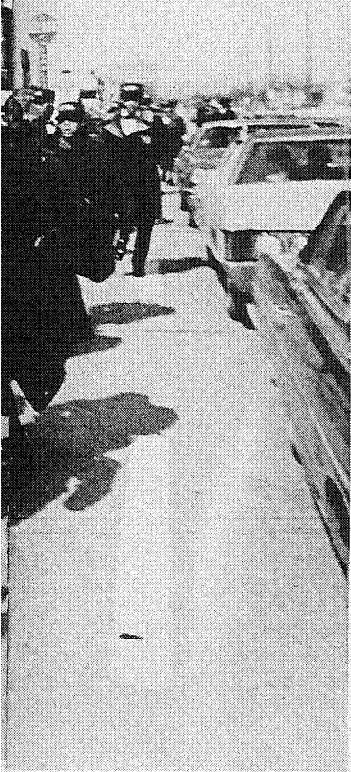


Funeral procession (left) is led by a limousine bearing the sons of Elijah Muhammad and guarded by members of the Fruit of Islam. Sons, grandsons and brothers of the Messenger (bottom, opposite page) carry his coffin into the Temple, while thousands of Muslims wait outside to get a glimpse of the casket as it is taken to the cemetery where some close relatives bid sorrowful farewell minutes before the burial.



midwest representative of the Arab League, and Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of Operation PUSH. Muhammad Ali, heavyweight boxing champion and a Muslim leader, was also on the dais.

Wallace Muhammad, whose title is now the Hon. Wallace Muhammad, Supreme Minister of the Nation of Islam, sat in the center of the stage on a black swivel chair. Behind him was his brother, Herbert Muhammad, who has been chosen to head the six-man committee that will assist the Supreme Minister in managing the Nation's affairs.

The program lasted for more than three hours and began with a film that was a Muslim interpretation of 20th century black history. Much of the film was about Elijah Muhammad. Born to poverty on Oct. 7, 1897, Elijah Poole was one of 12 children. Largely self-educated and a serious student of the Bible, Elijah, the son of slaves, struggled but could not overcome the inequities of Southern life during the dawning days of the 20th century. Eventually, the film continued, he was forced to join the black exodus from the South that filled northern ghettos before, during and after World War I. The struggle continued. He worked at odd jobs and on railroad gangs. In 1919, at the age of 22, he married the former Clara Evans. By 1923 they had two children and had moved to Detroit. They had more children but nothing else changed until the day, in 1930, when Elijah Poole first encountered W. D. Fard. Immediately, he said, he perceived the man to be divine and immediately he joined the small band of followers Fard had recruited in the depression-



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