

Muhammad Speaks Meets With Champ — Muhammad — Ali

No heavyweight boxing champion of modern or ancient times has become the center of world attention and controversy in so short a time as has the 22-year-old Champion, Muhammad Ali, formerly Cassius Clay. Few have stood up under such furious attacks both inside and outside of the ring. Despite attempts by prejudiced detractors to drag him down and by the so-called World Boxing Association leader to "take" his hard-earned crown, a better recognition of the unusual qualities which constitute the young athlete and more respect for his guidance under the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is steadily accruing. Because of the avid interest in Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Speaks will bring to its readers exclusive and candid portraits of this new-type heavyweight champion from time to time.



THE HONORABLE Elijah Muhammad, messenger of Allah, taught Heavyweight Boxing Champion Cassius Clay (right) and Clay's brother, Rudolph Valentino, from the Holy Qur-an when Cassius visited Mr. Muhammad after winning the coveted crown from Sonny Liston. Mr. Muhammad said Clay's faith in the Nation of Islam gave him the strength he needed to become champion.

By Sylvester Leaks

NEW YORK — Perhaps the best possible index to the character of Muhammad Ali, crowned king of the art of fistieuffs, can be found in a single almost unnoticed act.

Although he certainly can afford almost any luxury he desires, he still chose not to live downtown in the luxurious hotels but in a third class hotel in the heart of Harlem.

Manhattan Shirts And Jim-Crow Hiring Policies

AMERICUS, Ga. — The Manhattan Shirt Company here, whose hiring policies have helped materially to drive Negro unemployment in the area from 12 per cent in 1960 to 20 per cent in 1964, has reached an agreement that may end jim-crow employment practices at the plant.

The agreement includes the shirt company, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the Sumter County Movement (an affiliate of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee), with the company agreeing to hire and train Negro women for jobs as seamstresses.

The Manhattan plant in Americus has restricted Negroes to menial positions and

own people are not when they get big and popular." It is always difficult to appraise a man on a brief encounter but one detects in the champion, inspite of an external braggadocio, a certain shyness, reserve, and native intelligence and mother wit.

In discussing his plans for the future, Muhammad Ali says he plans to take it easy and look for a possible opponent to defend his title against. Pressed as to whether it would be Sonny Liston he said, "Yes, if he's crazy enough to get in there again."

JFK Memorial Stamp

WASHINGTON — A John Fitzgerald Kennedy memorial stamp of five-cent denomination will be issued May 29, the day President Kennedy would have been 47 years old.

Postmaster General John A. Gronouski announced the design of the stamp will be the choice of Mrs. Kennedy, who also selected the date of issuance.

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and Floyd Patterson in the same night."

What does he consider the motives to be behind the efforts to dethrone him? "My acceptance of Islam, as taught by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad." The champion also states that the clinching factor that brought him into the Nation of Islam was "Truth." The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches nothing but the truth. Truth about the black people and the history of the black people. He is the only one who can take the symbols in the Bible and demonstrate how they fit the so-called Negro."

Muhammad Ali declares with pride and alacrity that Islam (he has been a Muslim for six years) has made him strong both morally and

spiritually; has made him love his own and accept his own. "I could go on for a year talking", he says, "about the wisdom Islam offers. And all of it is good."

There has been increased talk recently about outlawing boxing. What does the champion think of it? "It stems from the fact that the sport is dominated by black people. When Rocky Marciano, Carmen Basillo, Gene Fullmer, and Bobo Olson were champions there was no talk about outlawing boxing then."

Muhammad Ali has received invitations to visit most of the African and Moslem countries but he first intends to visit the Holy City of Mecca, "just as soon as I get my business straight."

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