

## Says White Writer's 'Self-Help' Advice to Blacks Same as Messenger's Teachings

By Abdul Basit Naeem

Commenting in this space a couple of weeks ago on the "Riot Commission" report on last summer's racial flareup in Detroit, Newark and other major U.S. cities, I had stated, in part, that "it is going to take time—a very, very long time, indeed—for the Great Society to recognize and heed the pleas of its own appointees (i.e., National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders members) . . ."

**JUDGING** from recent public utterances of numerous prominent white Americans, as recorded by radio and TV networks and other (white-owned or white-controlled) news media, I cannot help but surmise that my personal view (above) is, by comparison, rather modest and highly optimistic.

Many an eminent spokesman of the "Establishment" regards the Riot Commission study "too idealistic — almost entirely impracticable." Others among Uncle

Sam's "great white nephews" altogether doubt that the commission's recommendations would ever be implemented.

Perhaps typical of those who obviously remain unimpressed by the presidential riot body's findings—and hence virtually averse to its counsel and suggested program of action—is the durable, distinguished columnist, Walter Lippmann.

**WRITING** some nine months back, Mr. Lippmann stated in the *New York Daily Post* (dated August 19, 1967):

"However much the Negro riots this summer have demonstrated our failure to make our racial policies work, the American people are quite unable to turn around and adopt a radically different policy . . .

"The races cannot separate. There can be no exodus of the Negroes to a land of their own . . . They cannot separate on American territory by some form of apartheid as in South Africa . . . The Negroes cannot seize, let us say, Mississippi, and secede from the United States in order to establish a country of their own. This suggestion is unthinkable . . .

"**THE CORE** of the problem is how to create a new generation of Negro leaders whom the young Negroes will follow and with

whom the white establishment in American society can live and work. For the irreconcilables . . . who consider themselves at war with the white majority, there is no future except in jail or in exile. For in any test of strength and violence, they would certainly be crushed, and if they insist on putting the matter to the test, they have no prospect whatsoever of prevailing . . .

"The power of the white community is so overwhelmingly superior that the security of the blacks lies, in the last analysis, in the determination of the whites not to let the conflict go to extreme limits . . .

" . . . My own view is a tough-minded one. As long as the advance of the Negro is presented as a form of white philanthropy—the white majority making the sacrifices to uplift the Negro minority—nothing on the scale needed will be practical politics. The uplifting of the Negro cannot be accomplished as a pro-Negro enterprise. Large communities of men are not that generous and unselfish . . ."

**NOW, HERE** are a few excerpts from Mr. Lippmann's essay (entitled "The Race Report") appearing in last week's *NEWSWEEK* magazine:

"It is, of course, a historic event

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## Says Writer Echoes the Messenger

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that the (unpalatable) truth (that the nation is ruled by a racist majority) has been spoken . . .

"(Thus) the report never mentions the (Viet Nam) war and its relation to civil disorders . . . No wonder . . . that in the context of the realities, the program and the admonitions of the report sound and are, in fact, utopian . . .

"... (For) what the commission is asking is that the large affluent white majority shall be willing to tax itself in order to lift the Negro minority out of its misery. I do not believe that the masses of human beings can be inspired to such altruism and to such sacrifices. That is a cruel and bitter thing to say. But it is the truth and it is from the truth that we must start.

"THE practical conclusion which I draw from this is that since the white majority will not subsidize the uplifting of the Negroes on anything like the scale required, the real hope of the Negroes is that they will participate as citizens, not as Negroes receiving charity, in the progress and upliftment of the nation . . ."

I must point out here that we, the Muslims, do not dispute the essence of Columnist Walter Lippmann's earlier theses. Nor do we deny the logic of his latest conclusions. On the contrary, I, for one, tend to endorse and appreciate his words of advice — especially such as those with which he concludes his NEWSWEEK article under reference:

"If the national policy is to wait for a new will (—"the will to tax ourselves to the extent necessary to meet the vital needs of the nation"—) to be generated among the whites, little will be done to deal with one of the roots of race prejudice — which is a lack of

pride and self-respect among the victims of the prejudice.

"THIS pride and self-respect can be willingly and even affectionately accepted and received by the white majority. But pride and self-respect must originate with the Negroes themselves. That is the constructive and creative element in the irrationality and wildness of black power. Ugly as are some of its manifestations, the growing feeling

among the Negroes that they must help themselves is one of the bright spots in a somber picture."

After all, if I may say so, isn't the latter portion of the paragraph immediately above (i.e., pertaining to the SELF-HELP doctrine) precisely and wholly identical to one of the cardinal and original teachings of the great U.S. Muslim leader, Honorable Elijah Muhammad?



My report card, sir. Please notice how my grades reflect the shocking ineptness of the school system and my department mark shows your complete failure as a parent.

(Reprint from Chicago Defender)