

Los Angeles Hearing Set Stage For Explosive Trial Of Muslim Police Victims

Race Relations Hang In Balance

LOS ANGELES — The brutal April 27 "blood bath" inflicted by Los Angeles police officers on unarmed Muslims is leading to what observers here declare will be one of the most explosive trials in the history of the nation.

For though the Muslims were the targets for police bullets that killed one man, wounded six and permanently paralyzed another, it is they who will be standing "trial."

Thus when the 14 Muslims referred to by the Los Angeles Police Department as "male Negroes" come to trial, revelations are expected to be made that will have an astounding effect on

race relations as far as police and black citizens are concerned. This was evident in the wake of two weeks of preliminary hearings which laid the groundwork for the biggest and most critical look at black-white relations in California since the Civil War.

The hearings into some 30-odd charges lodged by the Los Angeles Police Department and a County Grand Jury against the Muslims seemed to point to an eventual "whitewash" of city cops, described by many who heard their testimony as "brute," "killer," and "cold-blooded."

But even in the face of the

highly questionable manner in which the prosecution made its presentation before Municipal Judge Byron E. Walters, who seemed to doze during the testimony of several witnesses, the defendants were held over for trial scheduled probably sometime in January.

Thirteen of the Muslims are charged with "resisting arrest" and "assault." The fourteenth, John X Morris, minister of the local Muslim Mosque, faces the most serious charge. He is accused of "assault with intent to commit murder."

All the testimony, except that of one man — a Negro ballroom bouncer — came from the police officers.

But the patrolmen were able to identify the Muslims only after they were handed photographs which also bore the names of the defendants.

One officer failed to make the identification until after he talked to Deputy District Attorneys Harold Kippen and Evan Lewis, the white prosecutors, in the corridor outside the courtroom.

The state's only "eyewitness" to the alleged shooting by John X Morris of Officer Frank Tomlinson in the back and elbow was, ironically, a Negro ballroom bouncer, Walter L. Tribble, Jr. But Tribble was unable to point out one of the defendants, Roosevelt Walker, when the photographs were taken from him.

Defense Attorneys Loren Miller and Earl Broady, both Negroes, repeatedly objected in vain to the prosecutor's method of obtaining identifications.

The internationally reported incident had its beginning when two white police officers decided to question "two male Negroes" selling clothes from the trunk of a parked car at 57th and South Broadway. The Negroes were Muslims and their activities were legitimate.

But soon after the "questioning" started more than 50 policemen had shot down seven unarmed Muslim men, one of whom died in the street and another paralyzed from the waist down.

Police then ransacked a nearby Muslim Mosque and ripped the clothing of Muslim brothers who were there in worship. The desecration of the Mosque was blamed on the fact that the officers "heard" there was a gun there. No gun or any other type of weapon was found, though holes were "sledgehammered" into the walls.

During the hearings, Officer Donald L. Weese admitted he emptied his gun into the bodies

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MUHAMMAD SPEAKS
Published Bi-Weekly

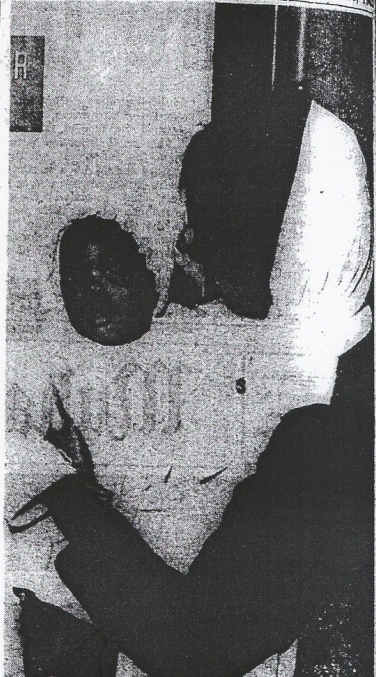
Vol. 2, No. 7 - December 30, 1962

Published by
Muhammad's Mosque No. 2
Editorial and Advertising Office at
634 EAST 79th ST., CHICAGO 19, ILL.
Aberdeen 4-8622-28

Application to mail as second-class postage
rates is pending at Chicago, Illinois.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Chicago, 12 Issues
\$1.50, 24 Issues \$2.95, Outside Chicago, 12
Issues \$1.80, 24 Issues \$3.60.



