

4/4/1969

Rev. C. L. Franklin, Dr. Claud Young and Dr. W. G. Anderson, Board Members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference join me in extending our sympathies to the family of the officer killed and pray for the speedy recovery of the four citizens wounded in the church and the police officer who was wounded outside. We condone no violence, black or white and we work for the day that Detroit might be one city under God where men might live in peace, dignity and full opportunity.

But I am appalled that police powers would be used to invade the sanctuary of one of America's great churches. This is against every constitutional and religious tradition of this nation. There should be no obscuring of the fact that police powers were mis-used in trampling, shooting, and wreaking havoc in God's Holy Temple. *no attempt made to give warning, in this church*

~~no warning~~ *good police use calls for new approaches before gunfire is used*  
The church has always been a refuge for the disinherited. It is our jobs as pastors of the Black <sup>& white</sup> community to give hope to those who have suffered so at the hand of white racism that they have given up on America. This outrageous <sup>act</sup> *police upon the sanctuary* strikes not only at the moral but also the <sup>constitutional</sup> *judicial* fiber of this nation. For in the wake of these <sup>issues</sup> *are attempts to obscure the situation* by maligning the integrity and constitutional judgement of Judge George Crockett.

It is tragic indeed <sup>that</sup> the two young and inexperienced policemen were given so difficult an assignment with so little understanding and training that their lives were endangered in a needless conflict. There must be some serious attempt to reconcile the animosity between the police and the Black community. This is only one of a series of similar incidents that have plagued this city bringing death to black and white alike. Only last year our Poor People's campaign was brutalized in front of Cobo Hall.

My plea is for a non-violent community. Violence will only breed more violence, and as paid professional servants of this city, the police must lead the way if peace is to ever prevail. But this is no time for hot headed reaction in the black community. There has been enough bloodshed in Detroit. This is a time for reasoned action against the powers which control the police <sup>force</sup> in this city.