

Exclusive Interviews with:
Messenger Muhammad!

EDITOR'S NOTE—In one of his infrequent interviews granted to the public news media the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the only divinely missioned leader in the world today, frankly answered the pointed questions of representatives from two of the nation's leading broadcast medias, American Broadcasting Company and the National Broadcasting Company.

Although both networks declared that the interview would be subsequently aired to the public, only a brief portion was broadcast over ABC. Because of the deep interest throughout the world concerning the views of Messenger Muhammad, MUHAMMAD SPEAKS takes this occasion to bring its readers these exclusive excerpts from these most recent interviews.

Q. WHAT is a Muslim?

A. We are Muslims. This is what we know ourselves to be and what we would like others to know us to be. We believe in peace, freedom, justice, and equality and we take no part in aggression. Muslims are good by nature.

It is taught in the Bible and Holy Qur-an that the righteous people are peaceful, not aggressive people.

WE HAVE accepted Islam since it was brought to us by the long awaited Comer, called the second coming of Jesus, or the Son of Man by the Christians. We, the Muslims, say the Mahdi or God came in Person in Master Fard Muhammad.

He has taught us the truth of ourselves and others. That truth is that we are righteous and peaceful Muslims. Muslims do not start aggressive acts against other people. We want to maintain peace and righteousness among ourselves and throughout the world.

Q. DO THE Muslims serve in the armed forces of America?

A. We have nothing to do with an individual's choice. I am referring to the so-called Negroes who have accepted the faith of Islam and have become Muslims. I am not referring to foreign Muslims, and what they do about war.

Islam happens to be the right religion with the right God, and we have reclaimed what we really are by nature. We came from the God of freedom, justice and equality and our people. We are going back to them if we have the privilege to leave what is not ours.

Q. How does one become a Muslim minister?

A. Any believer who accepts the truth that God Almighty has brought to us — in the person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praise is due forever—is automatically a minister. He may start teaching this truth — even the women. They all become ministers.

WHAT IS A MUSLIM?

Do the Muslims serve in the armed forces of America?

What is the Muslim viewpoint towards the draft?

Did Muhammad Ali make an independent decision?

Is Muhammad Ali a better champion than Joe Louis?

What do you think of Martin Luther King?

Q. THEN it would be your contention that no follower of the Muslim religion in America should be forced to serve in the armed forces?

The white man is not fighting us, he is fighting God.

A. No Muslim should be forced into anything that is

contrary to his religious belief.

Q. Do you see any contradiction between the Muslim faith and boxing?

A. There is a lot of difference between boxing and the Muslim faith. Boxing is a sport. Islam is a religion.

Q. I MEAN in the Muslim religion seeking peace and boxing?

A. Muhammad was boxing when he accepted Islam. The

Christian people want him to just walk away from the title, "Champion of the World." They want him to just walk out, because he is a Muslim. If he were a Christian, it would be all

All darker people here called Negroes are born Muslim, but they did not know it.

