

BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

BALLYHOO AND BALLOTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - By the time you eye this the Dem. Nat. Conv. will have done its thing. It's interesting that both the Dems. and the Repubs. selected Miami Beach to pick their standard bearer for the first run at the White House in the seventies. One of the most international cities in the USA, this beach town is also most representative of what America used to be with its sharp black and white lines. Though visibly they have been erased the invisible marks left are just as sharp to the eyes. To my knowledge there isn't one Black home owner living on the beach, and today most of the jobs are filled by refugees from Cuba. From an emotional point of view, things are just as uptight for Blacks as they were when "we" had to have an I. D. card handy if caught on Miami Beach after 9 p.m., but that isn't what this piece is all about. Just before he took off for the wrangling and the haggling of the De. Convention, Andy Muse, who heads the party's minorities division, handed me a well constructed book titled, "Democrats in Convention '72." It's beautiful, informative, and expensively done in four colors and touches all the human bases which gives life and meaning to Americans.

According to one feature in this piece, "more than 130 million citizens will be old enough to vote for President comes Nov. 7th. However, close to 40 - 45 million of them are expected to default." In my own thinking that is the balance of power, an amount which could elect or defeat a President. "Some will be in prison, others will be mentally incompetent. More will not have registered or will be absent from polling places without having obtained absentee ballots. It is also expected that unknown numbers will abstain simply because they feel that a single ballot is lost among an electorate of 130 million. The last attitude is particularly ironic since persons who so undervalue their own votes, in fact, help to overvalue the votes that are cast. If only sixty-four percent of the electorate votes this year, each person will in effect cast a weighted ballot worth one and a half times its rightful share of the franchise. In medieval times the vote was the exclusive and jealously guarded prerogative of princes and prelates, and a thousand years of social development, involving untold bloodshed and strife, were required to confer the franchise upon the common citizens."

WHISTLING IN THE DARK - The political power of young people and Black voters will be one of the most important factors in the '72 election. Some 25,125,000 will be eligible to vote in their first presidential election. There hasn't been such an influx of potential voters since women got the suffrage back in 1919. Since FDR made Blacks forget that Lincoln was a Republican their votes have been weighted in the Democratic column. In fact, in the '68 presidential election the Dem. counted 85% of the Black votes on its side. However, in '72 both parties are the subject of searching cross-examination and the question is, "What have you done for me lately?" The feeling of Paul Jones and the other Blacks working for the reelection of the President is that the GOP can split the Black vote, with the middle class putting the "X" in its column. Political strategists have long been aware of the importance of the Black vote in presidential elections, and that a Black sophisticated electorate can have an enormous impact on the deal in '72. My concern is, does the Black voter realize this and will he do his thing at ballot time?

NEWS AND VIEWS - Capt. Daniel James, 3rd. son of Gen. "Chappie" James of the Dept. of Defense, is odds on favorite to out do his illustrious father. A flight instructor, Williams Airforce Base, Arizona where young pilots sprout their wings, he's about to be upped to Class Commander. This will better prepare him for early selection to field grade rank, a task which took his daddy quite a while. As sons go in the Airforce so be it in the theatre whirl. Spingarn Medalist Gordon Parks, whose

Testimonial Banquet For Jimmy Gay

Carl Cohen, President of the Sands Hotel will serve as Honorary Chairman for the James A. (Jimmy) Gay Testimonial Banquet slated to be held at Caesars Palace Coliseum Room on Saturday evening, July 22, 1972. This event begins at 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a no host cocktail hour followed by a sumptuous dinner.

Assisting Mr. Cohen is Joey Bishop, Co-Honorary Chairman who are both long-time friends and great admirers of Jimmy who has worked at the Sands Hotel as Personnel Consultant for eighteen years. Presently he is employed at the Union Plaza Hotel as Assistant Manager.

Gay is being honored by the local citizenry because of his deep and unselfish concern for humanity and for having dedicated the past 20 years of his life as a community servant to all who came to him for assistance. He is to be credited for finding employment for many people, regardless of race, color or creed.

Banquet tickets are now being circulated at \$12.50 per person.

Proceeds will be used to help Gay's favorite organizations:

The Arkansas Mechanical and Normal College Alumni Association, and the Seven Step Foundation for the State of Nevada.

Voter Registration

Voter Registration at the Westside School 330 W. Washington, July 26th & 27th. Sponsored by Teachers Corps, Volunteer Corps.

"Shaft's Big Score" is doing just that nationally, may have to take a back headline to Gordon, Jr. His first directed film, "Super Fly" opens a long marquee lane next month. It's about a Harlem cocaine pusher and is reportedly a "burner"Jimmy Booker's son is too young to help him in Miami Beach as assistant to the Democratic Convention chairman...B'way wardrobe mistress Leola Edwards will gain a son when her lovely daughter Pamela Mosley weds Owen Reginal Jackson the first Sabbath in August in St. Albans, N. Y....The son of the late Rev. Congressman Adam Clayton, Jr. isn't figured among the one out of five, the members of the Abyssinian Baptist will select to replace his father...All of author John Killens family and friends are happy he's home recuperating from a mild stroke...Sid Catlett, of the Cincy Royals, and son of the jazz great by the same name, is preparing a celebrity basketball benefit in DeCee for the Touchdown Club. Among those on the ready line are Jim Brown and Rafer Johnson...From that same town, just received an invite for the wedding of lovely Eloise Collins Senior and popular James Turner. The only hitch is that the splicing was in mid-June.... STAY LOOSE.

Gene Echols Files For State Senate

North Las Vegas Mayor Gene Echols has filed as a Democratic candidate for the Nevada State Senate. He is running for the two year term from District #2.

Echols, elected as mayor in 1969, formerly served as the managing director of the NLV Chamber of Commerce and as manager of the NLV branch of the First National Bank of Nevada.

"Having attended the recent National Mayor's Conference in New Orleans where we exchanged views, opinions, and ideas with each other, it became increasingly more evident," Echols continued, "that it was important to our city that our needs as the third largest city in Nevada be accurately transmitted to the 1973 legislature, and that our position be followed up and secured if NLV is to continue its rate of growth."

Echols pointed out that a Mayor of NLV for the past three years, he is acutely aware of the problems facing the city and the state and is deeply involved with the concerns and desires of the people.

"I am confident in my ability to work with the other legislators throughout the state in a determined effort to bring to Nevada and to North Las Vegas a government responsive to the needs of our people," Echols concluded.

A continuing active member in many service organizations in the community, the Mayor and his wife reside at 2908 Magnet Street in North Las Vegas.

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