhibits, conferences or publications. Participants in the oral history project agree to waive their confidentiality.

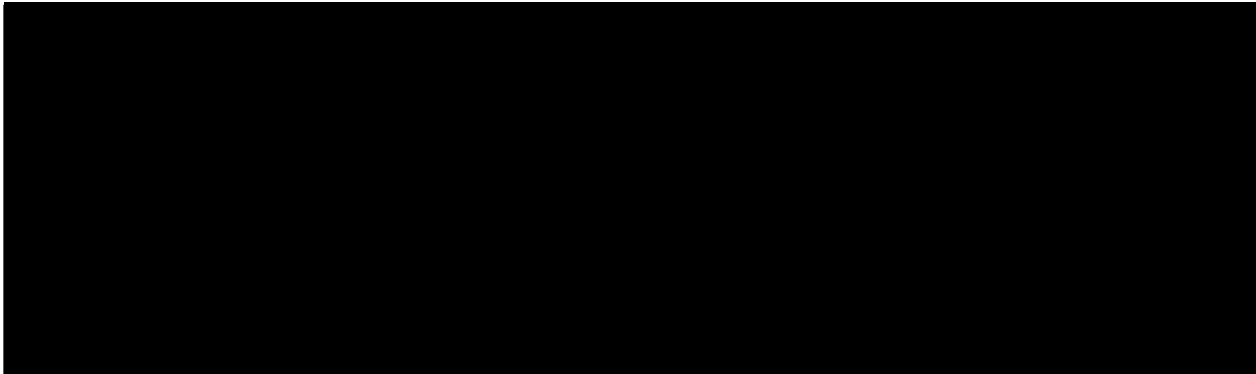
If at any time you are uncomfortable with participation in the study, you are free to drop out. Participation is strictly voluntary. While your participation is requested and highly valued, you are free to decide whether or not to continue participation at all times. You may decline to have your name published with your reminiscences

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact me at 410-837-5296. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Nix, Ph.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor
History and Community Studies
The University of Baltimore

I have read and understand the information provided above, and consent to participate in the study. I have also been given a copy of the informed consent for my records.



Interview with Alan Bloom

Nyasha: Alright, so state your full name please

Alan: Alan J. Bloom, B-l-o-o-m

Nyasha: So what was your situation in 1968?

Alan: In 1968, I graduated from the University of Baltimore Law School in 1965, interestingly enough I graduated when I was 21 and started practicing law when I was 22 went to the University of Baltimore at night. In 1968 at the time of the riot I was obviously a relatively new attorney, having several years of experience and at that time was doing a fair amount of criminal defense work. Upon notice of the riots, there were obviously mass arrests that were going on, I remember seeing that and hearing about it on the news media. One morning, although I don't know exactly what the time was or the exact date, I received a phone call from one of the judges at the circuit court of Baltimore city which is located at Calvert St; it is now known as the Mitchell courthouse. At that time it was the only circuit court or criminal court in Baltimore city that handles serious criminal offences. I received a phone call from one of the judges that they had numerous defendants that had been arrested, most of whom were there on relatively minor charges such as disorderly conduct or resisting arrest, or curfew violations and there were, was a rather large amount of these persons that were under arrest. Would I please come down and assist the court with defending these people, at that time and indeed even prior to that as I'm sure everyone realizes, all defendants are entitled to counsel, most of the people that were arrested did not have private counsel and were in need of an attorney so I was asked by the court to volunteer my time to go down and represent some of these people.

When a judge asks you to do that, you do it. At the time I didn't give much thought to what I was going to confront or what I was going to see, I just thought it was a relatively normal situation, at least at that courthouse, although I knew the scene outside the courthouse was rather chaotic. So I went down to the courthouse, the court at that time, the circuit court part 1, which I think is where we were, was an extremely large cavernous court room, most of the court rooms today are much smaller although I believe this court room still exists as it was back then and pictures could be taken of it. When I walked into the door of the courtroom I was rather shocked at the scene that I saw. First thing that I saw was a courtroom reigned with National Guardsmen in uniform with rifles and fixed bayonets with the you know the bayonet end on 'em ringing the courtroom, which of course they'd sensed, once I saw that there were a good 50/75 or maybe more prisoners in the one courtroom. You have to understand, usually at any one given time there may be 3 or 4 prisoners in the courtroom, there may be another 5 or 10 in the lockup but you never see a mass of 50/75 or whatever the number was, people in the courtroom who were, some of em were handcuffed, some of em weren't and these people were obviously annoyed, angry and disturbed and so the situation was chaotic at the very best and before the proceedings even started waiting for the judge to come on to the bench, one of the officers of the National Guard came up and whispered to me as well as several other attorneys that were in the courtroom, 'please do your best to keep these people calm, we have no bullets in our guns'. And I was obviously astonished, then reflecting upon it, it does make some sense to me. They had the rifles, they had the bayonets with the knife ends but they didn't have bullets, I suspect at the time or I may even have read at that time that most of these National Guard troops were not fully trained, they lacked