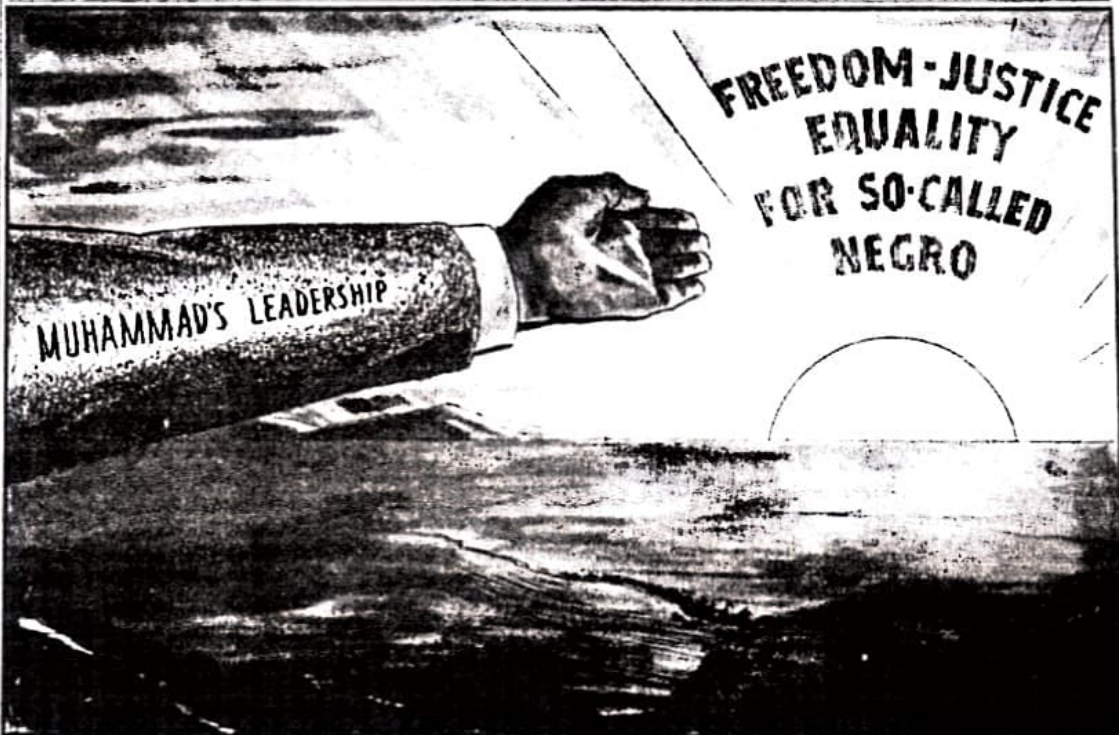
right. Christians box and fight and go to war among themselves.

For Muhammad to give up the gloves and walk off the platform because he is a Muslim would be denying himself the credit for his performance as a fighter. His championship would be given away and not won from him in the ring as he

(Continued on Page 5)



The Honorable Elijah Muhammad



Muhammad: We Believe in Peace, Freedom, Justice, Equality

We Take No Part in Aggression!

(Continued from page 3)

won it from the former champion.

Q. DID Muhammad Ali seek your advice in his draft trouble?

A. When he accepts the truth, every one of my followers is free to make his own choice. I gave him no more advice than I gave the faithful ones who followed me to the penitentiary in 1942.

Q. What is the Muslim viewpoint towards the draft?

A. Muslims are righteous people. They do not believe in making war on anybody—and senseless aggression against people violates a Muslim's religious belief.

They (the black man) are by nature the best. They can do anything—if you give them a chance—better than anybody on earth. We the black man came with the universe in his father.

Q. HOW does one become a minister of the Muslim religion?

A. All Muslims are ministers. They believe and they will all minister the truth that they have received. They do not have to be made ministers. They become ministers themselves after hearing the truth.

I would like to discuss a statement from the New York Times of April 28, 1967, by Robert Lipsyte. In his article he mentions an attorney who spoke on the induction of Muhammad Ali into the armed services of the United States.

HE SAYS THE potentially explosive nature of the case—meaning Muhammad Ali's case under the draft law—was underscored by Fred Drogulah, an attorney from



The white man of America is an open enemy of ours and he does not want justice to come to us, not even from God.

the Department of Justice in Washington, who said later, if he (Muhammad Ali) wins, all the Muslims will refuse to take the oath and where will we get soldiers? He is referring to my follow-

ers in America, and not all the Muslims throughout the world.

I would like to say, in answer to this statement, where did the white American get soldiers with which to conquer the aboriginal people in the Western Hemisphere? Were there any so-called Negroes here, helping him conquer the Indians, whom he had all but annihilated to get a home in the Western Hemisphere?

NOW THEY say, where will they get soldiers? They

outnumber us here in America, nine or 10 to one. This shows that they are not depending upon their own people in the case of war, but on the so-called Negro and especially the Muslims.

The Muslims do not have to go out begging for a place to live on this planet Earth. When American so-called Negroes accept Islam, they automatically have a home among the other Muslims on the earth. Whether it is in America, Asia, Africa or the islands of the Pacific, they

The white man of America will declare war on God to keep the so-called American Negro down. This is what he is doing now.

have a home—and that is for sure.

