

# BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

## HEADED FOR FREEDOM

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Throughout the once badlands of this nation blacks made the greatest political gains since Reconstruction in the just concluded election. The Joint Center for Political Studies here pointed out that the brothers were elected to such various positions as probate judge, member of the school board, mayor, prosecutor, city councilman, alderman, state rep., state senator and congressman. In fact of the more than 300 black candidates who sought elective office more than a third won. Information available at the center shows that black office-seekers of the south, while comprising almost half of all 650 or more black candidates in the nation's '70 elections, scored precedent-setting victories to match the dramatic advances that were registered with the ballot throughout the nation.

The brothers running for the ballot fared best in political races at the state level. Therefore the number of blacks in the lower houses of the Southern states increased from 37 to 51. Prior to the last election but nine blacks were voted the right to sit in the upper chambers of the South's states houses. Now there are eleven, a gain of two seats. The 114 blacks emerged victorious in eleven southern states. The countdown adds up in this manner: Alabama (21); Arkansas (4); Florida (3); Georgia (30); Maryland (10); Mississippi (10); North Carolina (10); South Carolina (14); Tennessee (9); Texas (2); with West Virginia trailing with (1). There were no off-yr. elections held in the remaining three states of Kentucky, Louisiana and Virginia. We say "write" on brother, for when it's on the ballot we are headed for freedom.

NEWS TO MAKE NOTES BY--The man all the girls dub as handsome, Mayor Carl Stokes of Cleveland, will run for a third term...Rumors around N'Yord are that new P. D. Commish will up Ass'n Chief Inspector Eddie Waith to "Boss of all the Detectives." It would be a first for a black cop in such a post...Hon. Percy Sutton, Prexy of N'York's boro-of-Manhattan, is becoming disenchanted with the political scene. Even in face of the scaring trend of the economy, the soft spoken wheel has been offered all kinds of turns in private industry with an opportunity to name the salary figure. Speaking about wheels, those which make the General Foods Corp. trun into a 2-billion dollar business, are that excited about the manner retired air-force Colonel Norford, the Group-W exec., has his eyes on film production. He's sitting on an idea which he believes is perfect for Sammy Davis, Jr...Important pockets of middle-class blacks thru-our the nation are building a rallying cause for the re-election of Dick Hatcher, the mayor of Gary, Ind. They plan their fite around the fact that the establishment will try to defeat him by dividing the black vote with another brother in the race for City Hall.

LOOKOUT TEACH--In a just released 43-page document, outlining the findings of a 21-member National Education Association task force, the national group concludes that the bad news of desegregation in Louisiana and Mississippi "tragically outweighs the good." The report further brought out that one of the most serious problems facing blacks in the two states studied is the displacement of black educators in status positions. Technique cited includes outright demotion, phasing down of black principals' schools, retention of title, but diminished authority and paper promotions. In one Parish, a black principal, with 25-yrs. experience and a master's degree, has been demoted to "assistant visiting teacher." "The whole system," said the report, "is effecting the education of black youth, the professional expectations of black educators, plus the economic and political aspirations of southern black communities in a way that could not have been anticipated during the long struggle for integrated education.

Gordon Parks has been assigned to direct "Shaft," an upcoming MGM flick the hunt for two black male stars. One to play a sort of James Bond - Mike Hammer type of detective

## (PANTHER, from page 1

well had the privilege of relating only that information already made public, his attendance could be a "barren performance," serving only to destroy his functioning as a news gatherer and thus threaten the vitality of First Amendment guarantees freedom of the press.

The Court noted that the relationship between a reporter and sensitive news sources, such as the Panthers, "depends upon a trust and confidence that is constantly subjected to re-examination" and upon a continuing reassurance that the handling of information given has been discreet. "This reassurance disappears when the reporter is called to testify behind closed doors," the opinion asserted.

The Court further held that requiring Mr. Caldwell to reveal information acquired in his capacity as news gatherer gives the government power to convert him into an investigative agent of the government.

"The very concept of a free press requires that the news media be accorded a measure of autonomy; that they should be free to pursue their own investigations to their own ends without fear of governmental interference, and that they should be able to protect their investigative processes.

"To convert news gatherers into Department of Justice investigators is to invade the autonomy of the press by imposing a governmental function upon them. To do so where the result is to diminish their future capacity as news gatherers is destructive of their public function. To accomplish this where it has not been shown to be essential to the Grand Jury inquiry simply cannot be justified in the public interest."

The Appeals Court left to the district court the responsibility for spelling out the government's burden of justification in other cases where First Amendment rights are infringed upon.

LDF attorneys in the case where Anthony G. Amsterdam, Stanford University professor of law, Charles Stephen Ralston of New York, and William Bennett Turner of San Francisco.

and the other a boss gangster in control of Harlem vice. However she says don't call her she will do the dialing...Cellist Earl Madison and double bassist Arthur Davis struct sour notes in their 15-month fite to become permanent members of the N'York Philharmonic to submit a minority group work plan by Dec. end...If you've got any worth-showing talent contact Jesse DeVor, boss of the "Voice Inc. in N'York. He's on the hunt for talent from his diggings at 86 Morningside Ave. NYC. 10027...On the model in front Ophelia DeVore, no relations to Jesse, is seeking all nat'ities for her Grace Del Marco agency...Leslie Uggams next recorded releast will be an eye opener on the credit line and she hopes an ear pleaser to top the charts...Whitney Young's blast about the black handout of the United-Way Fund, during the Opportunity dinner of the Urgan League, has some folks looking into starting such a fund in the black communities. STAY LOOSE!

## VA FACTS

Claims for a veteran's burial expense, not to exceed \$250, may be filed within two years by the undertaker or person who bore the expense.

Recent law enlarges V.A.'s definition of "children" for purposes of veterans benefits, and increases benefits to nearly 51,000 children by 10 per cent.

Tornado victims in Lubbock, Texas, have had some of their problems eased with the donation of 55 VA homes for their use during readjustment.

Low-cost insurance totaling \$65.5 million was issued by the Veterans Administration to 6,942 veterans with service-connected disabilities during the first four months of 1970.

Minority business firms are "getting the business." The VA has contracted for, or is in the process of negoti-

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