

BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

NO NIX FOR NIXON AT BROWN'S BASH

WASHINGTON, D. C. - "For sheer national impact the tribute to Robert Brown, special assistant to the President, was the biggest thing this town has seen since the "March on Washington." The words were those of Sen. Edward Brooke, but seemingly the combined feeling of the upwards to three thousand people who came to attend a deserved tribute to a wonderful human being. They were mainly Black and came from all over the nation. Some said that the only thing wrong with Bob Brown is that he works for the Nixon administration. If that is a grievous fault, it was not in evidence here Sunday nite. Though it was sold as a honored hour for Robert Brown, the affair was as much a tribute to Pres. Nixon and Sammy Davis, Jr., as it was for the billed guest of honor.

Both the President and the total talented entertainer received standing ovations. Though the "in and out" chief executive was looked upon as a suprise guest, those close to the scene knew that he was coming. However, even the Republicans among the working committee were surprised by the warm reception, with no decending boos, he received. His words of praise for Bob and Sammy highlighted his short speech. He did not use it to dispell the Black belief the he's against the cause, but he did make it "perfectly clear" that his Black special assistant was the prodder of the administration.

TURN AWAY CROWD - The best known folks from the business, social, and political byways turned out to Bob's suprise on the nite of his tribute. In his modesty he never believed that what he had accomplished, as the Black voice in Nixon's ear, had meant so much to so many people. The affair was sold out a month in advance and the only national publicity it received was through this column, according to Willie Mason the main man behind the main event. In fact, the response was so great some \$35,000 had been refunded at the last count. There were so many wheels on board they had to set up a double dais. This took care of only a hundred of them, so the others, cabinet members, mayors, and supreme court justices were laced through the audience of 3,000 that was jammed into a space where 2,300 people normally dined.

In what might be called the "cat Bird seats" were Sen. Ed. Brooke, Mayors, Walter Washington, D.C.; Richard Hatcher, Gary, Ind.; Marion Smith, Roosevelt City, Ala.; Robert Blackwell, Highland Pk., Mich.; and William Bencini, High Pt., N. C. Others with or without titles were Judge Samuel Pierce, general counsel U.S. Treas. Dept.; Mrs. Charles Evers, Roy Innis, Jackie Robinson, Ken Sherwood, Arthur Fletcher, Hon. Howard Jenkins, James Brown, Vernon Jordan, Hon. Samuel Simmons, Gen. Roscoe Cartwright, Floyd McKissick, Chief Grant Wright, Gen. Chappie James, Mrs. Sammy Davis, Jr., Leroy Jeffries, Donald Rumsfeld ass't to the Pres.; Police Capt. Oriel Leak, High Pt., N.C.; John Wheeler, Durham, N. C.; Robert Wood, Hon. Sam Buford, Dr. Herman Branson, Berkeley Burrell, Jim Farmer, I. Orven Funderburg, and Dr. Andrew Thomas among others whom we could not see from our end seat.

Table hopping thru a sea of wall to wall humanity we exchanged greetings with Dean and Kiah Sayles, Shirley and George Rhodes, Murphy Bennett, Joe Grant, Buddy Young and a table full of football players, "Face" Wiggins, William Grayson, Calvin Wall, Abe Venable, Judge James Washington, Mayor Frank Garito, Herman Smith, Rosemary Brinkley, Ruth Gore, Rev. We Banks, Laverne King, James Cobb, Felton Wright, Ophelia DeVore, Norman Houston, Bishop Plummer, Finis Henderson, Robert J. Wood, Marshall Bass, Winston Childs, Judge Ed Bell, Antoinette Gardener, Arthur Newman, Leonard DeChamps, Ed Murphy, James Robinson, and enough doctors to staff a mini hospital. Among them were Henry Wise, Ernest Martin, Eddie Smith, Andrew Thomas, Harry Press, Maurice Dawkins, E. Leon Cooper, Charles Hurst, Edwin L. Harper, John Thomas, and J. C. Morgan.

The event was not only a fitting tribute to a

Diana Ross Disc & Music Echo's "World's Leading Female Singer"

Hollywood, Feb. 3--Superstar, Diana Ross, has been selected the "World's Leading Female Singer for 1971" by Disc & Music Echo, a London based music trade publication.

The award is presented annually by the publication following a polling of readers, media and music industry personnel.

Miss Ross, motion picture, television, cabaret and recording star, is currently winding up filming her starring role in "Lady Sings The Blues," a biographical film based on the life of the late Billie Holiday.

"Lady Sings The Blues," is a Motown Productions, Inc. film for Paramount Pictures and is scheduled to be released late this summer.

Black in the White House, but also to those who conceived and carried it out. In passing this event into tomorrow's history, tip your hearts to co-chairman Sen. Ed Brooke and Sammy Davis, Jr., along with Mr. & Mrs. Willie Mason, Dr. Eddie Smith and Sam Sparks. The tribute was filled with memories to be stored away in the closet of my mind. After all the eighteen speakers, nineteen including the President, were done, Bob Brown concluded his thank you with this fitting finale. "At the close of life, the question will not be how much you have accumulated, but how much have you sacrificed. Not how much you are honored, but how much you have loved and served your fellowman. The honor and tribute accorded me tonite, in a very special way, belongs to all of you out there."

FROM THE LISTENING POST - Pete Long and a group of N'Yorkers are preparing a tremendous intro for Rev. Jesse Jackson, and his PUSH org. It will be a Soul Picnic at the 369th Armory comes March. Hope is that Adam Claytom Powell will be among the top attractions... Kiah Sayles gave his Dean a diamond ring for her b'day that's so big he will have to ride shotgun whenever she wears it... Gary, Ind.'s Mayor Richard Hatcher is cooking up a show for April in Atlanta to starlite Sammy Davis, Jr., Harry Belafonte, Issac Hayes, and Bill Cosby. It will be for the benefit of the "Black Political Convention."... Burlington House has upped Clarence C. Finley to group exec vice prexy, the highest post held by a Black man in this country's corporate history. He was prexy of two of that corp. divisions before his move up which means that every step he takes is a first. And to think, Burlington is a southern based corp... Jackie Robinson told Monte Irwin, at a sports dinner the other nite, to remind his boss that it's hit-time the majors name a Black baseball club manager... Time mag. put its type in its mouth when it front paged Flip Wilson "Is TV's first Black Superstar." Flip is just the only one, Sammy Davis, Jr., was the first... STAY LOOSE.



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