



ELIJAH MUHAMMAD *Continued*

The day after Muhammad's passing was a day of ceremonial importance in the Black Muslim world. February 26, the Messenger had declared long ago, is Our Saviors' Day, a day for the true believers to honor the birth of a man named W. D. Fard, a man the Messenger said was Allah—the Lord—himself, who anointed Elijah Poole to be his Messenger, and who gave him the revered surname of Muhammad. It was also Fard, according to Muslim history, who named his Messenger's fifth son, Wallace, and predicted that he would one day lead the Nation of Islam.

Nearly 20,000 of the faithful had convened in Chicago for the annual observance that had turned unexpectedly into something more. As planned, they assembled behind the huge Chicago International Amphitheater. Shivering in icy sunlight, the highly disciplined Muslim legions expressed no remorse or sadness. Dressed in traditional uniforms, Muslim men and women, in separate lines, at different doors, waited patiently to enter the hall. The women were quiet, but not glum. The men jogged in place and chanted, "Long Live Muhammad!" Inside, the old, ragged hall was washed in a sea of blue and white uniforms and decorated with huge hanging pictures of Elijah Muhammad.

At the head of the auditorium, on a platform from which future Presidents have accepted their party's nomination, the ruling Muslim hierarchy was assembled along with a few special guests sympathies of 130 million Arabs and 600 million Moslems"—Ali Baghdadi, an Arab scholar who came to convey "the deepest throughout the world; Hasan Abdallah, Jordanian consul and

