

The Real Story of Muslim's Religious Freedom Trial



By Minister James Shabazz
TRENTON, N. J. — Behind the recent New Jersey State Supreme Court ruling upholding the right of Muslim children to refrain from saluting or pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States was years of devotion to the cause of Allah and His Last Messenger, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, on the part of a number of courageous and dedicated followers. It is a story of perseverance and faith and one which did as much for the freedom of black America as any yet brought before the courts.

THE ISSUE arose in Elizabeth, N. J., in 1963 — 20 years after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Jehovah's Witnesses' case — when the Elizabeth Board of Education suspended five Muslim youngsters for refusing to salute the flag.

However, Dr. Frederick M. Raubinger, a state education commissioner, ruled that the children could refrain from saluting the flag on the grounds of conscientious scruples. He ordered the children reinstated. But the Elizabeth Board of Education went over Dr. Raubinger's head and placed the matter before the New Jersey Supreme Court.

THE STATE high court backed up Commissioner Raubinger's decision, noting that to force children to salute the flag who have religious objections is "more likely to defeat than serve its high purpose."

her husband Matthew X Schuniate, said their children have been driven to the brink of a nervous breakdown because of the classroom harassment over their religion.

The parents of the children have been receiving crank telephone calls ordering them to leave town, said Sister Ella. Even some high officials of Elizabeth have been quoted by the daily press in "harsh statements about the Muslims."

THE PARENTS, faithful followers of the Honorable

Elijah Muhammad and members of Muhammad's Mosque No. 23, Newark, N. J., are undaunted. To quote Sister Ella:

"The beneficial teachings of Messenger Muhammad have brought us peace in our home and respect abroad — and my family and I will never let anything turn us from these life-giving teachings, and we have submitted ourselves entirely to the will of Allah."

Refugees In Zambia Die In Epidemic

LUSAKA, Zambia — Forty-seven persons have died in a measles epidemic among a group of 2,000 African refugees in Zambia.

The refugees flew from Mozambique following a Portuguese army operation to weed out terrorists.

He's Looking For a Wife

GABRIEL ESTEVANO MONJANE, 21-year-old African from the village of Manjacaze, Mozambique, said to be the tallest man in the world at 7 feet 10 inches — reports that he is now looking for a bride. He says, however, that she must be tall, well over 6 feet. In fact, he would prefer that she be 7 feet. Estevano weighs 276 pounds and is reported by doctors as being normal in every way except height.

Plan More Boycotts

WASHINGTON — The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has vowed to continue its boycotts in the nation's capital after winning the battle with the local transit authority over fare increases. Next possible target: The Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade, which opposes strong home rule measures.

Train Negro Teachers

NEW YORK — Fifty Southern Negro Teachers have begun an 18-week training program in preparation for teaching in the New York City system.

Illegitimacy Rate Among Whites Growing

"The reported illegitimacy rate among whites is increasing faster than among nonwhites," a Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago committee reported recently. "Even so," the report continued, "there is evidence that the incidence of illegitimate white births is under-reported in the predominant white suburbs, which would increase even further the ratio of white illegitimacy over nonwhite."

THE REPORT states that in the last 10 years more than 100,000 children have been born out of wedlock in Cook County.

problem of illegitimacy found that 90 per cent of the mothers kept the children rather than giving them for adoption.

"FOR THOSE individuals, expansion of present social services alone provides no answer," said the committee study. "A multiple attack must be mobilized against the basic social and economic factors that hinder the disadvantaged mother and her child from developing a healthy personal and family life."

The committee, headed by Grenville Lewis, has been engaged in the study for more than a year. However, it has not yet completed its recommendations for the new "broad platform for action against the root causes of illegitimacy." It released some of its findings as a preliminary report.

THE figures show that the illegitimacy rate here is increasing. In 1963 more than 10 per cent of the births in Cook County were out of wedlock as compared with 6.3 per cent 10 years ago. In 1964, one out of every seven births in the City of Chicago was illegitimate.

For and About You

(Continued from page 19)

a black nationalist book store in Harlem that has much to offer. (Book stores featuring African literature also can be found in other major cities.) Also, try reading some books written by Africans themselves, such as WEEP NO MORE, CHLD.

The world is in for a treat and a surprise soon, when the African historians working in Accra, Ghana, have completed their encyclopedia on the true histories of the African peoples.

This was the project W. E. B. Du Bois was working on at the time of his death. Friends there have told me that it will be a magnificent work of art — one that will change the history as we now know it.

SOMETHING on your mind? Write and tell me about it.

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