The so-called American Negro and those who turn to Islam are very much dependent upon by the Ameri-

(Continued on page 6)



All darker people here



BLACK CASUALTIES steadily soar in disproportionate numbers of finding a job back in the U.S. diminishes every month, according to that of whites according to latest Pentagon data. Though according to the Labor Department, these Negro youths may not have to fight again, their chance

"Any Black Man Will Be Criticized if He Tries to Do Something in the Name of Justice for His People"

(Continued from page 5)

can white people to take a part in this war to keep and maintain their independence over the so-called Negroes and the black people of the earth.

WE ARE said to be free by the government of America. We are not slaves of the white man any longer. However, he is using the same tactics that his father used 300 years ago—that we have to do these things or suffer punishment.

We are free today, 100 years up from slavery and we want to return to our own God, religion and people. All who accept Islam have that privilege.

It is up to us individually to decide if we want to re-

Muhammad Ali, of course, is far different from Joe Louis. Muhammad Ali is like a man who is awake and Joe Louis is like a man still asleep.

turn to our God, people and true religion of Islam. But if it is our desire, we may remain with our slavemasters and do their bidding of killing and murdering innocent people. We have no knowledge of what the issue is between this government and that people.

THERE IS no compulsion in Islam. God (Allah) is independent and Islam is independent. I teach my people only what God has taught me. It is up to them to believe it or leave it alone. It is up to them to go to their God and religion, Islam, and their people, or they can stay here and go with these people to their doom.

By nature, we are not Christians, nor kin to white people.

Q. Did Muhammad seek your advice in the trouble with the draft board?

A. Muhammad All did not come to me. He already knew my position on such things as entering war, or fighting in war. He knew that from what I did in 1942.

I REFUSED to take any part in the war at that time against Japan and Germany, or help America to fight those wars. I considered myself a righteous Muslim and I teach peace. I cannot be a peaceful man by participating in wars against other people without cause.

We are only to fight those who fight against us. This is the natural and just law of man. If he is attacked, he should try to defend himself, but take no part in killing human beings like yourself to further some selfish aims.

If it is fighting for truth and righteousness — yes, we go along with that. But if it is fighting for territorial gain, or to master and rule people in their own spheres, no. We think it is an injustice.

WE ARE Muslims and we want to remain Muslims. We are free to go back to our religion and our people. We are not trying to interfere with anyone's business on what he or she wants to do.

If a man joins me in order to return to his people, his God and religion, I accept him on what he says. But I tell him only what is right. That is, you should believe in Allah and the religion of Islam and the Last Days, or Judgment. That is up to you.

Q. DO YOU think Muhammad All has acted properly in refusing to be inducted into the Army?

A. In the first place we, the Muslims, don't teach violence. I have been here more than 35 years and we have a record spelling out what we teach and our actions prove what we teach. At no time in those years have we ever attacked or been an aggressor. Our religion and the very words, As-Salaam-Alaikum, mean peace. We cannot be classified as aggressors, when we teach peace.

But if it is fighting for territorial gain, or to master and rule people in their own spheres, no. We think it is an injustice.

Q. DON'T you think that Muhammad All could go into some other form of the service, as the Medical Corps, or religious service?

A. Our program is well defined on the last page of our paper (MUHAMMAD SPEAKS). It is asking for freedom, justice and equality for us as free people since the government teaches that the so-called Negro is free. Therefore, if we are free and if we go to our own God, religion and our people, then we can't take part in such things as wars started by the American government or any other government.

Q. What about him being a Negro and taking this action? What do you think the individual American Negro in Viet Nam may think about Muhammad not coming into the service?

A. I do not know how they feel. We are free—everyone who accepts Allah and Is-

lam, His religion and His Name. We are free and we are trying to exercise that freedom. I have nothing to do with a follower if he thinks he wants to go along with the Christian world, after he claims he is one of the Muslim world. It is entirely up to him or her.

Q. HAS Muhammad All's decision been independent of himself, or has he been told by you not to be inducted into the service?

A. After you have learned the truth about yourself, we would not have to teach you to refuse induction into the armed services of the United States.

We teach the truth that God (Allah) has given us—the truth about ourselves and the so-called American Negroes.

It is written and verified in the scriptures of truth that we are lost-found people here and have been here for the last 400 years. We are not with our own kind, nor under our own religion and God. Now we are free, according to the government, to believe in any God and any religion that we want.

(Continued on page 7)

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Muhammad: The Dead Must Rise!