experience, they hadn't been in combat or in a fire arm situation for years and years, were suddenly called up without training. Most of the time National Guard troops when they're called up, before they go into combat are retrained and retold and whatever, and these guys were not and I think they thought giving them bullets might be more dangerous than not. And So the ringed court room with the people and the fixed bayonets was a threat, whereas if something would have happened you know and my first thought was, wow I'm gonna be in the middle of all this but in any rate, fortunately nothing did happen. I mean the cases were called, I interviewed maybe 10/15 of the people, and there were 3 or 4 other lawyers whose names I can't recall, interviewed others and the charges were read and the cases were called. The object as I later found out, was not to put anybody in jail permanently, the arrests were to calm down the situation, get these people off the streets for a day or two at most and then at that point they really didn't have room to house the prisoners, so what they were wanting to do was just put 'em before the court system, hopefully calm down everything, teach them a lesson about you know respect for property and send them on their way cause I think maybe one or two of the people I represented, only one or two received jail sentences, the rest received suspended sentences of 30 days, \$25 to \$50 fines, all of which were suspended just to get the people back on to the street cause the jails and the court system could not deal with the volume and I think maybe one or two people that I represented who had more serious charges were given a jail sentence, most of the charges again were disorderly conduct, curfew violations, one or two were fire bomb violations of lighting what they had at the time I think were gas soaked rags and throwing it into places that were on fire and I think one or two of those people with prior records did get some jail time. So that was my experience

with the riot situation from an attorney standpoint, obviously my experience in seeing what happened in the street is no different than anybody else's.

Maria: Okay, well we do wanna know a little bit about your experience as somebody who's no different than anybody else.

Alan: Okay.

Maria: And so if we could back track a little bit just to verify.

Alan: Sure

Maria: You were in private practice when you got out of law school?

Alan: Yes. Yeah, I went right into private practice.

Maria: Okay, so you were in your mid-twenties when the riots occurred?

Alan: Actually my early twenties

Maria: About 24 or so, 23?

Alan: No, well okay yeah about 24, yeah that's right, about 24, I would say.

Maria: Okay and where did you live?

Alan: Where did I live? Now that's an excellent question, I was single at the time. I probably lived at that time at Roxton Towers, which was the corner of Charles St. in the beltway. I did not live in an area that was subjected to the terror and the violence of the riots

Maria: Okay, so North Baltimore.

Alan: Yes, North

Maria: Or was it considered Baltimore city at the time?

Alan: At the time it was Baltimore County.

Maria: Baltimore County?

Alan: Yeah, but I did experience driving through the city at one point, I can tell you 'bout that also.

Maria: Okay and we're just, we're trying to get a picture also of what your life was like, your everyday life even before the riots. So, did you live, so you lived at Roxman Towers, you had just graduated from UB in 1965...

Alan: Yes, yes. I was single.

Maria: You were single, in private practice. Where did you go to you know, in your leisure time to do your shopping, that sort of thing, did you remember?

Alan: Well that's a really good question. Where, I'm trying to remember, boy that's testing my memory. I think Towson mall existed at that time but I'm really not positive and I would say that the bulk of my eating, shopping experience was both in Baltimore City, central city. The harbor didn't exist at that time but certainly the Charles St. area, the University of Baltimore area was still where people attended restaurants and there were bars down there but also in Pikesville, which is where I spent a good bit of my childhood, although I was originally born in Baltimore city, in the Pimlico area. So I was raised part of my life right near Pimlico race track in Baltimore city, then later moved out to the county in what is known as the Pikesville area but I would say I spent equal amounts of time both in Baltimore county and in Baltimore city. At the time of the riots I was also in the Coast Guard Reserve, of course the Coast Guard Reserve was not called on during the riots but I was a member of the Coast Guard Reserve and I believe on the weekend that the riots first broke out, that Saturday I was actually down at the Coast Guard base in Curtis Bay attending a you know, a weekend meeting with the Coast Guard reserve and I remember as I was driving back through the city, I did see large amounts of

people congregating on the streets and between that and the radio, I did quickly get out of the area. I never saw any actual violence, or looting or anything of that nature but I did see rather large numbers of people, abnormal amounts out on the street and places in the city. Out where I lived there never was a problem of any sort.

