

BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

FLY IN THE OINTMENT

NEW YORK CITY — There was a lot of hand clapping, feet stomping, laughter and giggling at the preview of "Super Fly". This is the latest Black dominated blood and gore flick being presented by Warner Bros. to capture the box office bonanza discovered thru such films as "Cotton Comes to Harlem", "Shaft" and "Buck and the Preacher". Despite the fact that the Sig Shore production of this screenplay by Phil Fenty must be rated "X", the audience was filled with teenagers and young adults, and they seemed to love every bullet and blow of the characters who populated its world of dope and crime. However those past thirty didn't seem to be thrilled by the mayhem or the loud musical score arranged and composed out of the genius of Curtis Mayfield. Nor did they care that much about the kingly world in which the dope dealers dwelled. "With flicks like this," some of them said, "God help our children."

For an unthinking moment I too was caught up in that emotion. But then I recalled scenes from Humphrey Bogart's "Petrified Forest", James Cagney's "Public Enemy" and the film emoting of the dean of gangsters, Edward G. Robinson in "Little Caesar". Though their screen exploits added the game of cops and robbers to the playday of a number of kids, their screen carrying on did not affect the "man building" of white nor Black youngsters who flocked to the theatres to hero worship at their shrine. Most of them grew into productive manhood realizing that such reel flicker fantasies are far removed from real life happenings. Truman still grew up to be President so did Eisenhower, so did Kennedy and also Nixon. Carl Stokes, Charlie Evers, and Dick Hatcher became Mayors. Percy Sutton Boro Prexy, Shirley Chisholm made it to Congress, along with 12 other Blacks and Ed Brooks became our first modern day Black Senator. Our kids are really no different today and they will survive this make believe trend. Those of strong minds will surmount the "Shaft's", the "Super Fly's", and all the other hi-flying super dupers currently making a barrell of bucks for this phase of the entertainment whirl.

Certainly we would like to see pictures which could establish another kind of hero, but this is a business where money at the box office has the loudest voice and superceeds all other desires, and "Super Fly" was not without its pluses. It screen introduced Ron O'Neal, a bad and handsome cat. When he becomes a polished actor, he definately should develop into a major matinee idol. It brought to eye level view Sheila Frazier, and pardner there are no flies on this girl, she is beautiful. The veteran Julius Harris who got a major opportunity to exhibit his marvelous acting ability, and he should do well if the trend continues to develop into more meaningful Black films. It gave Gordon Parks, Jr. a directorial opportunity which he took talented advantage of. The costumes designed by Nate Adams spreaded some threads across the screen, on most of the characters, that were real boss. The music was composed and arranged by Curtis Mayfield was out-a-site. As far as this scribe is concerned, "don't look down on that which you haven't looked up." Believe me these films won't polute young minds, but will put a lot of money in their pockets, and that's the name of the game.

PUSH PREVAILS — Out of Chgo. PUSH celebrated 200 days of being in taking care of business at its first annual convention. One of the major items put on the agenda by its dynamic president, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, was a promise to start a concentrated drive against the motion picture industry. The "Country Preacher" announced a full blown program of national confrontation with the nation's motion picture and film industry against the exploitation of the Black condition by white owned, white controlled and white financed motion picture and film industry. They are prepared to move on major studios with Black films in production, those films in the planning stages, and if necessary those already in distribution. In an individual discussion with the PUSH leader I got the impression that his organization is not at all pleased with the "sameness of theme" of the Black films coming out of Hollywood. As a result, PUSH's major thrust will be to seek a greater variety of Black films which will touch on all phases of the Black experience throughout the world. "As we are all not saints, we certainly are not all sinners." Was a feeling about the trend of "another" gangster, private eye type production flickering across the silver screen. It's all very interesting. The Hollywood confrontation is number on PUSH's all inclusive agenda as it moves into its second phase of "building a nation".....STAY LOOSE.

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ECHOLS OPENS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS



Mayor Gene Echols, who is seeking the new 2 year Senate term in District No. 2, held his first organizational meeting at Echols campaign headquarters Wednesday evening.

Some of his precinct leaders and headquarters aides are pictured here. (L to R): Bill Pedroza, Aileen O'Neil, Will Faiss, Max Barton, John Minefee and Mayor Echols.

Mayor Gene Echols, of North Las Vegas, will officially open his Senate Campaign Headquarters tonight, Thursday, August 10.

The headquarters is located at 2512 Lake Mead Blvd., and festivities are slated to begin at 7:30 p.m. and will continue until the last person goes home.

Echols is running for the Senate No. 2 seat in NLV. This is a two year term.

Refreshments will be served, campaign materials will be distributed and you're bound to see your friends and neighbors, so y'all come.

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