

Will Censure of Malcolm X Lead to Split in Muslims?

Will there soon be a split within the ranks of the Black Muslim movement of self-styled Messenger of Allah Elijah Muhammad?

The question arose among observance as Malcolm X (Malik El Shabazz) second in command in the movement, was sharply censured by his superior.

The reason — Malcolm X's ridiculing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy at a one-hour rally in New York City.

Calling the President's slaying by a sniper, in Dallas, a case of "chickens coming home to roost," he added that "being an old farmboy myself, chickens coming home to roost never did make me sad; they've always made me glad."

Mr. Muhammad in rebuking his number two man said Malcolm's remarks were an inaccurate reflection of Muslim attitudes.

He said: "With the rest of the world, we are very shocked at the assassination of our President."

Muhammad said Minister Malcolm "was speaking for himself and not Muslims in general."

He added: "Minister Malcolm has been suspended from public speaking for the time being."

"The nation still mourns the loss of our President."

Malcolm X, a few days after the speech, told newsmen that:

"I shouldn't have said what I said."

He continued: "Anything that Mr. Muhammad does is all right with me; I believe absolutely in his wisdom and his authority."

MALCOLM X said he will undergo the suspension but he is to continue to administer the affairs of his mosque in New York which he said "is enough to occupy me."

There's speculation that the movement is about ready to split into two movements with headquarters in Chicago and another with headquarters in New York.

There have been reports that Malcolm is exerting more influence than Mr. Muhammad himself and this has produced tension.

Also, there's a reported

rivalry between Malcolm and Raymond Sharrief, Mr. Muhammad's son-in-law, who commands the Fruit of Islam — the secret army of the cult.

BOTH MEN have eyes for the "throne," it is reported.

Extensive real estate holdings in New York, Chicago, Detroit, and Philadelphia, also has added to the struggle to succeed Mr. Muhammad, it is reported.

Malcolm X has "gained a name" in the eyes of the public because of his quick-witted and appearance. He receives more "press notices" than any others in the Black Muslim movement.

At the New York rally at Manhattan Center, before an audience of about 700, Malcolm X, fiery and outspoken as ever, made his remarks about President Kennedy at a point where the audience was open to questions and comment from the floor.

IN REFERRING to the chickens coming home to roost in the President's slaying, he cited the murders of Medgar Evers in Mississippi, the four Negro girls killed in the church bombing in Birmingham, and that of Patrice Lumumba, Congo leader.

"They've (the murders) got to come home some day," he declared.

Malcolm X attacked Negro leaders of the Washington march for jobs and freedom as stooges in the employ of a "white liberal" conspiracy that included the late President. The conspiracy, he said, was devoted to "tokenism."

He noted with sarcasm that the 250,000 Negroes participating, marched between the monuments of two dead Presidents. He said:

"By keeping them marching between the dead Presidents, they never had a chance to reach the live President."

It was obvious reference to President Kennedy. Actually, leaders of the march had a conference afterwards with Kennedy at the White House.

MALCOLM X also accused Mr. Kennedy of "twiddling his thumbs" at the killing of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu. Kennedy never suspected he would meet a similar fate so soon, he indicated. He said he "never foresaw that the chick-

ens would come home to roost so soon."

He also lashed out at the press for engaging in what he termed a plot to trap the Muslim leadership into an expression of job over the President's assassination shortly after it occurred. He said the press was looking for such a remark as: "Hooray, hooray! I'm glad he got it."

Malcolm X also repeated a previous contention that the Black Muslim movement is based on monotheistic love and tolerance of all men, including white men. However, he said that while his followers were nonviolent, they are taught, for purposes of self-defense, judo and karate and "everything else you should learn that will show you how to break a white man's neck."

Afterwards, a member of the audience who asked that he not be identified, said he enjoyed Malcolm X's remark "more for the fact that he had the nerve to say it than that I really approved of it."

WHITES WERE barred from the rally, except reporters who were searched in typical Muslim fashion, before being admitted.

Elijah Muhammad is the leader of the Black Muslim organization, but Malcolm X is its most challenging spokesman.

Recently, Mr. Muhammad also decreed that white persons will no longer be allowed admittance to meetings of the sect.

Muhammad announced his ruling through a signed, front-page article of the organization's newspaper, "Muhammad Speaks."

"We shall never again permit white people to sit in our meeting—unarmed or armed. This does not include the Turkish people, Chinese, Japanese, Filipines, those of Pakistan, Arabs, Latin Americans, Egyptians and those of other Asiatic Muslim and non-Muslim nations.

"All black Americans or



MALCOLM X

... censured!

non-whites," continued Muhammad, "are welcome to our mass meetings. We will soon make a try at converting and

uniting all the originals of this Western Hemisphere.

Muhammad's latest decree was occasioned by a recent incident at Flint, Mich. An estimated 6,000 persons had gained admittance to the IMA auditorium in that city to hear an address by Elijah.

THIS INCLUDED some 200 or 300 "devils" as the Muslims call whites.

The Muslim newspaper reports that a Negro policeman entered the meeting, but first surrendered his weapons. Later, the newspaper stated, two white police officers appeared — but refused to hand over their pistols.

Muhammad charged in his open letter, that the two officers declared the law compelled them to carry their pistols at all times.

The Muslim leader declared he then left the auditorium, asserting:

Elijah Muhammad charged that the incident in Flint was an extension of police attacks against the Muslims dating from as far back as Detroit, in 1932 to "the attack and murder of the Muslims in Los Angeles, Calif., April 27, 1962."