

# BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

## ROWE-LING ALONG.

FREEPORT, G. B. I.---After but a few hours here, in a yet unspoiled atmosphere of sun and fun, one feels like shedding the masquerade of a go-about New Yorker and going native for keeps. They tell me that this is one of the fastest-growing resort areas in the world and is currently being referred to as the "New World Riviera." In a remarkably short time this for fun spot in the Bahamian complex of islands has surpassed many long established resort areas in both facilities and amenities. Of course all of Bahama does something else to the pride of the black visitor as it's a black governed country. However, on this visit I have suddenly discovered that the color of a politician's skin does not in anyway make him less the politician. Therefore, at this writing the brothers in office are at each other's jugular vein. Just before I arrive some eight members of the Assembly called for a vote of "confidence" in an effort to unseat the nation's historic Prime Minister, Lynden Pindling. He won out, but the fat is in the furnace. The eight dissident legislators have since been suspended from the party and are more determined than ever to force the formation of a new government.

All this may or may not be good for a nation which has been controlled too long by the white minority. In the midst of the growing political controversy, the white faction is just sitting and waiting. Some fear that it just might jump into the breach and, before the votes can be counted, be back in power. None of the black here believe that, but who can really predict what will happen when brothers kill each other off. In his New Year's talk to the people the Prime Minister said that; "From where I sit, I can see the Bahamas continuing to hold its own." He promised that in '71 the government would continue to be "vigilant" in its fight against mass unemployment and so he did not see dark days ahead. I hope that "ain't no pun."

FROM A NEWS POINT OF VIEW---Despite the prodding and the promises of the political factions, things have changed in this island of pine trees and tropical plants. The hustle and bustle of building and planning which was here in '68-69 and early '70, has slowed down to a crawl. Hammers are not ringing and bulldozers are now diggin'. Though the figures are that only about two-and-a-half per cent of the folks are unemployed, there seems to be an awful lot of restless natives about with nothing to do. Of course the holiday time is the "in season" here and the activity is frantic, but nobody is expected to wake up with an over-worked hangover. The Freeport News editorialized it thusly in one of its issues on page one. "We feel the famous entertainer Sammy Davis Jr., put it best in one of his shows the other evening when he said, "Let's hope we can all look back nine years from now and say '71 was the year it all started. It was the year violence and racial discrimination started to disappear."

"Racial hatred and discrimination work both ways. There are blacks who hate whites just because they are white. And there are whites who hate blacks just because they are black." That's an SD. Jr. quote. Now from the Editor. "If Freeport is ever going to bup it all together again we are going to have to forget the color of a man's skin. That goes for both sides. If we can do that. And if we can start acting like men and sit down together to work out our problems, '71 could be the year Freeporters look back at nine years from now and say, "That was the year we started putting it all back together again." Sorry I got caught up in the political patter of this wonderful place because much was going which you would have enjoyed focusin' on more than the stuff written, but then you might have turned me off next issue when we will go into who was "dere charlie"... STAY LOOSE.



The 4-H Club of Kit Carson School shows off arts, crafts and sewing and knitting done during the 1970-71 year under the leadership of Rev. I. W. Wilson. From left to right front row;

Shirley Davis, Faye Coleman, Van Henry, Enich Henry, and Larry Spencer. Back Row; Mrs. D. W. Wilson, Addie Malone, Ada Crockett, and Rev. I. W. Wilson.

## S. Court Voids Obscenity Mail Block Statute

The decision of the Supreme Court today holding unconstitutional the obscenity mail block statute (39 U. S. Code 4006) is not expected by postal officials to have a seriously adverse effect on the efforts of the U. S. Postal Service to prevent the mails from being used to carry obscene material.

The seldom-used statute, which permits the Postmaster General after an administrative hearing to withhold the delivery of mail to a person or firm using the mails to obtain payment for obscene material, was held invalid by the Court in cases involving California and Georgia dealers in mail order "adult" magazines and picture books.

The Court in an opinion by Justice William J. Brennan which affirmed the judgement of two three-judge U. S. District Courts, concluded that the statute failed to provide either adequate judicial participation in the determination of the obscenity of the material in question or sufficiently prompt judicial review of the Postmaster General's action.

"The decision does not change the fact that it is a criminal offense to mail obscene matter," said David A. Nelson, General Counsel of the Postal Service.

"There has been a substantial question as to the validity of this statute for several years. For this reason, except for the test cases which (See obscenity page 10)

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