Maria: So in your everyday life what kinds of interactions did you have with African-Americans or people of other races?

Alan: Well I had significant interactions because the bulk of my law practice at that time and indeed a good 50% of the bulk of my law practice now is with inner city people, a good at least 50% of whom at that time or maybe 75% were black individuals. I represented them in criminal cases before the riots, I represented them in auto accident cases, worker's comp cases, domestic cases, so I always had contact in my law practice with minority people

Maria: Now where was your practice located, I'm sorry?

Alan: My practice was located at 827 St. Paul St. in Baltimore city so at that time my practice was right downtown at the corner of St. Paul and Read, which is you know somewhat North of the downtown legal area but I do know that the bulk of my life I always had interactions with minority students to some extent although at that time University of Baltimore didn't have a great deal of minority students. And Forest Park high school where I attended didn't have a great deal of minority students, but my law practice did.

Maria: So generally just professionally?

Alan: Yes, I would say professionally was the bulk of my contact with black individuals and minority students would definitely have been through my professional life, yes.

Nyasha: So how would you describe the racial mood in Baltimore before the riots?

Alan: Well I guess maybe even though I'm an attorney I was a bit naïve, I never perceived a tremendous racial problem in Baltimore city back then although probably I didn't think about it that much until the riots. You know, I never had any problem interacting with minority people. I myself am Jewish so I consider myself to be a minority and I would, to me I've always identified with minorities, all people that have had in past history incidents of prejudice. So I certainly never had a problem with that, I never perceived it as a tremendous problem and you know I really didn't consider and even to this day, didn't consider the riots to be a racial problem, I considered it to be a socioeconomic problem more than anything else and a reaction to a terrible incident that occurred at the time and obviously it was a non-productive initial incident on their part because the bulk of property that I think was destroyed was in the area where the people lived, and unfortunately probably caused them at least initially more of a problem than it solved. People often react emotionally to situations and that's what happened in this incidence but to me it wasn't racial as much as it was social and economic.

Nyasha: So you don't remember encountering any prejudice or racism during that time?

Alan: Not me personally, no, I really don't recall that.

Maria: And what do you remember about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King?

Alan: I remember thinking that it would probably cause some sort of unrest around the country.

Maria: Do you remember how you heard about it?

Alan: You know, I vividly remember how I heard about the Kennedy assassination, but as far as Dr. King's assassination, I believe I heard it on the radio. Obviously it was shocking, it was tragic, senseless and disturbing, that's all I can tell you

Nyasha: So you said, did you hear about the riots starting from the judge or you heard from...

Alan: Oh no no, I knew about the situation in Baltimore before that as I said, number 1, I'd heard about on TV and radio, the call that I got from the judge was several days after it had begun. A day or two, maybe three days later when the arrests had been made and people were brought in, but my initial notification was TV, radio and as I say I saw some of it when I was coming back, I did remember this vividly coming back from the Coast Guard meeting down at Curtis Bay and driving through the city to get back to Roxton Towers and I did see in the Greenmount Ave area, some instances of it. I can also tell you, this is sort of jogging my memory, that my family had a business in the area. My family had a business known as Paramount photo service, which was a film developing and processing company that picked up film from drug stores. Back then there were Ma and Pa, and small drugstores, it's not like it is today with large large chains, back then there were individual corner drugstores where the photo finishing was dropped off. My family was to pick up film at the drugstores, bring it back and have it processed. At the time their laboratory and business was located on Greenmount Ave, not that far from North Ave which was certainly an area that was part of the disturbance and riot situation. I think what I actually did that morning was ride by the family business although I wasn't directly involved in it, my father, my uncles and two of my cousins were. I recall now that I actually rode by the family business to see whether that building was under siege or

