

Despite rumors of Saviour's Day cancellation

Closed circuit broadcasts draw thousands

By Alonzo 4X
(News Editor)

CHICAGO — Surprisingly large crowds greeted the nationwide closed circuit broadcast of the Nation of Islam's immensely SUCCESSFUL Saviour's Day Convention.

THE UNPRECEDENTED broadcast, shown in 21 different locations throughout the country, was the first non-sports event to ever garner such massive interest.

More than 10,000 persons attended the 369th Armory in Harlem and, although reception of the initial portion of the program was cloudy, the vast majority of the crowd remained.

THE AUDIENCE punctuated the broadcast with frequent applause, and erupted into rhythmic chants of "Long live Muhammad."

There was deafening applause at the Reverend Jesse Jackson's comments:

"The difference between a politician and a prophet is that a politician tries to take what he can get, while a prophet gives all he's got."

REGARDING THE absence of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Luther Robinson of Manhattan said, "Muhammad brought us hope and direction. His presence will be missed, but His life and program will always have a tremendous effect."

Lorne Underwood of Hempstead, L.I. said, "The fact that there was no fighting over power after the death of the Messenger is another tribute to His great teachings among His followers."

MORE THAN 6,000 viewed the historic occasion in nearby Jersey City. The city's Stanley Theater with a 4,500 capacity was jammed with a standing-room-only crowd and hastily fashioned accommodations for an additional 1,500.

In Atlanta, Ga., despite the fact that the major daily newspapers had reported that the Saviour's Day convention had been cancelled, a crowd of nearly 2,000 assembled at the Atlanta City Auditorium.

When the Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad was announced as Messenger Muhammad's successor, the Atlanta crowd greeted the news with joyous shouts and sustained applause.

MANY HAD professed uncertainty of the Nation of Islam's direction, following a barrage of press reports alluding to possible power struggles within the ranks of Muhammad's followers.

Dr. Kenneth Ellis, a

"The fact that there was no fighting over power is another tribute..."



DETROIT CITY COUNCILMAN, Ernest C. Brown, present Salheddin Muhammad, grandson of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, with a proclamation designating February 26, 1975 as "Nation of Islam Day." Brown was acting on behalf of Detroit's Black mayor Coleman Young. (Back row, Left to right)—Lenis 4X, Bennie B.X, Min. Earl D.X and Thomas Shabazz.

Morehouse College professor said, "I was really impressed by the smooth exchange of power. It was wonderful the way all the ministers got up and promised no factionalism. It is quite obvious that the program remains intact. The exchange of power was really impressive."

Celestine O'Berry, a bank teller from Columbia, S.C., "I think all Black people should be willing to come together after hearing the wisdom of the Nation of Islam."

In Detroit Mich., where Mayor Coleman Young had just proclaimed it "Nation of Islam Day," speculative information indicating the

cancellation of the Muslim convention served to strongly limit the crowd level to nearly 1,000 persons.

THOSE WHO DID attend, however, were greatly affected by what they observed.

"I've never seen that many Black people display so much unity in my life. This is

"something I'll never forget," said William Holland, an autoworker.

A bomb-threat failed to deter a crowd of more than 5,000 including scores of dignitaries attending the Washington Coliseum to view the historic Saviour's Day Address.

The city of Washington had proclaimed the day the "Nation of Islam Day" and many in that city's Black, middle-class population who were still in opposition to the Message of Muhammad were waiting for some indication of factionalism.

"The transition was so smooth, it caught many of us off-guard," said Sidney James, a young Black pharmacist.

"I was surprised at the depth of wisdom of Wallace Muhammad," said John Perrot, a Howard University student.

In Miami, Fla., more than 1,000 people traveled from as far north as Jacksonville and as far south as the Florida Keys to witness the momentous occasion.

The convention was greeted with sustained applause by many of those who traveled to the Dade County Auditorium for the affair.

Nation's Capital, Officials Praise Muhammad's Work

By Lonnie Kashif
(M.S. Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a great rush to join sister states and cities across the United States in proclaiming February 26 as "Nation of Islam" day, prior to the Saviour's Day Convention, Washington, D.C. headed a list of major state and city governments paying tribute to the Hon. Elijah Muhammad.

MANY OF the proclamations and resolutions required a suspension of procedural rules, as in Washington where a two-thirds majority vote is necessary to permit a vote on the resolution was quickly obtained, and the resolution was adopted by an unanimous vote.

Although the resolutions were not precedent-setting for this year, it was highly significant that the District of Columbia, the seat of the U.S. Capitol, White House and Congress, joined in the historic recognition of the greatest Black man in America.

It was in Washington, D.C., just 33 years ago that Messenger Elijah Muhammad was arrested and imprisoned by the government on charges of alleged draft evasion.

SIMILARLY, in the state of Michigan the House of Representatives adopted a resolution resolving that "recognition be accorded the Nation of Islam and its esteemed leader Elijah Muhammad; and that all citizens hereby take cognizance of the many achievements of the movement on Saviour's Day, February 26, 1975."

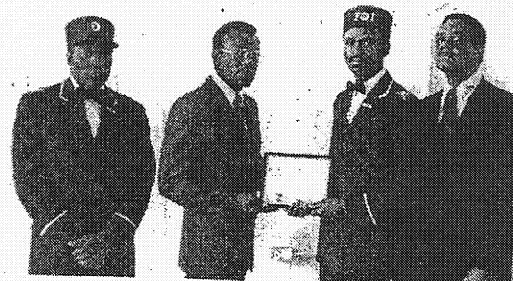
In an expression of sympathy, wired to Muhammad Speaks by D.C. Councilman Arrington Dixon who introduced the resolution, he declared the Council "was deeply shocked and saddened; our prayers are with you," upon learning of the Messenger's passing only minutes after signing the resolution.

The Michigan resolution and the Washington resolution both hold historic significance for the Nation of Islam. It was in Michigan that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad first met Master Fard Muhammad, and where the first Temple of Islam in America (Detroit) was established.

Also in similarity to the District of Columbia, this state allowed the imprisonment of the Messenger, at Milan, in Detroit itself. Mayor Coleman Young decreed a near identical

resolution. Another last-minute proclamation came from the City of Kansas City, where Mayor Charles B. Wheeler Jr.

of Freedom, Justice and Equality, and has spearheaded a fight against crime and continuously gives recognition



MAYOR EDWARD Bibens of Inkster, Mich., presents Min. Earl D.X with proclamation declaring February 26, 1975, "Nation of Islam Day." Brother Thomas Shabazz, to Mayor Bibens' left and (far right) Bennie B.X.

decreed in part — "Whereas, the Nation of Islam in Kansas City area has upheld the principles of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad through His son, Minister Nathaniel Muhammad, who has indoctrinated into every project he has established in Kansas City, the principles

to anyone who has the desire to better the community in which we live... I proclaim Wednesday February 26, 1975 as "Nation of Islam Day." In all more than 20 local and national governments have so honored the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and the Nation of Islam