

# Ali: No Return To Black Militancy

from page 3

religion, Muslim, and black people, as well as being an official representative of the United States government during a recent visit to Africa.

Asked how he felt about the reinstatement of the draft signup, Ali said "America's in trouble. Vietnam was wrong but I would go (into the military) now if we were really in trouble to protect my country and my family."

Based on his world travels, Ali said he feels the situation in Iran could be ended quickly — if the U.S. would "simply" admit that it was wrong.

"Iran wants us to admit we're wrong," Ali said. "If we'd just admit it, they would probably let the hostages go. But we (as a nation) don't try to straighten out our past mistakes."

"It's hard," he went on, "for a big man or a big power to admit mistakes."

Ali likened the situation in Iran to what has happened in this country's history in dealing with minority people.

"The children (in the U.S.) aren't guilty of slavery — their ancestors are," Ali said. "Those 'children' though, are left with all the wealth that their forefathers stole so they (today's white people) can be considered guilty if they don't try to neutralize what happened."

As an example, Ali said that if someone were to rob a house and then left the stolen

goods to their children, "while those children weren't guilty of the robbery, if they didn't pay back what was taken or try to do something about it, they'd be just as guilty."

"America has done so many bad things in Africa — and other places, too," he said. "Like the situation in Iran. We're left holding the 'stolen goods' and, if we don't make any attempt to give back those 'goods,' then we continue to be just as guilty."

Compounding the problem of the nation's bad image elsewhere in the world, Ali said, is the fact the rest of the world is "envious" of the material goods the American people have.

"This hotel is heaven, compared to England or Africa," he said of his suite at Caesars Palace, where he was staying during groundbreaking ceremonies for the boxing arena, where he will meet current WBC World Champion Larry Holmes, Oct. 2. "When you are in Africa and look out of your window at night, you don't see any lights. They have very few cars. You can't

turn on the TV until 9 in the morning in England, or noon in Africa."

Despite his feelings about the American involvement in other countries, Ali said he did agree with the recent Olympic boycott, noting, "yes, I think it was effective. It made a lot of other countries (especially the major Communist powers) feel bad because everyone wants to defeat America."

Turning to domestic matters, Ali said he doesn't feel the recent resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan is any major threat.

"I don't think too many decent people who are white are going to stand for that," he said of new Klan activities. "Besides, black people now are fearless when it comes to something like the Klan."

"In the '30s, they could put on a sheet and scare people," he said. Now (blacks) want confrontation. Nowadays, as far as the Klan goes, things that they used to get away with just ain't what's going to happen.

"Nowadays, some of these crazy people think

they can do it again. But the (black) youth of today have heard about the things that happened back in the '30s and they are just waiting to show that they won't be pushed around."

On the other hand, Ali feels there won't be a return to the black militancy of the 1960s, either.

"This is 1980," he said. "The black militants, Angela Davis, people like that led a trend for awhile of 'get whitey.'"

"It's time for a different season. People like Gov. Wallace or Lester Maddox couldn't exist today, either."

Getting back to Klan activities, Ali said, "I don't think they'll really go into black territory. Besides, take their hoods off and they're no more than a bunch of scared 18 and 19 year old kids."

Noting that "nothing stays the same," Ali pointed out much progress has been made.

"Today on the TV shows," he said, "you can see a black man taking a shower. You couldn't say that when the Klan was riding."

Besides, he added, "the Klan is just an old tradition that is trying to make news again. But if it were to become serious, the President, whoever he might be, wouldn't let it get out of hand. He'd send a whole white army down there to beat them up."

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