

# BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

WRITE ON ELKS---Some 30,000 strangers descended on "Fun City" for a week long session, and before half of the days were numbered most of them were known to some New Yorker. Affiliates of the 500,000 membered Improve Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World, they were here for the 75th annual convention of, perhaps, the largest Black Organization in the world. In days since gone into the past, the I.B.-P.O. of W. came on with a different connotation from the one exhibition here. In those bye days "Hello, Bill," "fun and frivolity" were the pass and watch words. Under the leadership of Judge Hobson R. Reynolds the 7-days spent putting the 75th ann'y into history they kept their heads in charged position, and met most of the current issues with a frontal attack. Twelve resolutions and countless motions were introduced, and properly seconded, dealing with the "State of the Union," thru the "Status of Black Women," to one calling for the formation of a national Elks' bowling league.

The Grand Lodge stood strongly behind the new president, the Hon. Gerald R. Ford. He was advised that, through their leader, the Elks stand ready to serve as an advisory resource and input as to the needs, goals, and inspirations of minority America. Senator Ed Brooke is the org's first veepee choice, and Amb. George Bush nominated as the alternate choice. The chairman of the Republican National Committee has the backing of a number of Blacks from all sides of the political spectrum, as they have been able to better dig him in his go-around for party support. The Grand was re-elected for two more years without any opposition. Hobson was in good style and did his thing with the flare and flavor, which has kept him in the driver's seat of this powerful org. He didn't even pay any attention to the crank threats which came in. However, his person was well guarded by some present and retired cops, like Harold Diamond, NYC Housing Police; Detective Sgt. (retired) Everett L. Cooper, Dee-Cee; and Ralph Smith the Chgo Sgt. were among those who rode "shotgun" on the main man, Dr. Wilbur Strickland and his Charlotte used the convention as an excuse to visit the big town and to under earth some old friends. So did "Chops" Lawrence of Los Angeles, who revealed that March '75 will mark his retirement from the security section of the Attorney General's office, Calif...John E. Chambers, Exalted Ruler Skyland Banner Lodge No. 316, Statesville, N.C., was cited for leadership. Though blind he has lead this lodge for 13-yrs.

James C. Watson, nite mgr of the DeeCee Hilton and Grand Convention Ass't Dir, spent a lot of his time talking to DeeCee delegates about his desire to capture one of the 13 available seats on that city's council. C.J. Newsome was just as busy passing out cards for his Atlantic City guest house. Hall talk was that when the Grand decides to relinquish the reins, young and personable Grand Leading Knight Don Wilson will be handed the gavel. Only one Federal Gov't personality, Dr. Gloria E.A. Toote, HUD's ass't secy E/O, was invited to speak at the conv. She was entered into a pact with the org. to monitor fair housing. Gov. Malcolm Wilson and Manhattan BeePee Percy Sutton made the biggest local political impact. However, many of the delegates did go away mad with Mayor Abe. Beame. He was a no show and some of his cops towed away some of the "official" cars parked in wrong places, which were supposed to be right for standing and not write for tickets nor the ensuing \$75 fines.

Judge Harold A. Stevens, the great legal mind and all around man of the people, got the biggest ovation though he did not make a speech. The Elks were distributed throughout every major hotel in the mid-town area. The biggest concentration was in the N.Y. Hilton and the Americana, which housed almost 5,000 between them. The group left about \$3-million in the town and a great rep. It's a strong group with a net worth of over a million dollars, half of it in cash. Chicago will mark the 74 get-together after the Grand Lodge mid-convention session at the Hobson R. Reynolds Elks National Shrine, Winston, N.C.

## ROWE

Rev. Jesse Jackson is calling for a summit meeting of all the major Black orgs. in the nation. Skip Triner, of the twins, is set to open a restaurant in Lake Tahoe with Bill Cosby's money.. Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon led an opening nite contingent of swells to the Sadler's Wells debut of the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

FCComish Ben Hooks threw a few more jabs at the networks speaking before the NATRA convention on the coast. At the same gathering Black women joined Black men, all in the areas of the electronic media, with charges of racial discrimination. Felicia Jeeter, the KNBC reporter-newscaster, said, "we're nothing more than window dressing. Once they get the Black face on the air that's it and the doors close;...The National Education Association is urging its 1.5 million members to help erect a pro-education Congress comes Nov...The 100-Black Men, which has started a drive to go national, has been tax exempt. Now all dues and other monies spent will be deductible by its members...The ladies are busy with their thing like Alice Travis beating the drums for the International Children Party to benefit the unfortunates of the world. The exciting Eleanor Haynes putting together the trip package for the Black Caucus weekend comes Sept. This yr's dinner, of this Congressional group, is again being coordinated by the lovely Modeen Broughton who seems to be going steady with time...This yr's ticket sales boomed after it was announced that Prez Ford called Rep. Charles Rangel to set-up a meet with the group. Meaning they no longer have an enemy in the "Pale House," even if not a friend...STAY LOOSE.

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