

SEPTEMBER 1, 1967

MUHAMMAD SPEAKS

Says Messenger's Teaching Can Correct Confusion of Identity for Black Women

By Sister Christine

Through the spread and influence of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's teachings of the black man's history, pride of the black man's color and features has grown largely, within the past seven years, among our black people.

I HAVE NOTICED upon my return to America the large number of black women wearing the so-called "natural" hair style, (hair which is not straightened and is left naturally curly) cut short, in a style similar to

that of Miriam Makeba.

These black women, I believe, want to be proud of their color and African heritage. Perhaps it is the fact that the trend among the black nationalist, and so-called black intelligentsia here in America, that she wears her hair in this style.

It is quite obvious that the black woman is searching for her identity, but it seems as if Africa is not enough with which to identify herself. If we look at her we see her hair and skin color is that of the black continent, Africa. The short-"mini

jubes"-skirts, net stockings (which only used to be worn by prostitutes, loose women, and show girls), and often blue and/or green eye shadow, are of France.

HER sandals are Italian Her bangle bracelets, of Eastern fashion. Sometimes she may be seen in a long dress (modest) with long slits on the sides exposing her legs just as if she was wearing shorts. Often one may find her in a tent dress, resembling a pregnant woman.

Her fingernails have grown out, resembling claws (of the devil-Bible). I am sure that a person, let's say a foreign visitor casting an eye at the so-called American Negro woman and seeing the confusion of two, three or more styles, standards and countries, may think her to be a bad mental case.

Do the Black women here in America, think that they

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steps a black mayor of that city might take. Richardson says, is black control of the police department. Then a program to create "harmony between the police and the community could be under-

are worried about black people here."

However, he points out that the "\$24 billion budget we allotted for Viet Nam could be used to provide jobs and training for black people here. It could solve a lot of

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are identifying themselves with Africa—modern Africa?

ALL AFRICAN women do not wear their hair cut short. Yes, in South Africa and in some parts of East Africa one will find this style quite popular among the women, but not the modern women. In western Africa one will find that the women wrap cord around sections of their hair, parting and dividing the hair to make various de-

signs and styles.

In the Sudan, Chad, and in parts of Ethiopia the women wear their hair in fine strands of braids, which are made closely to the head. The hair is braided or balled at the back of the head in Northern and North-eastern Africa. There are many styles for the African women's hair, but braids and clasping the hair at the back of the head are the most common.

While I was in the Sudan I met one American black girl who was touring North East Africa. She came wearing the "Afro" hair style, with short dresses, high heeled shoes (which the women do not wear there) and a confused appearance much like the one I have described above.

THIS WOMAN thought she would feel and look at home in her "natural" hair style. In reality she would have looked more at home and natural, in the eyes of the Sudanese, if she had worn braids, or her hair twisted in a bun, or clasped in a "pony tail." Braids would have been the best style, if she was seeking identity with the inhabitants of North-east Africa.

One should review the history and customs of a country before visiting it. This woman expected to see the loose life that she had seen the African students living in America. She felt very

much out of place.

It is not wrong to identify ourselves with Africa. We know that we were brought to America by our African grandparents. We are brothers to the Blacks in Africa. But we should not take on the appearance of that which we do not understand, and that which might represent an underdeveloped culture.

IT IS QUITE evident that the lip service, "Black is best," is not sufficient for our women, if it were they would not mix its' representation with another. If our women would only come to us at Muhammad's Mosque of Islam and hear the Truth as taught by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, they will learn why "Black is Best." They will no longer just be saying it, and still searching for an identity.

The dress and appearance of a person reflects the character and habitudes of the person. When I look out at our people, especially our women, and see their confused dress, I pity them. Once they come into the Nation of Islam, they will no longer have to search for their true identity, they will know who they are.

New Look in Detroit

DETROIT — City officials anxious that the rioting not be repeated, have decided to let Negro militants "join the power structure" in prevent-

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