

Editorial: Malcolm X

It would be possible for us to be as critical of Malcolm X as he was of the press last night. Playing the audience like a master at the piano, he created the impression that the incredibly-complex domestic and foreign problems of the United States have simple solutions. His arguments were often irrational and his solutions, based on the ends to be achieved, often ignored the implications of the means to accomplish the ends. The frustrations and inequalities facing American Negroes may explain his positions, but they hardly justify his extremism.

Yet we defend Malcolm X's right to offer and explain his solutions. As he himself admitted, the Black Muslims are the extreme fringe of the Negro community; those who are now abandoning Elijah Muhammed and joining the civil rights movement under the leadership of Malcolm X appear to have the express purpose of

instigating the "longest, hottest, and bloodiest summer since the Black Revolution." He is probably correct that the militance of the Muslims is liberalizing the entire movement and increasing the acceptance of more moderate groups like NAACP, CORE, and the Urban League, but this is a strange way indeed to strengthen the civil rights efforts which are logical, means-oriented as well as ends-oriented, and cognizant of the tinderboxes in American society.

The recent appearance of James Farmer on the same podium highlights the alternatives open to the movement. Even though Malcolm X severely castigated the national political leaders and the American press, the moderate groups have shown that it is possible to work effectively with the liberal elements in government and journalism. The prospects of a summer of violence led not by the moderate groups but by the militant civil-righters of Malcolm's ilk are simply frightening.

jeans, wind breakers, etc.; the lines come slowly, but not half so slowly as the action. The story