

BLACK MAYORS

MEMPHIS—Newly elected Black mayors are having difficulty solving the major problems of their cities because they do not have any economic power to accompany their political power, Newark (N.J.) Mayor Kenneth Gibson told veteran NAACP delegates attending the elaborate Freedom Fund and Awards dinner at the close of the association's 67th annual convention here.

Making his first public appearance since his election as president of the powerful U.S. Conference of Mayors recently, Gibson declared "Black people shall not tolerate any more rule changes," as they take over leadership of the cities and other areas of American life.

"If politicians want to change the rules on Black people, put them out of office or make life so miserable for them they would wish they were out of office. Sooner or later, and probably sooner than later, they'll get the message..." he stated.

Referring to his own future, the Newark mayor declared "if anybody is seeking higher office in this country, then don't get yourself elected mayor. Being elected mayor of a major city is not the beginning of your career, it is the end of your career," he stated somewhat facetiously.

Asked if he would accept being considered as executive director of the NAACP along with a host of other candidates mentioned, Gibson declared "Oh-h-h-h, No, that's one job I don't want. I've got enough headaches now."

In his dramatic, militant NAACP address, which he said may be viewed as "revolutionary," Gibson declared "We must determine what we want point by point because the minute Black people learn the rules of another man's game, the rules are changed. In effect, we are told: That's the way it used to be, but this is the way you people have to do it.

"Nonsense," he shouted. "Afro Americans could spend another two hundred years on this merry-go-round. When you are concerned with the survival of over 25 million people, you cannot have a catch the brass ring philosophy. There are no more free rides. You get only for which you pay. I say Afro Americans have already paid, so give it up America, give it up," he told the applauding audience.

Gibson brought many of the delegates to their feet several times as he cautioned them not to get distracted by small problems and little issues. "Let us get back to the problems we must make plans to stop: Politicians who cheat us; Schools that don't educate us; Hospitals that don't heal us; Welfare departments that don't respect us; Sanitation departments that don't clean certain neighborhoods; Police-men who beat us; Landlords who cheat us!

The time for these things is over. We can no longer ask that these practices be stopped. We must use every ounce of our energy and intelligence to stop them ourselves," the mayor declared.

Alluding to the Bicentennial celebration, Gibson said "Black people in the United States have been ahead of their time for well over 200 years" in seeking to develop a true democracy in the nation. "The 'advancement of colored people' takes on added significance for 'not so colored people' as Afro Americans gain new positions of leadership in the country, Gibson stated.

At the press conference before the dinner, Gibson said Black mayors must seek more control of economic power to really solve their problems. "When you compare the power that the president of the Prudential Life Insurance co. has in my city with my power, we're not in the same ball park," he emphasized.

"In Detroit, the automobile companies have the power to solve the problems Mayor Coleman Yong has," Gibson further explained. Most Black mayors are doing excellent jobs, "especially Tom Bradley in Los Angeles and Maynard Jackson in Atlanta," said Gibson.

"Look at Abe Beam in New York City," he continued at another point, referring to the mayor who is Jewish, "They (bankers) even changed the rules on him...you know what they do to me..."

Washington, D.C., under an elected Black mayor, has a different problem, Gibson stated. Congress still controls the city instead of the people, he stated. "Look at all those police they hired," he added, shaking his head slowly.

Newark was named as the worst of 50 cities in the nation by one major publication, Gibson admitted, but he said the magazine writer had his facts all wrong. The writer had never visited the city before he wrote the article and no one working for the publication (Harper's Magazine) ever contacted him before the article appeared, said the mayor.

One of the major concerns of the U.S. Conference of Mayors will be to assess the role and work of Black mayors fairly, as well as study the type of daily press coverage and media treatment they receive, Gibson said. "I think the media has treated me fairly in my city, but I don't know about Washington and Atlanta, where they have negative stories every day."

The conference of Mayors will push for federal funds to aid the cities in solving the problems of health care, housing and employment, Gibson said. Some mayors favor revenue sharing for specific programs he stated.

(Baseball, from page 8.)

heard in conversations or surfaced by research, are:

Raleigh (Bizz) Mackey, who was possibly a better catcher than Gibson; Cool Papa Bell, who has been voted into the Hall of Fame as a center fielder; Smokey Joe Williams, the pitcher who beat the champion Philadelphia Phillies of 1915 and, thus, brought down a decree from organized baseball's executive suite that complete major league teams could no longer play exhibition games with blacks; Willie Wells, Ray Dandridge, Martin Dihigo, and Pedro Cepeda, the father of former major league star, Orlando Cepeda.

These and other oldtime Negro players actually lived the experiences "The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings" bring to the motion picture screen.


The movie, based on a novel by William Brashler, was produced by Motown in association with Fan Arts Productions and is being released by Universal Pictures.

The University of Las Vegas Jazz Band recently took second prize at the International Jazz Festival held in Monreux, Switzerland.

The competition consisted of many jazz bands from universities around the world, including three from the United States. First place prize went to the University of Miami.

The University of Las Vegas Jazz Band is conducted by Frank Gagliardi.

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JV CHEERLEADERS — These girls will serve as the junior varsity cheerleaders for the Bonanza High Bengals this fall. From left, Jodi Tiberi, Yvonne Clemons, Sara Taylor, Regina Houston, Durel Garity, Susie Ray and Robyn Bullock.



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