

BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

WRITE ON PRESIDENTS--KINGS.

WASHINGTON, D. C.--What a week it was for this collector of current events. It was marked by a command appearance before two Presidents and the sad reality of the passing of a King of the kingdom of jazz.

Regardless of your political adoption, an invitation to meet the President is an unbelievable happening. But there, in the Oval Room of the Chief's office, with Sammy Davis, Jr., and his lovely Altvise, Murphy Bennett and Detective Jack Colan, I received the hand of welcome and words of greetings from the "Man" himself. Face to eyes, hand-in-shake, Richard M. Nixon, the current Chief Executive, looks and sounds like an altogether different human being from the one which comes through the editorials and the cathode tubes. He's warm, witty easy to meet and cuddles-up to flattery like common folks. Then too, when he was signing Sammy Davis, Jr., in as a member of his Equal Opportunity Advisory Commission, it was plain to see that he stands in awe of abundant talent just like the rest of us.

President Nixon of course has several facets of talent of his own. Among them is a rare charm and the knack of putting one at ease on such an emotional occasion. Departing, all of us wondered about the talk that this man is a blocker of the path of Black progress. However if he turns out to be as good for me, as he was to me, on this strange interlude in my life, I may yet open my ears to Robert Brown, the special assistant to the President, who made it all possible. However Mr. Nixon will have to stand on a larger piece of proving ground before being able to count my marker comes '72.

MONTREAL, CANADA--Regarded as the commercial center of Canada, Montreal is a beautiful city. It's clean, exciting and foreign though it's just a jet-hour away from N'York. Small wonder that it's streets and hotels are so jammed with American tourists. It's a fun place to have been invited to meet a President of another land, the continent of Africa.

As regal as a Chief Executive should be, as beautiful as any Black man needs to be, His Excellency Diori Hamani, President of the Republic of Niger, (ni-jur) struck me as a direct descendant of the Black King who is part of the Biblical history of the trek to the manger. Niger, a former French colony is in the very heart of Africa with borders spreading out about 500,000 square miles which is enough space to dump in Texas and California with a bit left over.

Though Pres. Hamani and this scribe did not speak the same tongue, we did bridge the communication gap through our black experience. We expressed similar hopes and desires and jointly understood the plight of the Black man in a world ruled through a white system. Chairman of a group of African States, including Togo, Dahomey, Upper Volta and the Ivory Coast, President Hamani is one of the Motherland's most powerful rulers. As such he is making a personal move to knit together people of goodwill throughout the world. The meeting here was a forerunner of that drive to make a reality of a long slumbering dream. The announcement will be made shortly by Oumarou G. Youssoufou, 1st. Secy of the Embassy and C. Payne Lucas of Washington, D. D. To me it was most exciting to say, "Thank you Mr. President to a Black Man."

CORONA, L. I., NY.--Only age could still the illimitable heart of Louis Armstrong for his was a God given talent which long since touched him with an immortality which will out live time itself. For the first time in 71-yrs. he brought sadness to the world when he elected to sleep away the other nite just before dawn had fully embraced another day. Though his last rites were pushed by all the pomp and polish befitting the passing of a great man, the simplicity of it all highlighted the life he had lived despite the worldwide glory that was his. There isn't anything that could be written about "Pops" here which hasn't already been put down better on some other pages. He honored me with some 30-yrs of friendship and the highlights of his final gig was created by the many men and women who were

Man Topics by CLAUDE HERRICK



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CONTINENTAL FEATURES

touched by that same illuminative quality. Perhaps at another time I can deal with what I saw as for now it's hard to stay loose for the same week is marked by the passing of Charlie Shavers in N'York and Georgia Carr on the West Coast. "And so the Saints go Marching On."



PITTSBURGH, PA.--Edward McCoy, Jr. has been appointed to the newly created position of coordinator--Equal Opportunity for the Employee Relations Department of Gulf Oil Company--U.S. The announcement was made today by L. R. Johnston, vice president.

Mr. McCoy is a native of Palestine, Texas. He was graduated from Prairie View A&M College in 1959 with a B.A. degree in social studies, and he studied law at Texas Southern University. He joined Gulf as an employment analyst in 1969. Mr. McCoy will be responsible for advising and assisting in the implementation of minority programs for Gulf Oil Company--U.S. He will continue to be headquartered in Houston.

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