

law against such things, and now, if He goes breaking that law himself . . . well! See how the devil even makes our people believe and preach a lie against God!"

LUCAS: "Can there be unity between the Black Muslims and other Negro groups?"

MUHAMMAD: "We would be glad to work with the NAACP and CORE, but their hands are tied with the white people and the government. It is clear as sunshine that President Kennedy has fooled Martin Luther King. The devil gets the leader, not the masses."

LUCAS: "What is your opinion of the March on Washington?"

MUHAMMAD: "What good was the March on Washington? It was only a show. People haven't benefitted. It only showed that the people want something. When you do something like that, be a winner! Or cripple the enemy so he's not as strong as before. With people behind you, America won't mow you down, because the world is watching. (The leaders should have said:) 'We're here! We won't leave until you sign the bill— not some bill you put together, but our bill!'"

LUCAS: "Then you don't believe that nonviolence . . ."

MUHAMMAD: "Nonviolence won't work! You see it doesn't work. The white man's been killing all his life. They have no love for each other, how can they have any for you? They had a thirty years war, a hundred years war, and there were no Negroes among them. They are born to fight . . . are liars by nature. They make promises only to disappoint."

Dinner in a Black Muslim home is rather lengthy, since it is the only meal of the day. The salad was followed by a thick, rich, red bean soup; fish fried in corn oil, beef patties (pork is forbidden), sweet potatoes and fresh fruit for dessert. Brown sugar was served with the coffee; the cream was white.

Towards the end of the meal, Elijah Muhammad made some general observations on science, based on Islamic beliefs. He noted that "astronomy is the best thing to study. You must learn the laws of the universe. You can't be an independent nation otherwise."

He also predicted that the U.S. manned (continued on page 89)

government. I have no support but from right here (has only his followers here; no foreign backing). I go to the same market you do, ride the same transportation. They (whites) don't prohibit me from anything; the freedom from nothing he grants any other Original (Negro). So this is the proof that our people's rejection (of Islam) is charged to themselves, not the white man, though he might oppose. He might oppose me, but he dare not come up to me and tell me not to believe. Because he knows I know better, and I'll condemn him!"

What the Black Muslims believe is an esoteric mixture of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam overlaid with a philosophy of black supremacy. "Allah" and "God" are used interchangeably in religious services, and both the Bible and the Qur'an (Koran) are quoted extensively.

In the Black Muslim lexicon, the "so-called Negro" in America is "the original black man" and all whites are "devils." The highly ingenious theology of Islam teaches that the original black man, after living for ages in peace and harmony, decided to create, by means of his Allah-given powers, the white man. The white man was given a specified number of years during which he would rule the earth, but he promptly proved he was a devil by enslaving his creator.

However, the devil's time is fast running out—1970 is sometimes cited as the deadline—and all whites will suffer total destruction by fire. Negroes who reject Islam will also die at this time of Armageddon. The Black Muslims say that whites deliberately misinterpret the Bible in order to make Negroes Christians and, therefore, docile slaves.

According to Elijah Muhammad, Negroes, not Israelites, are God's "chosen people," and Christian preachers are doing the devil's work.

MUHAMMAD: "There is nothing like consciousness after you're dead. Here is our heaven; here is our hell. Life after death really means freedom from the white man."

"See, brother, this is a disgrace and a lie to say that God got a child and himself out of wedlock. See, Mary wasn't married. God has given us a

generally, has been fair in its role of the Black Muslim movement. "No. But they are better job now. Papers that are so poisonous against us fighting because of the increased in our work.

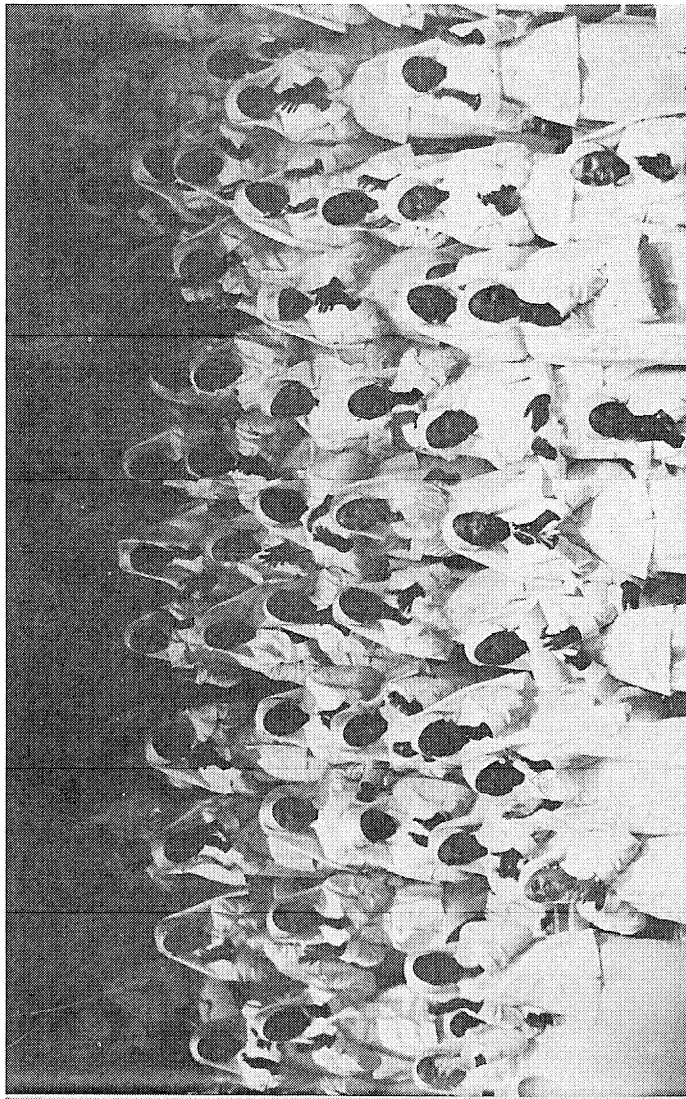
(the white man) is always to interfere with the leader's always trying to tell you a should believe and follow o you shouldn't. This interproves beyond a shadow of a hat he hasn't freed you and ver intend to free you from always interferes with the up of us. He wants to be sure adership is not against him evils that he's done. therefore, he snoots around everything that is said. All this ing and seeking what I'm and everything, is to find eg in it he can use against for me. He don't want me to but he can't help it as long ot going against his law. I am ording to his law, to make i criticizing. Because the law ant to criticize the President, ant to."

"James Baldwin wrote of ing with you in an article for e Yorker and later included ook (the No. 1 best seller, e Next Time). What is your of Baldwin?"

MUHAMMAD: "He's a very fine in his way. He's not so crazy ie white man, but he (Baldwin) tell enough . . . you know, say . . . to fight him (he o much about this (Islam). d a good dose of this, he'd ferent Baldwin, because he ie white man is no good and like it. But he's afraid to go he's afraid to say too much of what I'm doing, because to get through the way he's writing his books.

It mind you or anyone else all they want about what I each. It's the proof that I am If the white man doesn't ae personally, you have no fear; only that you will do t Islam) for favoritism, hop- will . . . you know . . . be with you.

I'm also living under this



Black Muslim women, all in white, at the Philadelphia meeting while Muhammad speaks, protected by bodyguards