By Elijah Muhammad
Messenger of Allah

THE MENTALLY dead so-called Negro—the lost and found member of the aboriginal black nation of the earth—must rise. The time has come for us to rise up and go for self and not continue to be beggars, expecting something for ourselves that cannot be permanent for us and our children.

The world of the white man is in a very, very bad condition. He is hoping he can keep the mentally dead, dead. His greatest desire is to deceive the slave he has reared and trained to stay with him, to share in whatever evils and destruction that will come upon him and his children.

WE ARE NOT blind to the prophecy of the Bible and Holy Qur-an, concerning the things that are coming upon the nation today and upon the spiritually blind, who cannot see and distinguish truth from falsehood, though it is preached to them.

But it will come to pass—and soon—that he shall see



THE LIFE-GIVING MESSAGE of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, delivered in an historic address before thousands at Chicago's Coliseum, still reverberates throughout the

world as the only divine solution to the problems of 22 million black captives in the Hell of North America.

out of the darkness into the light of the truth, for God intends that we all see, and all understand, and come into ourselves and the adversary of us all (the devil).

WE HAVE NO cloak for our cover, after the truth has come to us from the mouth of God, Himself, in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad—to Whom praise is due forever.

Black people have been greatly deceived by white people, the open enemy of the original black nation of the earth. We have scriptures in the Bible and Holy Qur-an which plainly teach us that these people would try to deceive us, especially in this day and time, which is the time of his approaching doom.

THE SLAVES, our fa-

thers, who were brought here over 400 years ago, are so far away from understanding the truth that they cannot see and understand its teaching, though it is as clear as the sunshine.

We must all see. We must all understand—for spiritual blindness and misunderstanding exist among us today. Unity among us—the black people in America today under the same banner

—alone is sufficient to bring about the power and salvation that belongs to us.

WE SEE TODAY how feverishly the white man is working among us to keep us asleep to the knowledge of our day—as it is written. Some of us are silly enough to believe that we have a future with our enemies, but this future is like a shadow that is about to disappear.

"The White Man is Not Fighting Us, He is fighting God."

(Continued from page 6)

ISLAM HAPPENS to be the right religion with the right God and we have reclaimed what we really are by nature. We came from the God of freedom, justice and equality and our people. We are going back to them if

we have the privilege to leave what is not ours.

By nature, we are not Christians, nor kin to white people. We are two different people altogether, and they, by nature, are not kin to us.

Q. Don't you feel that Muhammad Ali has obligations to America, because of the

money he has made here?

A. We are not working for money. We are working for freedom, justice and equality for our people. Money will come after we get freedom, justice and equality.

Q. WHAT DO you think will happen to Muhammad Ali now?

A. That depends on his own freedom of action, his God, his religion and his people.

If it is fighting for truth and righteousness—yes, we go along with that.

Q. Did you counsel him in his behavior?

A. I teach him—as I teach anyone who comes to me—the right way. The right way has been pointed out to Muhammad Ali, and all others who hear me teach. It is up to them to follow the right way. We do not beg you to follow us. It is entirely up to you.

Q. THE action of Muhammad Ali in face of the draft, has prompted many people to point out that Joe Louis spent a great deal of time, while he was in the service, giving his money to the United States government, and for drives for United States Bonds, and this kind of thing. Do you see a contrast between Muhammad and Joe Louis?

A. Muhammad Ali, of course, is far different from Joe Louis. Muhammad Ali is like a man who is awake and Joe Louis is like a man still asleep. Muhammad Ali can see, and Joe Louis cannot see. So, we do not compare people who are asleep with those who are awake.

Q. DO YOU think that Muhammad Ali is a better champion than Joe Louis was?

A. That is for the world to decide, based on how long

Muhammad continues to whip his opponents.

Q. When Muhammad Ali wins a victory, is it for him, the religion, or for America?

A. The people of Islam did not notice Muhammad Ali as long as he was Cassius Clay. The Islamic world paid no attention to him because he did not belong to the Islamic world, he belonged to the Christian world.

Q. MUHAMMAD Ali says he will be going to jail for his religion and people. Do you feel that this is true?

A. He would not be going to jail for the religion. The religion was here before he was born, and the religion of Islam will be here after he is gone. Whatever he does, he will do it for himself.

