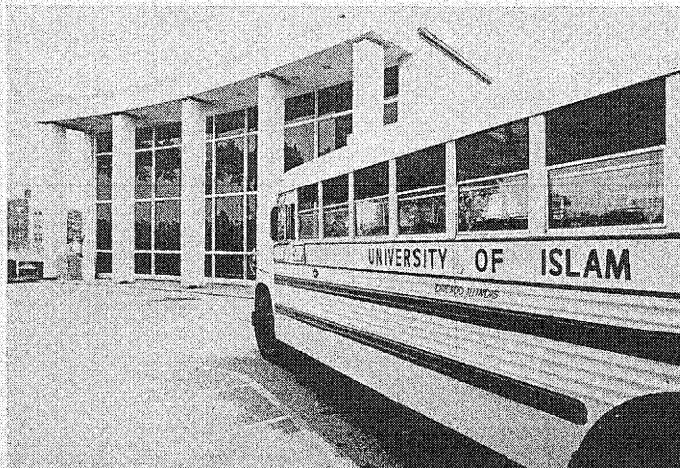
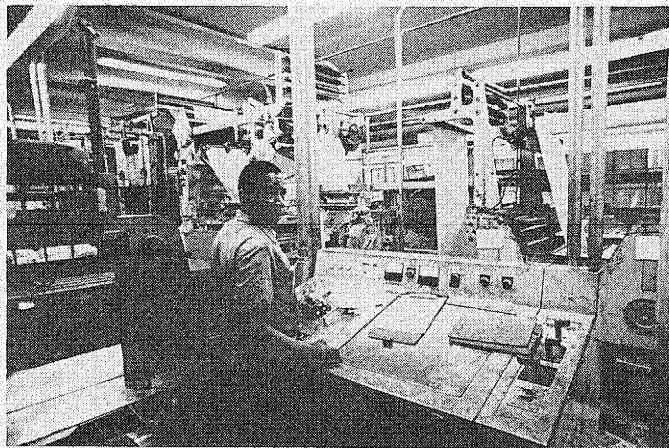
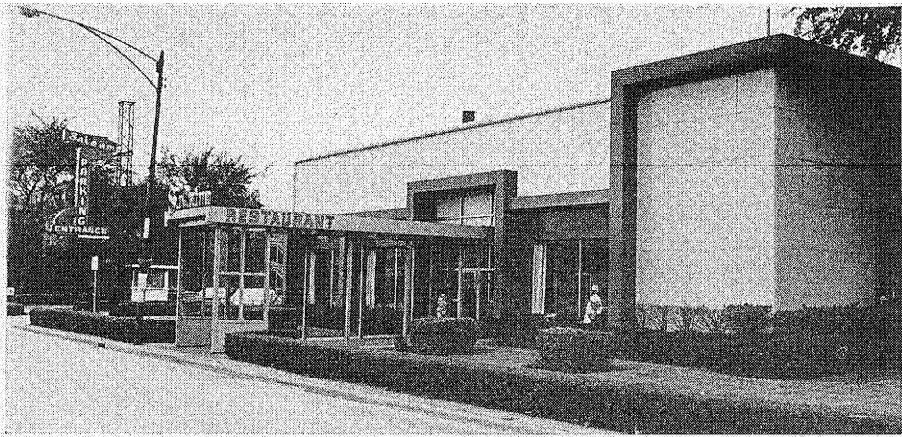


Muslim holdings in Chicago, headquarters of the organization, include (right) \$1 million Salaam Restaurant; Nation of Islam sales and office building (2nd row, left); one of a chain of Muslim clothing and shoe stores; \$1.5 million printing plant for Muhammad Speaks newspaper and a kindergarten to 12th grade University of Islam. The nation has similar holdings in other cities.



### ELIJAH MUHAMMAD *Continued*

and reflect on the man and what he had been about for the past 40 years. Whatever one thought of the man personally, he was unavoidable in a historical context. The fact that he was a pioneer in the advocacy and teaching of black pride and nationalism and that he, unlike others who tried, was successful in building a strong and viable socio-economic organization on those principles, was too real to avoid, too pertinent to dismiss, too large to ignore.

So the nation watched closely as the Muslims convened in Chicago on the day after the Messenger's death. They first saw Abass Rassoull national secretary of the Nation, who quickly dispelled suspense about Muhammad's successor. As if it had been a foregone conclusion, he announced that Wallace D. Muhammad would thereafter be the Nation's leader. He explained that a six-man committee, consisting of family members (Muhammad Ali, who it not a member of the family but a member of the committee, did not participate in the decision) made the selection. He added the fact that Master Fard had predicted that Wallace would one day lead the Nation and also mentioned less specific indications that the Messenger tended to look upon his second youngest son as a likely successor.

A series of high Muslim officials followed Rassoull to the podium. Atlanta minister Abdul Hahman, Los Angeles minister Abdul Karriem, Philadelphia minister Jeremiah Shabazz, Kansas City minister Nathaniel Muhammad, and Raymond Sharrieff, Elijah Muhammad's son-in-law. They all spoke passionately of their devotion to the Messenger and his teachings, proclaimed his resurrection in the image of his son Wallace, and pledged undying loyalty to their new leader. None was more moving, however, than Minister Louis Farrakhan, minister of Temple Number 7 in New York City, national spokesman for the Nation, a member of the Muhammad family (by way of the marriage of two of his daughters to a grandson and nephew of Elijah Muhammad), and a member of the six-man council. Tall and slender, with a voice very much like that of the late Malcolm X, who was one of his mentors, Farrakhan spoke very personally of his debt to the