WITNESS for the prosecution is coldly smiling Police Officer Donald L. Weese, who admitted he slew Ronald Stokes and wounded several other Negroes in the infamous shooting of seven unarmed Muslims by the Los Angeles police. In a previous grand jury hearing, Weese was exonerated: "Justifiable homicide."



THE WIDOW of the late Ronald T. Stokes, Sister Delores, with her small daughter, Saudi, left fatherless after the brutal shooting of seven unarmed Muslims in Los Angeles on April 27. Stokes was the only one of the seven to die. The widow is shown in the corridor outside courtroom where 14 Muslims find themselves defendants.

Stations WEBH And CKLW Join Muhammad Coverage

The coverage of the weekly radio messages by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad has been expanded to two more stations — in Chicago and Canada.

The new Chicago-based FM outlet is station WEBH, which will carry the addresses by Mr. Muhammad early Sunday mornings at 6:30.

Set to beam the teachings of the great Muslim leader throughout our neighbor country to the North and in the Detroit area is Canadian station CKLW.

THE HONORABLE Elijah Muhammad already is heard over radio and FM facilities by more people than any other black leader in the history of North America.

Mr. Muhammad delivers the only Muslim messages heard on the largest and most powerful radio station in North America, the giant 250,000-watt XERF, on Sundays at 9:30 p.m., Central Standard Time.

XERF, located in Villacuna, Mexico, covers every part of the

United States, including Alaska and Hawaii; Canada and the major portion of Central and South America.

IN ADDITION, Mr. Muhammad, The "Messenger of Allah," speaks to listeners over Mexican station XEAU. This station, located in famed and widely-publicized Tijuana, is heard up and down the West Coast.

CKLW and WERD, the Negro-owned station in Atlanta Ga., are clear-channel stations carrying Mr. Muhammad's messages.

WERD reaches into Monroe, La., where religious baiters have attempted to "drive out the Muslims" by attacking the Muslim Mosque there. However, the teachings of the dynamic Muslim leader are heard regularly throughout Monroe.

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TWELVE OF THE FOURTEEN Muslims who will face trial in January through they were the unarmed victims of a brutal and tragic shooting spree by Los Angeles policemen are shown here. In the wheel chair is William Rogers, 28, who was permanently crippled by a police bullet that shattered his spine. Directly behind

him is his brother, Robert, 19, who was shot four times. Others, from left: Minister John X Morris; Randolph X Sidle; Louie X Buice; Arthur X Coleman, shot twice; Roosevelt X Walker, shot once; Monroe X Jones, shot once; Fred X Jingles; Nathaniel X Rivers; Troy X Augustine, and Raymond X Willey.

Calls It One-Sided Muslim Minister Blast Press Bias

LOS ANGELES—The hearings into charges against 14 Muslims facing trial here exposed the callous one-sided coverage given the case by white reporters of the city's two metropolitan daily papers.

The characteristic one-sided coverage caused Minister Malcolm X. Shabazz to blast the deliberate omissions of testimony favoring the Muslims in their reports.

MALCOLM, WHO ATTENDED the hearings as an observer, said: "Both the Times and the Herald-Examiner have chosen in all of their stories to leave out all mention of what happens during cross examinations of police witnesses. They have been writing only the prosecution's side of the case."

"Take for instance when Atty. Earl Broady was asking Police Officer D. L. Weese how he came to shoot four or five Muslims who were unarmed, and killing Ronald Stokes who he said was merely walking unarmed toward

him. Broady asked Weese why he shot the man instead of taking him into handcuffed custody, and Weese said he didn't know why. Yet this did not appear in the papers.

"THE PAPERS ONLY SAID Weese killed Stokes when the young Muslim approached him as if to attack him."

MALCOLM X also hurled blistering barbs at Mayor Sam Yorty.