Q. Would you consider it religious persecution if he were to go to jail instead of being drafted?

A. If he goes to jail, as I did, he is only trying to keep faith with that for which he has taken an oath. He has taken an oath with Allah, that he will serve Him and His religion, Islam. If he goes to jail and has to suffer persecution, then he is considered a good Muslim.

WE MAKE an oath with Allah in these words: My words, my sacrifice, my life and my death are all for Allah. And Allah demands that we fulfill these promises.

Q. Muhammad has been described in newspapers as a self-proclaimed Muslim minister. Is Muhammad Ali a minister?

A. He cannot be a self-

(Continued on page 8)



HANDS RAISED to greet the Ministers of Muhammad's Mosques of Islam thousands of black youths, such as these in the Washington, D.C. area have literally "risen from the dead" to embrace the teachings of Messen-

ger Muhammad. Minister Lonnie of Muhammad's Washington Mosque and world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, above, share the rostrum.

Exclusive Interview With The Messenger of Allah

(Continued from page 7)

proclaimed minister of Islam. In the first place, Muhammad Ali was born a Muslim. All darker people here called Negroes are born Muslims, but they did not know it. That is why they are called blind, deaf and dumb—they had not learned the truth about themselves.

All of us were born Muslims. This means that by divine nature we are Muslim members of the righteous nation—one who obeys the Will of God. But the slave-masters brought us from our native people and country and made us forget ourselves. The so-called Negroes are white men under black skins.

Q. IS every member of the Muslim faith a minister?

A. Every Muslim is a minister, even to the women. They will teach and administer the truth they received. As soon as we teach one, tomorrow or the next day, he is out trying to minister it to the others.

Q. Do you think Muhammad Ali should be excused from the draft because he is a minister?

A. I was a minister when I went (to jail). This government does not excuse you for righteousness, because by nature, it is against righteousness.

Any black man will be criticized if he tries to do something in the name of justice for his own people.

Q. THERE are ministers who are excused.

A. Those are Christian ministers.

Q. Do you hope that Muhammad Ali continues in the world of boxing?

A. No sir. I do not care about any sport. It is against the religion of Islam to apply our hearts to sport and play. The Holy Qur-an teaches us that the universe was not made for sport and play. The people who take it for sport and play are the Christian people.

Q. MANY Negroes have excelled in sports.

A. That is right, because they were under the Christian guidance. They knew nothing about themselves.

Q. Do the Negroes have natural ability for sports?

A. Listen, they are, by nature, the best. They can do anything—if you give them a chance — better than anybody on earth. We would make a better bomb—hydrogen bomb—than they are making, if we were allowed in the laboratory to do it. The black man came with the universe in his father. All the wisdom of the universe and all the wisdom that the Christians have ab-

sorbed came from the darker people.

No Muslim should be forced into anything that is contrary to his religious belief.

Q. IS THE black man's participation in sports compatible with the Muslim religion?

A. Sport and play do not go with the religion of Islam. Muhammad Ali was already in this sport before he accepted Islam. When he accepted Islam, there was no opponent in the ring able to defeat him and take away the title.

Then he became one of the most mocked people of the country. The government went all-out just because he came over to Islam. They mocked and scandalized him for coming to Islam. They ran him out of the country and out of the ring.

THEY SENT him out of America to take his fights elsewhere. He fought and whipped all with whom he came in contact on the outside. Then, they let him return and he has still whipped them all. They are not satisfied yet.

According to the radio and newspapers, they will take his title if he does not go into the army. If Muhammad Ali then turns and follows the non-Islamic people, who are his open enemies, he is a fool. The white man is an open enemy of ours and he does not want justice to come to us, not even from God.

The white man of America will declare war on God to keep the so-called American Negro down. This is what he is doing now. The white man is not fighting us, he is fighting God. God has taken up our fight—to fight America for our freedom, justice and equality, as the Bible and Holy Qur-an teach us.

We believe in peace, freedom, justice and equality and we take no part in aggression.

