

During Our Savior's Day program, Wallace D. Muhammad is being carried on the shoulders of other Muslim leaders following his introduction as the new leader of the Nation of Islam and after giving his first address as the Supreme Minister (below).



## ELIJAH MUHAMMAD *Continued*

ravaged Motor City. An energetic disciple, Poole quickly became Fard's most trusted associate. But Fard disappeared in 1934 and for more than a decade thereafter the budding Nation of Islam floundered, unable to resolve internal disputes beset by financial problems and often threatened by government interference.

(Elijah Poole) Muhammad was arrested twice during that period; once by Detroit authorities for sending his children to a Muslim school rather than public institutions, and once by order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on draft evasion charges. He was 45 years old when imprisoned for refusing induction into the armed services in 1942. When he was released four years later, he went to Chicago and established the Nation's second temple of Islam. It was on the order of the one Fard had begun in Detroit, and Muhammad began the long process of spreading the Muslim gospel among the "so-called Negro," who was, he preached, "lost in the wilderness of North America."

Slowly but steadily the Nation grew, peopled by America's cast-offs—the jobless, the rootless, the pimps and prostitutes, the dope addicts, the aimless young and the hopeless elderly. Day by day and year by year, the followers of the diminutive Messenger began to attract attention. At first, in the late 1960s and early '70s, the Nation was viewed by the public at large as an ominous spectre rising from the ruins of America's sick social landscape. White America heard itself denounced as evil incarnate and doomed to destruction, and the implication was drawn by many that the highly disciplined and secretive Muslims would be the instrument of that destruction. During this period, Malcolm X was the Nation's leading spokesman and chief recruiter. Muslim ranks swelled, but public criticism also grew.

Meanwhile, the Nation was laying an economic foundation for its future. A weekly newspaper was begun, restaurants were opened, land was purchased. Today, Muslim holding are estimated at \$80 million. Included in this vast financial empire is the Guaranty National Bank and Trust Company in Chicago. Purchased in 1973, the bank has already increased its assets from \$4.9 million to more than \$10 million. Recently, the Nation has also established a vast fish import network that brings more than a million pounds of Peruvian whiting fish into the U. S. each month. In Michigan, Georgia and Alabama, Muslims farm more than 15,000 acres of land that the Nation has purchased over the