"Back when this horrible thing happened," said Malcolm X. "Roy Wilkins of the NAACP asked why L. A. police, numbering over 50 at the scene at the Muslim temple, used their guns instead of nightsticks on defenseless young men. Mayor Yorty said the police officers were defending themselves from deathly attack at the hands of subversive people. People who are attending the hearings, white and black, now see who was telling the truth."

AFTER WESE TESTIFIED how he stood back and shot Muslims who he said were attacking

a brother officer, spectators walking out of the courtroom were heard referring to the rookie officer in disparaging phrases.

One white spectator walked up to a County Sheriff bailiff and said: "A man like that has no business carrying a gun."

In Tuesday's hearing officer L. Logan took the stand, testifying he had arrived at an intersection of 55th and S. Broadway where an "officer-on-trouble" report had been sent over his car radio. He said he had arrived at the scene with the Muslim temple on his mind.

LOGAN SAID HE ARRIVED at the temple to find an officer Anderson undergoing a police nightstick attack at the hands of Robert Rogers, a Muslim member. He said when he approached Rogers the young man struck him in the mouth, causing his lip to bleed.

A shudder was heard in the large courtroom as Logan testified: "I shot him."

WHEN ATTORNEY Broady brought out that Rogers was a

five-foot lightweight youth and that Logan was six-foot one and weighing 175, he asked the officer: "Couldn't you have apprehended Rogers without shooting him?"

"Maybe I could," said Logan, "but I was afraid and under attack."

"What did Rogers do when you shot him?" asked Broady.

"He stood there," said Logan. "Did you shoot him again?"

"Yes."

"Did he make any untoward move at you then?"

"No."

"He just stood there?"

"Yes."

"And you shot him again?"

"Yes."

"What did he do then?"

"He fell."

"Did you stop then to see if he was dead, or alive, or try to handcuff him?"

"No."

"What did you do?"

"I walked away to help another officer who was under attack."

L.A. Hearing Set Stage For Trial

Continued from Page 2
of five men, hit a sixth over the head with the empty revolver and ordered the wounded men handcuffed as they lay bleeding on the sidewalk.

Weese also admitted fatally shooting Ronald T. Stokes, who was at least six feet from the cop and had his arms upraised. The stony-faced cop had earlier been exonerated in the Stokes slaying, the County Grand Jury handing down a "justifiable homicide" verdict.

Spectators heard police officers try hard to make their shooting of unarmed Muslims sound like the greatest act of self-defense since the United States fought

back against the British.

Observers from the NAACP, CORE and other militant and civic organizations listened in disbelief as the story of the "gunfight" between heavily-armed police officers and unarmed followers of Elijah Muhammad.

Many observers wondered why the police department and the grand jury waited almost six months after April 27 to arrest and indict John X Morris, head of the Los Angeles Mosque, for Tomlinson's shooting.

They wondered if Morris was belatedly indicted to protect Tribble, whom some think shot Tomlinson during the wild shooting.

It was further confusing why police and Tribble had been unable for such a long time to pin the blame for Tomlinson's wound on a Muslim, and why they had selected Morris. Tribble shot the first Muslim, Roosevelt Walker, in the leg, to start the police shooting spree.

Representing the Los Angeles Police Department and the State of California at the trial will be District Attorney William B. McKesson's prosecutors, Evan Lewis and Harold Kippen. Appearing for the Defense will be Attorneys Loren Miller and Earl Broady.

Miller is considered the most astute legal interpreter of civil

rights on the West Coast. He drafted the Supreme Court petitions in the historic Supreme Court pleadings concerning the 1954 school desegregation cases.

Broady is president of the Los Angeles Bar Association and an outstanding trial lawyer.

The 14 Muslim defendants, half of whom will forever bear the marks of police violence, wantonness and bloodlust will remain free until the January trial, under \$100,000 bond.

But until the trial opens, thousands in every walk of life, black and white alike, are struggling with questions that seemingly have no sensible answers.



MINISTER Malcolm X. Shabazz, of New York who attended the hearings as an observer, blasted the one-sided coverage given the case by white metropolitan papers in Los Angeles. He charged them with reporting only the prosecution's side.

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