

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

NEW YORK CITY--The hope here is that yours was a cool Yule and that you have moved into '75 with high hopes and a head, not bad from dope or booze, but elevated with that kind of determination and imagination that will make this one a better 365. In retrospect, '74 was the best of yrs for some, though the worst of times for others. From this eye-level it was the period in which culture started to win its battle against vulgarity before it had indicted the total society. Near its end the Black community was less vulnerable to H'wood's pathetic attempts to revive a dying industry at the expense of Black culture and achievements. Its inhabitants no longer lined the streets before theatres whose screens were used to dramatize the false themes of those fairy tale characters which never existed. This charade, a contrived drive, against the art form was a nightmare. It degenerated the minds of our youth and locked our elders into symbolic conflict. Though the trend stamped the imagination of our artists, it robbed them of their true measure of starship and full racial acceptability.

NO BONDS FOR JULIAN--The Georgia State Legislator Julian Bond has been asked to keep his presidential aspirations out of Calif. Black politicians out there will field a "Favorite Son" candidate. Should this be the norm in the big 10-states and sufficient support is generated, Blacks would walk into the '76 convention with 10% of the delegates for a 'bad' power base. The group will back either L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, the state's 1st-Black Lieutenant Gov. Mervyn Dymally or publisher Dr. Carlton Goodlett who's prez of the Black (NNPA) Press...N'York State's Deputy Human Rights Commish Dorothy Orr did not find an expected big federal appointment in her ample stocking, but one seems to be in her immediate future...Some of the top Blacks who were assigned to the Committee to Re'elect the President are expected to be indicted after the major Watergate trials are done away with. Transcript of words and intentions have been eared by the prosecutor's office...J. Bruce Llewellyn, prez of the 100-Blackmen, told those sober enough at every holiday bash he attended that this powerful org. is disenchanted with N'York's new Gov. Hugh Carey. His refusal to name Basil Paterson, Nat'l Demo-Committee vice chairman, Sec'y O' State, was the ignoring which broke patience's back... Dr. Gloria E.A. Toote, HUD's Ass't Sec'y for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the sweetheart of the Black (NNPA) Press, has been elected to the vice chairship of Women in Government.

Ben Wright, the ardent marketing expert, resigned his veepee post and adv. east coast head, Johnson Publications. It's said that the move came in the face of irrevocable differences of approach...Word is that VeePee Nelson Rockefeller is reaching out for Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker. However, the good clergyman is finding it hard to find a church to his liking on the Dee-Cee scene...Evelyn Cunningham, who headed the VeePee's "Women Division" when he was in Albany, is said not interested in becoming a part of the Capitol 'rat race.' She put whatever out of her brainy noggin and headed to St. Thomas, V. I., for the holidays...Cab Calloway's lovely daughter

lifter lifted her voice beautifully at the annual Gay Northeasterners Xmas formal. In the meantime her poppa was on the coast exciting producers and directors in a major role in an unscheduled segment of the teevee series, "Charlie O." His Hi do ho highness was rated good enough to start talking repeat loot with moguls of the tube... Commish Robert Lowery, he was N'York's initial Black fire commissioner, and his spouse have packed bags and etc. for an around the world cruise...Major General Julius Becton 2nd wheel at Fort Dix, will take over a calvary command in the Houston, Texas area in Feb. The change of Command is expected to bring out some top brass and heavy civilians from all over the country to the ceremony.

Lena Horne, anybody's "Mrs. World Grandmother," and her film directing son-in-law, Sidney Lumet, have been added to N'York's Mayor Abe Beame's 30-member Advisory Council on Motion Pics and TV...Gridiron star Jim Brown and Fred Williamson are creating excitement among the femme population of the Canary Islands where they are star members of the cast of "Hard Ride"... "Raisin," the long running award winning musical, is taking a hiatus and will re-open in mid-Jan., at the Lunt-Fontanne... Charles and Ruth Handy were that surprised by a Xmas greeting from Gov. and Mrs. George Wallace. It was his Nov '73 proclamation which proclaimed a "W. C. Handy Wk" in Alabams...Di-hann Carroll is the choice to play the lead role in an unscheduled biopic of Josephine Baker. The ageless superstar just completed a guesstar run in Madrid in a sellout musical, "Saritisima"... Rev. Jesse Jackson will be a regular commentator on ABC-TV's new morning show, "A. M. America." The welcome switch will give the black point of view without the whiteman's logic...Stu Gilliam has been replaced by his understudy in the top billed "Scarecrow" role in the coming B-way bow of the touted soul version of "The Wizard of Oz"...The show found little affection among critics on its shake-down in the City of Brotherly Love, but sellout audiences loved it madly.

Norm White's just published "The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Rock 'N' Roll" and "The Solid Gold Years," may not be remembered for the stars he cataloged, but it surely will for those he did not. The omissions of the WCBS-TV wax jockey stands out like a broken neck and will hurt some Motown stars just as much...Who are the Blacks on the 15-member committee of the '75 Entertainment Hall of Fame, if any? NBC-TV will spot its findings, of a 5-gone and 5-here stars, in a two-hour Award spec...The Lucille Ashford, who manages one of the nation's busiest mail terminals, is the sister-in-law of major league baseball's first Black umpire, Emmett Ashford...Recent complaints of "reverse discrimination" against white men "reveal a peculiarly ingrained type of prejudice," according to James A. Harris, prez of the National Education Ass'n. His announcement came after several dozen prominent university profs complained to Prez Ford that the federal gov's affirmative action program is "unjust and discriminatory." -- STAY LOOSE.

INEQUITIES CURBED

It is a pleasure to be able to record in the last MEMO for 1974 and the last MEMO on activities of the 93rd Congress, several victories on issues of concern to the Leadership Conference. The latest move to block school desegregation was defeated; a plan to keep the Office of Economic Opportunity alive was approved; the pernicious broadcast license renewal bill died; a last minute attempt to divert federal funds to segregated health facilities was shelved. And Congress passed legislation to provide jobs and special unemployment benefits for people thrown out of work by the current recession.

The year's most satisfying-and hair's breadth victory - was undoubtedly for us, the defeat of "the Holt Amendment." Wrongly described in the press as "an anti-busing" amendment, this provision that Rep. Majorie Holt (R., Md.) succeeded in adding to a supplemental Appropriations Bill, would, in the words of HEW Secretary Casper Weinberger, end his department's "basic authority to enforce civil rights laws, particularly Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits use of Federal funds for programs that discriminate as to race, color or national origin and Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, which carries a similar prohibition with regard to sex discrimination in education programs."

\$2.5 BILLION FOR JOBS

A welcome holiday measure, surely, was approval of legislation to authorize \$2.5 billion to provide about 330,000 public service jobs during 1975. This would be in addition to the 170,000 jobs budgeted in the continuing public service program.

In addition the new bill provides up to 26 weeks of unemployment benefits for workers not eligible under any other state or local unemployment compensation laws. This provision takes effect immediately. It is estimated that the unemployment compensation portion will cost around \$2.5 billion in 1975. The bill also authorizes \$500 million for a labor-intensive public works program to be administered by the Department of Commerce in areas particularly hard hit by high unemployment.

If recession trends continue, additional programs of this sort will be one of our priority items in the next Congress.

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