

World Muslim Publication Praises American Muslims

NEW YORK—The Muslimnews International, in its September (1962) issue, took note of the success of the Muslim movement in America and recognized its aims of lifting Negro citizens to true freedom, equality and dignity.

Devoting more than two pages—with photographs—to “the fastest-growing, most-disciplined and meticulously-organized movement in the United States today,” the organ of the world Muslim faith lauded the American Muslim’ “sense of dedication.”

Committee Told Bias, Brutality Of L.A. Police

LOS ANGELES — The cold facts of racial discrimination and police brutality against Negroes by the police force here were laid before the California Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

Key leaders of Negro and white organizations last week portrayed the shocking aspects of police attacks against non-white citizens, despite denials and depreciations by William H. Parker, this city's police chief.

The hearing itself was made inevitable by the outright killing of one by police under Parker during the April 27th clash near Muhammad's Mosque No. 27.

Thomas Neusorn, chairman of the Community Relations Conference here, said that his investigation had showed that five out of every six cases of alleged discrimination by the police appeared to be well-founded. He emphasized:

“This situation exists and needs . . . correction.”

A Negro school teacher took the witness stand to reiterate her story of police brutality and insults, although Mayor Sam Yorty had previously denied that she “had a case.” It was revealed that she not only “had a case” but the police department had been forced to reprimand the officers involved.

In the main, the Commission, chaired by Right Rev. James A. Pike, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of California, agreed in conclusion with the outlook presented by the Negro witnesses.

Stating the aims of the United States Muslims, Muslim news International expressed astonishment at the “accomplishment in social rehabilitation.” It praised the moral fiber of Muslim members, acknowledging that “juvenile delinquency is non-existent and broken homes unknown among them.”

“The Southerners, the FBI, non-Muslim Negro associations and a multitude of other interested people and organizations,” the magazine contended, “have been assailed by a feeling of fear, suspicion, jealousy and dismay.” The author of the article, Abdul Latif Qaisi, also found that the American press, “with some honorable exceptions,” has conspired to “spread spite against the Muslims.”

In spite of this vigorous and vicious opposition, it was noted that “neither Elijah (Muhammad) nor his followers lose any sleep over this unfriendly attitude.”

The Muslimnews attributed the “phenomenal rise in strength” to Fard Muhammad, the founder, and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the “consolidator” and “dynamic and devoted leader.”

Reasons for Racial Undertones

Pointing out the color consciousness of American Muslims, the magazine said this attitude “can only be appreciated if the position of the Negroes and the psychological state of the United States” are kept in mind.

Fard (Muhammad) preached among the embittered, frustrated millions for whose emancipation Abraham Lincoln had supposedly died,” the article observed. “Important though the political emancipation was, ‘til the thirties, in spite of the end of the Civil War, a quarter of a century earlier, they (Negroes) were in a state of stagnation. They had traveled a long distance from Uncle Tom's Cabin but were still at the mercy of the white upper caste. . .

“Racial riots and lynchings of Negroes by the Ku Klux Klan

and their sympathizers, last-in-first-out principles in the hiring and firing of colored employees” are enumerated, among others, as the background ingredients of the Negro masses when Fard Muhammad came on the scene with his message of hope.

Movement Saved

The article said that after Fard Muhammad “mysteriously disappeared” in 1934, Elijah Muhammad “came to the rescue” of the “important spadework” of the Muslim movement's founder.

The rescue and growth is credited to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's “leadership and the allegiance of his trusted colleagues like Malcolm X, his (The Messenger's) extreme able deputy. . . Raymond Sharieff, the Supreme Captain of the Flowers of Islam; Louis X, the writer of “Organs,” a satirical play on the plight of the Negroes; Lucius X of Washington; Wilfred X and Elijah's five-out-of-six sons.”

Contrary to the detractors of American Muslims, the Muslimnews International stated that “judging them” (Muslims in America) solely by their character and behavior, honesty, personal character and behavior, honesty, personal, and public morality, fearlessness and faith in God—one would be led to hail them as excellent Muslims.”

While it did not mention the ruthless shooting of seven Muslims (one of whom died in the street) by police in Los Angeles, it had this to say about Muslims and violence:

“The pent-up racial feelings resulting from the accumulated hatred find a safety-valve in the mobilizations of generations seem to ment.

Nevertheless, they are instructed not to initiate a fight or violence. . . They are advised to obey the law and authority and refrain from carrying any weapons.”

Success Tops ‘Othodox’

The magazine confessed that “the success of the orthodox (Muslims) is only a fraction” of what Muslims in America have accomplished under Elijah Muhammad. . .