under attack, probably wasn't the smartest thing to do but I did that. There was nothing happening right there at the time, but several blocks away as I say, there were large, large crowds of people in the middle of the street and on the sidewalks and that's when it really hit home for me. It was a very scary looking situation so I rode by the family business it was not under siege or attack at that time and continued on home. I also remember, see as I'm talking, it's jogging my memory. I also remember that I had a client that owned Sun Cleaners and Sun Cleaners was in the recent newspaper article as one of the first businesses that was torched and looted as a result of the riots and a fellow by the name of, I think his name was Dennis Gordon, at the time was a client of mine and owned Sun Cleaners and I do know that he had quite a bit of damage and loss as a result of the riots.

Nyasha: You said that you watched TV coverage of the riots?

Alan: Yes.

Nyasha: So did you think that the reporting was accurate?

Alan: Well, honestly that's a difficult question to answer because you're asking me to remember what my impressions were back in '68. I can certainly remember what happened, I can certainly remember what I was directly involved in, as far as the TV coverage and whether it was fair and reasonable, obviously TV always covers the sensationalism and wants to show you the worst, so I think there was a lot more coverage of the looting, the rioting and the violence than there was the underlying causes and probably that should've been a little more evenly distributed, but I don't have any vivid memory of feelings that, that was something that was way out of the ordinary.

Maria: So you were hearing about this over the radio and the TV?

Alan: Yes

Maria: And you've already said that you had a distinct impression of some of the neighborhoods that were affected, you said Greenmount Ave...

Alan: Yeah I know that Greenmount Ave was certainly an area that was affected

Maria: Anywhere else?

Alan: Monument St, Gay St, I mean I think the center of it was really not that far from the downtown courthouse, the police station, you know it was East Baltimore more than it was West Baltimore. West Baltimore started later but the bulk of it was East Baltimore, Gay, Monument St, and I believe that Sun Cleaners was on Monument St, which is not far from what used to be the end of the Jones Falls Expressway at the time, it really wasn't that far from the Maryland state penitentiary and the Maryland Diagnostic and Reception center, which is a newer building, wasn't there then so I recall, that's where it started, it was in that area but unquestionably it came up to Greenmount Ave, North Ave, up not that far from what was then Baltimore Memorial Stadium, but I don't recall, it never really got to the suburbs, of course as people living in the suburbs, I do recall wondering whether at some point it was going to spread out beyond the city and into the suburbs, it never did, and probably related more to transportation, and where people were and really showed it was not a thought out intent to do something to white people or anybody else because where that was happening, most of the businesses served the black and minority community and they were just destroying businesses that they were using. So to me it was just a reaction and frustration to what happened to Dr. King and more importantly the social economic conditions at that time cause it never did spread out to where the money was so to speak or the suburban areas.

Maria: What do you mean by a reaction to the socioeconomic conditions?

Alan: well I think back then that there were obviously a lot less opportunities for minorities in promotion, in political appointments, in government, part in running the government, part in being advanced in private industry and that's been changed, but back then there obviously to me was less opportunity for minorities, particularly black individuals to advance in the public sector or in private industry and you know housing conditions, etcetera and so on. It was an excuse to express their opinions about other things as much as it was what happened to Dr. King

Maria: And you've already told us a fascinating story about the people who were arrested who you had to represent

Alan: Yes. Well I didn't have to and I don't think you really meant that either, but...

Maria: No.

Alan: Yeah. I understand that while the judge called me and I felt...

Maria: Well you were asked to represent them

Alan: Yeah, I was asked to represent them I could have declined without any tremendous adverse consequences but it was not something that I, I had any hesitation because as I say at the time a good bit of my clients were black, minority people, I didn't have a problem with that either. The problem I had was when I got there and saw the conditions I was surrounded with initially was a shock and scary.

Maria: Right and you told of us the sheer volume of the people in the courtroom

Alan: Yeah, the volume was scary.

Maria: How many people were arrested total in the city do you think?

Alan: Oh, lord. Thousands, I mean thousands were arrested but you know I wouldn't be in the position to tell you exactly how many. But they were just grabbing anybody and

everybody they could and you know most of the arrests were curfew violations more than anything else but most of them were curfew violations and failure to obey the command and lawful order of a police officer more than they were stealing or burning or destroying. But in order to calm the situation down they were just grabbing people that were not honoring the curfew, the bulk of the people I represented I think had curfew violations.

