

BILLY ROWE'S



notebook

WASHINGTON, D. C., --- The history of Democracy reached a new plateau in America's Capitol City at the turn of '75 when a Black Mayor, and eleven such hued members, of a 13-person City Council took their oaths to fill that number of elective offices. It marked the first time in more than 100yrs that such an inauguration was necessary. More than 1,000 visitors and citizens fronted the District (City Hall) Building for the event. History buffs, and those who were active in this march of progress which brought them collectively here, seemed in emotional agreement at this major stop on the slow track of Democracy. Though dominated by Blacks, the throng was of such racial mix it bade well for the future of this new governing body that's topped by Mayor Walter Washington whom for 7-yrs has been the presidential appointed Chief Executive of the District of Columbia. Those who remembered D.C. in the bad days; when the DAR closed the doors of Constitution Hall to Marion Anderson and her immortal talent; When the great peace maker, the late Dr. Ralph Bunche, could not flag a cab to take him to a segregated hotel from Union Station; When Blacks were relegated to the back of the human scene and openly denied the full dignity of citizenship. To them it was altogether fitting that this ceremony shadowed the National Theatre which in the dark days of bias and bigotry, closed its doors for more than a year when Actors' Equity mandated that the then so-called "Negro" be seated on an equal with White patrons. Therefore, what was said here now, was not as important as what was done. The gleam of the future, therefore, warmed the nippy air which cooled the bright rays of a January sun. The happenings touched and opened onlookers' hearts wider that the doors of the District Bldg, to rooms which hosted, mostly just people, who had waited so long for so short an event which has given new breath and width to the history of the Capitol City of a nation which has become greater because of it.

WRITE TALES -- Justice Thurgood Marshall, who swore-in the Mayor and City Council Chr'man Sterling Tucker, Cong'man Charles C. Diggs Jr., the Committee Chr'man, District of Columbia and Cong'man Walter E. Fauntroy, also a first for the District, were the ranking Black Gov. VIP's attending the historic swearing-in. During the "Prayer Breakfast," which kicked off the 4-day inaugural, those in the know refused to spoil it for the newly elected Mayor when they learned of a bomb threat against his home. HUD's Secy James T. Lynn, just named Budget Dir. by the Prez, brought the Chief Exec's message to the new officials. According to crowd sentiment, Council members Ms. Willie J. Hardy and Chr'man Sterling Tucker are expected to make the biggest progressive waves among the lawmakers. The term of each of the new members had to be decided by the "straw-trick." Those who pulled the short ones are in for a 2-yr hitch, while the long ones gave the designee 4-yrs of it. The reason for this gamble was to prevent another election, whereby the Prez, 3-at-large members and the 8-ward persons would have to face the electorate at the same time. The new mayor has started an active hunt for a police Commish. Former Deputy Police and Traffic Commish Ben Ward, of N'York and New Rochelle's P.D. Lieut. Alex Toone are among those in focus. Look for a push to have an official resident designated for the new first citizen. However, the next really big drive of the newly elected body will be to gain complete control of the District's finances and taxing powers, and get from under the veto thumb of the Prez and the Congress. What has happened here is only the first thrust for "Home Rule," something which has been denied Washington, D. C. for 104-yrs.

WRITE ASIDE -- Georgia Senator Julian Bond, has told Calif's Black politicians, "it's too late to turn back." He will take his Presidential ambition to the W. Coast and has allegedly recrui-

ted Morris Dees, former fund raiser for Sen. McGovern, to do the same for him... Evelyn Cunningham, back from a Virgin Is. vac., is packing her bags to join VeePee Nelson Rockefeller's DeeCee staff... Roland Brown, the "scratch" golfing amateur, has been invited to the the Bing Crosby Pebble Beach tee-annual to play in the pro-am... Henry Moon, retired NAACP praise agent, has received a Ford Foundation grant to write a book on the Civil Rights Movement... Rumor is that Marguerite Mays' "Dugout" was auctioned off to satisfy big tax bill... With his lovely Bessie on Grand Jury Duty, Charlie Buchanan is talking book material into a tape recorder about the days of the fabled Savoy. Cab Calloway is doing the same as the last of the big time "other day" superstars... Vivian Robinson has snagged 3-winners, sisters Luvie, Essie and Ellie Coleman. Known as "Jenny's Daughters, The Berger King commercial singers are ready to reach for the top of the marquee.

Delegates to the Youth Socialist Alliance convention in St. Louis voted in-total to support a National Student Conf. against Racism in Boston in mid-Feb... Ben Vereen and comic Red Buttons are two strange choices for the upscheduled ABC-TV "Movie of the Wk.," "Louis Armstrong; Chgo Style." Both performers are enormously talented, Ben has won a "Tony" for his B'way role in "Pippin," the long running hit, and Button on "Oscar" for his film chore, but Louis and Joe Glaser they're not. However, neither was Diana Ross "Billie Holiday" but she did look great pretending... Della Reese, set for her own teevee series, "relighted" the marquee at Mister Kelly's that were blown when a bronchial condition short-circuited the appearance of the Chambers Bros... Dig the title of Ray Manzarek's latest tallow work; "The Whole Thing Started With Rock and Roll and Now It's All Out of Control."... The newest edition of the Delta Rhythm Boys made a big singing hit at the Eiffel Tower nitery in Parea. A roster of "Who's Who" of cultural and artistic personalities, took the strongest stand yet against UNESCO for its charged anti-Israel resolutions recently Marion Anderson and Alvin Ailey are among the distinguished signatories of a letter sent to the director general of the org... H' Cum the government is about to let recording companies make millions out of the Nixon tapes which have already been paid for by the tax payers?... STAY LOOSE behind that if you can!

the JEFFERSONS



"THE JEFFERSONS" -- Isabel Sanford, Sherman Hemsley and Mike Evans star as Louise, George and Lionel Jefferson, respectively, in the new contemporary comedy series, "THE JEFFERSONS," premiering Saturday, January 18(8:30 -9:00 PM, PT) on CBS-TV.

The Jeffersons soon find out moving up in the world doesn't necessarily mean happiness--actually, it's creating quite a bit of tension in the household, as Archie Bunker's former neighbors begin a new and luxurious life as stars of their own comedy series.

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