

6743 S. Merrill Ave.
Chicago 49, Illinois
August 21, 1962

Minister Malcom X. Shabbaz
102 W. 116 St.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

In connection with the desire of the M.I.T. Civil Rights Committee to arrange a speaking engagement with you at Kresge Auditorium next Fall, would you give us the following information:

What dates would be most convenient for you? An early date is preferable because many students become overburdened with work in the latter part of the semester, and would be unable to attend. We are holding a question session with all candidates for major Massachusetts public office on their positions concerning race relations in Kresge on Sept. 26, and I believe that it would be best if you spoke soon after this.

Would you object to debating an "integrationist"? If not, which one would you prefer to debate?

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Boston this Fall.

Sincerely yours,



N.J. Block, President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Civil Rights Committee

717 Memorial Dr.
Cambridge 39, Mass.
Sept. 26, 1962

Minister Malcom X. Shabbaz
23-11 97th Street
East Elmhurst 69, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I spoke with Martin Luther King in Birmingham yesterday morning and was told that he would not agree to engage you in a public debate. His ostensive explanation was that he does not wish to give official recognition to the Muslims. While speaking with him, I got the impression that he feels that he is not suited to debates of this sort. He is a very mild mannered man- not given to engaging in public conflict.

In view of King's answer, and your desire to have a chance to explain what you believe and why, rather than wasting a lot of time defending yourself, I invite you to speak alone in Kresze Auditorium as a guest of the MIT Civil Rights Committee. Kresge will be available October 18 or 25 or, if necessary, Oct. 17.

Just for the record, I'd like to make clear my position on the "debate" format. My suggestion of this format was not an attempt to "defeat" the Muslims or to deprecate their ideas. My only objective was to bring out your views and the issues involved more clearly--this seems to be generally effected by a high powered exchange of ideas.

You see, I think that our ultimate objectives are the same. Only our methods differ. My motivation for working in this area is to see to it that everyone has an equal chance to get what they want. I don't care whether everyone "loves" their brother or not and I don't intend to tell people how to pick their friends. In a debate between a Muslim and an "integrationist" there is no "losing." With every point, the fundamental objective of both parties is hammered in. The disagreement is with regard to the means to the end. For this

reason there is a large overlap in the specific programs of our respective groups. I find myself approving of many of your programs and I'm sure that you approve of many of the things that we do.

Largely as a result of pressure from organizations such as ours, Massachusetts has the best anti-discrimination laws in the country. I've just returned from a debate which we sponsored at Kresge Auditorium whose participants were T. Kennedy, Lodge, Hughes, Peabody and Brooke. There were over 1400 persons in the audience and we turned away at least 500. Our main purpose in holding the event was to force these candidates to out-do each other in promise-making on Civil Rights. Experience has shown that a certain percentage of these promises are actually fulfilled when a man gets into office. Thus, our task is to create as much pressure as possible for change by publicizing racial problems. This creation of pressure, by the way, is one area where our groups have the same immediate purpose.

At the request of John X (Boston Temple of Islam), we've received permission for you to hand out literature at Kresge. Would you send me a photograph(not a news clipping) of yourself and any other relevant material for use in a feature article in the MIT student newspaper. I'd appreciate your choice of a date as soon as possible as I'd like to complete the arrangements for the auditorium.

Sincerely yours,

N. J. Block

N.J. Block,

President,
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology Civil Rights
Committee

317 Memorial Drive
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts
October 10, 1962

Minister Malcolm X. Shabbaz
23-11 97th St.
East Elmhurst 69, New York

Dear Sir:

Because of an unfortunate misunderstanding, the Kresge Auditorium scheduling office has already allocated the date we had agreed upon; Thursday, Oct. 25, to another speaker. Consequently, we must arrange another date. Would you choose between:

Wednesday, October 17

Thursday, October 18

Sunday, October 21

Sunday, October 28

(Thursday, November 1) (Please consider this date as a last resort as William F. Buckley will have spoken the day before, and students generally won't support two such events in close proximity.)

Saturday, November 3

* Thursday, November 8

Please excuse this scheduling mixup. I hope it hasn't inconvenienced you. Please inform me of your choice as soon as possible. If you like, call (collect) Mrs. Amidon at UN4-6900 ext. 2326 during the week between 9 and 5 or me after 5 at 876-5936.

Sincerely yours,

H. J. Block

N. J. Block, for the M.I.T.
Civil Rights Committee

317 Memorial Dr.
Cambridge 39, Mass.
Oct. 26, 1962

Malcom X. Shabbaz
23-11 E. 97th St.
East Elmhurst 69, New York

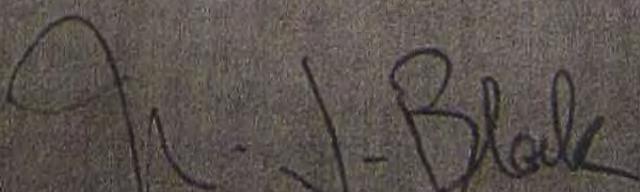
Dear Sir:

As discussed in our recent telephone conversation, we shall expect you at 8:00 P.M., Thursday, November 8 at Kresge Auditorium. Kresge is across from the main entrance to MIT at 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. We've been having a good deal of trouble with the Administration over your talk. They've indicated concern about rioting outside if there are a lot of people who can't get in. In addition, they're quite preoccupied with MIT's "public image," and are interested in making it as non-controversial as possible. They're also being pressured by the Cambridge Fire Dept., which is still upset over our last event at Kresge. We had a "bomb scare" phone call, and the squad that came to check it out was perturbed at the number of people in the aisles-- a fire law violation. They've consequently required us to hire a number of Cambridge policemen, which we will pay for by charging a 50¢ admission fee. If you'll let me know how many people you'll have with you, I will mail you tickets for them. I will send you as many as you request, however I hope that you will consider our precarious situation.

We sponsored a very interesting talk yesterday by James Baldwin. There was a capacity (the lecture hall we used seats 700) crowd, and we took in over \$1600 for CORE. I asked Baldwin what he thought of the Muslims, and he replied that although there are a number of features that he objects to, "they've scared a Hell of a lot of people."

The article on you in the student newspaper will appear Wed., November 7. I suppose that I ought to prepare you for the kind of audience you can expect. They are something of a risk in that their scientific training renders them sensitive to illogical arguments. But they are an excellent opportunity in that they are much more likely to make a decision on the basis of the facts presented than on preconceived notions.

Sincerely yours,



N.J. Block