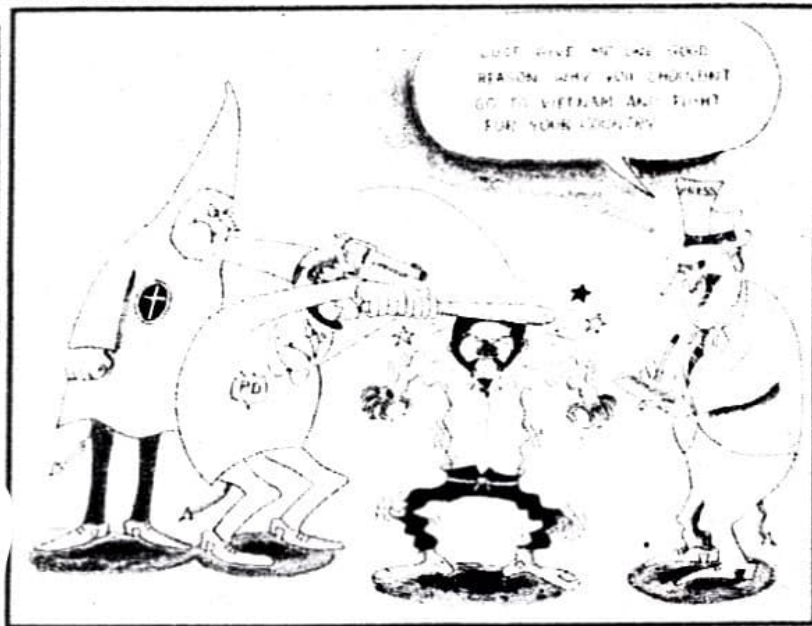
Q. IS Muhammad Ali receiving this treatment simply because he is a Muslim?

A. It can't be anything else. Muhammad Ali is harassed to keep the other mentally sleeping so-called Negroes fast asleep to the fact that Islam is a refuge for the so-called Negroes in America.

Q. Do you think the American Negro has a patriotic duty to serve in the armed forces?

A. I said our whole program is on the last page of our paper, **MUHAMMAD SPEAKS**. I say America should give us some part of

(Continued on Page 9)



Interview with Messenger Muhammad

(Continued from page 8)

this country, a territory to ourselves, since we can't live in peace with America. No black people can get along with the white people in peace. Whites can't get along with themselves in peace.

AFTER THE making of the white man there has been hell on this earth. Everywhere his history takes him he starts trouble. It is known the world over that the white man has started trouble everywhere he has gone—in the Near and Far East, Africa, and everywhere over the earth.

He had a 30-year war and a 100-year war with himself in Europe. What kind of peace guide could he be for us?

Look at the civil rights people. They cannot get rights. After 100 years, they still do not have freedom, because they do not have civil or human rights.

Q. MARTIN Luther King, Jr., has been criticized lately because of the anti-war movements. What do you think of this?

A. Any black American will be criticized if he tries to do something in the name

We are only to fight those who fight against us. This is the natural and just law of man . . . but take no part in killing human beings like yourself to further some selfish aims.

of justice for his own people.

Q. Do you think Martin Luther King, Jr., will be successful in open housing and other programs this summer?

A. This is not the way to make progress. Today, we are too far away from the days of begging the slave-

master to give us a house next to him, or grant us the right to live next door to him.

WE NEED a house to ourselves on some of this earth that we can call our own.

We are 20 million or more black Americans and there are many of our people who have the white man's education, many of them hold high degrees. If they would go out and use these degrees they have attained from the white man's institutions of learning, they can take care of themselves. They do not need to be begging him, asking for a job to benefit from the degrees they have acquired from the schools and universities of the land.

"The X's do not actually mean the name as yet. The X's only mean that they are not what they were and their names are pending and will be given to them soon now."

The so-called Negroes are capable of going for themselves if they were not so mentally enslaved. They do not think that they are able, nor do they have the desire to take their responsibility. The so-called Negroes would

The Muslims do not have to go out begging for a place to live on this planet Earth. When American so-called Negroes accept Islam, they automatically have a home among the other Muslims on the earth. Whether it is in America, Asia, Africa or the islands of the Pacific, they have a home and that is for sure.

rather beg for employment from their teacher, than to go for themselves and build their own employment.

Q. WHAT do you propose for a mother with several children, and no father, to do who is on A.D.C. in order to help herself?

A. If we were on some territory to ourselves, we would provide means for such people. They have to beg here, because here is where they started, and they have no alternative but to beg.

Q. Is it hopeless for these people?

A. As long as they are under the same people who brought their foreparents to such a condition.