Nyasha: Do you remember what the curfew was?

Alan: Basically I think an hour before dark, I think they were supposed to be off the streets or maybe at you know, at sundown but again that's from memory, I don't know exactly. I think that's what it was

Maria: And what was your perception or your impression of the extent of the violence in the city as opposed to just the arrests?

Alan: Well, I don't, my memory is that the violence against innocent people was relatively minimal, the bulk of what was going on was destruction of property and looting and a lot of people out on the streets obstructing traffic and creating a scary situation. I don't think that the crowds or the violators were grabbing people and assaulting them or injuring them. I think that was probably a small number, the bulk was destruction of property and just plain old looting. I mean people were I recall, Sun cleaners, which was my client, they were breaking windows and going in and taking clothing. You know the clothing was lined up for people to be picked up and had been cleaned; the clothing was just coming out the door in masses. TVs, you know, small appliances, anything people could get their hands on, someone would break in the store and the crowd was following

along and grabbing things. I don't think it was a matter of going in and grabbing people and injuring them as much as it was the other situation.

Maria: We've got a question here about the National Guard but you've already told us a very good story about the National Guard.

Nyasha: Do you remember seeing them on the streets as well?

Alan: Yes. Yeah. I saw them on the streets, on TV; I don't recall seeing them when I was driving back from the Coast Guard. I don't think they'd been deployed as yet so my vision of the National Guard was strictly through TV. I don't think I ever saw them in person, other than in the courtroom, when I got to the courtroom and the courthouse, the outside of the courthouse also had National Guard and police outside the courthouse all over, then when I got inside that's when I saw that the bulk of the courtroom had National Guard with some small police presence.

Nyasha: And they weren't in your neighborhood?

Alan: Absolutely not, no.

Nyasha: So how did their presence make you feel, like in the courtroom, especially after they told you they didn't have any bullets?

Alan: Well when they told me they told they didn't have any bullets, obviously I was shocked, that was my initial reaction and wow that doesn't seem to be good. Upon further reflection, either then or maybe a day later, I realized that we were probably all better off without bullets, another thing in addition to them not being trained, the people that were in the courtroom as defendants could have easily taken a gun away and turned the gun on me, the judge or the National Guard people, so probably we were all better off without the bullets once I thought about it. But the initial reaction is what good are these guns

without bullets, but I think they made a very wise decision, not putting bullets in the gun. It was more a power presence than anything else.

Nyasha: So...

Alan: Now I assume the National Guard out on the street, a fair amount of them did have bullets in their guns, although that I'm not sure of. I just know that they told me that the people in the courtroom did not have loaded weapons.

Nyasha: So would you say that the mood in your area during the riots was pretty calm?

Alan: I think initially people were scared and concerned for their own personal safety, it rapidly became apparent that it was confined to the inner city areas and commercial areas where looting could take place and I think it became clear to me that we were pretty safe out in the suburbs, the area that I was in had no commercial buildings or businesses with any valuable merchandise anywhere near me, so that didn't concern me and quickly it became apparent that it was confined, but there was always the worry that it would spread or we'd get significantly more violent, fortunately it did not.

Nyasha: So did your life or activities change during the days of the riots?

Alan: I don't think it significantly changed for me, I mean I had the experience of going down to the courthouse, I probably spent more time listening to the radio, watching the TV, but personally I was able to go about my business in a relatively normal fashion.

Nyasha: And how do you think Baltimore changed as a whole after the days of the riots?

Alan: Well I don't know that Baltimore individually changed anymore than other large cities with a large population of minorities except in one respect I do believe that after the riots, a significant amount of white upper class people left the city for the suburbs. So I guess in that respect it did change, the city became a higher population of minority and

blacks in the real inner city area and some of the other areas that were populated by white middle class people had a bigger wish and a rush to go out to the suburbs, and did. So that may have been one of the precipitating causes of that occurrence.

Nyasha: So would you say the racial mood changed as well?

Alan: I don't think I'm really in a position to answer that honestly. Obviously over the years things have changed substantially, and maybe that was the beginning of it but I never really researched that to the point where I feel I could give an answer that could be anymore qualified than anybody else

Maria: Did anything in your neighborhood change?

Alan: No.

Maria: It's the same.

Alan: Nothing in white suburbia changed that I can recall, one iota, the effect again as I said earlier was when the inner city people themselves, I think they had less businesses to go to, to shop, there were stores that didn't reopen and as a result of that it initially created more of a problem for inner city black, minority people to obtain groceries or electronic items or anything else. A lot of the stores either didn't reopen or took a long time to reopen, and as a result the people that lived in the area suffered more than white suburbanites.

Maria: Do you have any recollection of any specific businesses that were affected?

Alan: I don't, but I do have a recollection that there clearly were some businesses that did not reopen or took a long time to reopen. I do believe my client did reopen, Sun Cleaners.

Nyasha: And your family business?

Alan: My family business was not affected. It was a, number 1, it was nothing in there that could really be of value to the average person, it was chemicals for photo finishing, film and pictures. And it was also a solid brick building with very few windows, had, you know, had no appeal. The places that were being destroyed were window fronts with large glass that was easily accessible by just busting the windows and going right through.

Maria: And what about your interactions with minorities and African-Americans? Was that any different?

Alan: Not for me it wasn't. As I say, I had always had professional interactions; that continued. I've always had excellent relations personally as well as professionally with minorities and black individuals. I just never had the problem before then and hadn't since and nothing changed for me in that regard.

Nyasha: So being that you represented some of the people who were arrested during the riots, do you remember anything that they told you or shared with you about their experience?

Alan: Yeah, I mean that's a good question and yeah their answer was, most of 'em said well I didn't break the window, I didn't do it, somebody else did it and I went along or somebody else came out with the stuff and piled it on the sidewalk and so I took it and left with it . You know, oh the curfew, everybody was outside, I wasn't doing anything wrong, I was just standing on the corner and I said well didn't you realize there was a curfew; yeah but I really wasn't hurting anybody and wasn't doing anything. Nobody fessed up and said I was the original one that broke the window, I took the merchandise, it was more of the everybody else was doing it so I joined in, or I took the aftermath of it

and again the majority of the people that I represented probably were not the original people who had done that. Those people had been singled out by the police and were in jail cells in the city jail awaiting trial at a later time, the people I was called down to represent by and large, were the people that they really had no intentions of doing anything with but giving them a small fine and a suspended sentence and for the most part, getting them back out on onto the street cause they just didn't have any place to house and feed them anyhow. But again the court system being what it was in our country thank goodness, people are entitled to a trial and they're entitled to representation and it was clear right from the beginning that if they were polite and cooperative and provided some assurance that they were gonna stay calm, which was what my plea to the judge, they were going back home immediately and I made that clear to all the people that I represented. If you just follow my lead, plead guilty, you'll be back out on the street with no significant consequence.

Maria: So the turn around time was like a couple of days there right?

Alan: Yeah, yeah. It was a quick turn around time, very, very quick. In fact as I think two of the people had just been arrested that morning. The most anybody that I spoke to had been incarcerated or locked up to any extent was I think a day.

Nyasha: And all of these clients that you had were African-American. Do you remember any other race being arrested?

Alan: Yeah, yeah, I don't think that I personally represented anybody that was not African-American but there definitely were some white defendants in the court room, yeah, now again, they were the minority by far it was black individuals but there were several white individuals that had been arrested also. Again I don't think any black

person was beating up on any white person or vice versa, it was not a, to me, a race situation. They were grabbing and looting property and just blowing off steam and showing frustration and the bulk of it was directed towards property and looting. And I don't think, I didn't personally see a situation where black people were beating up white people or vice versa, now it may have existed but I don't recall it to any extent and I didn't see it. It was more property and frustration, and frankly some people were just taking advantage of the situation where they could get some free merchandise and felt they were entitled, after what had happened in that situation to Dr. King, you know we're entitled to go out and do this. I think that was some what of an attitude for a while, but it wasn't a matter of white; there were black businesses that were affected. Nobody knocked on the door and said is this owner black or white? I mean they really didn't and they made no attempt to go out to the white areas.

Maria: Well is there anything else you'd like to add?

Alan: No nothing else that I can think of, other than to say it's an interesting subject and I'm glad someone is writing about it, and going back into it because there probably are some additional lessons to be learned from it and hopefully we can take some pride into changes that have occurred since that time.

Maria: Thank you.

Alan: Sure.

Maria: Thank you for your time.

Alan: You're welcome.