

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK....

Write In This Corner

Washington, D.C. - The first Minority Business Confab in its history was convened in Dee Cee July's end by the Dept. of Transp. The all day event attracted an SRO contingent of black biz persons from thru'out the country. It presented each of them an opportunity for a face-to face evaluation of the Dept's black Secy, the Hon William T. Coleman. For many of them, the confrontation exploded the myth that this Prex Ford's Cabinet Member is anti-blacks with an anti-Civil Rights record. They found him to be a man for his task, a blunt speaking sincere human being in pursuit of human justice. Speaking at the confab, NAACP's Clarence Mitchell called the Fed H'way Adm a corrupted operation causing its administrator Gov. Norbert T. Tieman, who was present, to go read under his healthy sun-tan. According to the Secy, the Trans Dept will spend 8% of \$3-1/2 million of its '77 budget with minority vendors... Berekley Burrell, prex Nat'l Business League, has wired a request to Dem Pres nominee Jimmy Carter for a meet with black business persons like he did with their ofay cousins in N'York recently. He's expecting an answer before the NBL's super convention in D.C. Sept 27... The Richard Mullins family addition was a boy who came in at 7-1/2 lbs. and taped at 19 inches... The indictment handed down in Newark, N.J. with Frankie Cocker's name on it could get the popular deejay 10 yrs, and a fine of 20G's for allegedly being careless with the truth when he faced a Grand Jury diggin' into payola. Frankie has nixed the local scene and is living in Beverly Hills, Calif., but that's no distance for the long arms of the law.

Of These We Write

Despite the announced nationwide search for a teenager to portray Muhammad Ali in Columbia flick version of "The Greatest," re: the life and times of the greatest, Robert Hook's highly capable son looks like the best bet for the young closed-fisted open-mouth world's heavy champ... Melba Moore, the greatest in the voice dept. is setting a wax date to forge an album salute to the immortal Marian Anderson who will be the

focal personality of a major dinner salute in early Nov... Blue-super B.B. King, who's pretty great in his category marked July past with a Sensational performance celebrating 30 years of going down to the footlites with talent... Pres Ford is being haunted by the fact that he allowed HUD secy Carla Hills to "fire" the astute Dr. Gloria E. A. Toote. The former Asst Secy for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity has now turned into an uncommitted delegate to the upcoming Repub Nat'l Conv... When Fred Williamson was a Miss Universe judge in Hong Kong recently, the girls set up their own panel and judged him the most exciting. "Mr. Ego" accepted the honor, they said, with the comeback, "Who else," as he made the rounds of the exciting China city to promote his latest flick, "No Way Back"... Barry White, who was feted at the W'Chester Premier Theatre last wk, had a lot to say about the teevee show he taped in Mexico. It should hit the local tubes as a Spec soon... James Earl Jones' appearance in Chgo to promote the opening of "Bingo Long" paid off record'ly at the box-office. In fact, despite the critics cold adjectives, the Motown pic is a major attraction all over the screen-whirl.

The black B'way bonanza has got legit producers digging deep for new ways to cast the illuminated lane with the bro's and sis'. The big box-office draw on the street are "The Wiz," "Bubbling Brown," and the newest, "Guys & Dolls." The latter, which just opened, racked-up a \$100,964 take for its first week with little or no advance sale. "Bubbling" is closing in on its 200th performance on the man-made canyon of lights as "The Wiz" heads for a record continuance sell-out run. "Raisin," which won the Tony for "Best Musical" in '76 with the best actress nod goin to Virginia Capers, is road-headed for the South and a showing in the shadow of M'hattans skyscrapers at the Garden State Arts Center in N'Jersey. It ran for 3 yrs on B'way, and has already grossed \$3-mil on its hinterland tour. The Nat'l co. of "Bubbling" seems headed for the same financial fate touring with stars like "Honi" Coles, Jay Flash Riley and Mable Lee whom are well remembered

by theatre and cabaret goers past thirty... The Spinners toiled and spun to Hi'lite the NATRA conv. in Antiqua to make hey after the sun went down... Teevee's "Kojak," who's family known as Telly Savales, is expected to be among the golf celebs on tee of the Sammy Davis, Jr. GHO tournament in Conn in late August. Charlie Sifford was the first to win this tournament when it was just GHO in '67 after 14 yrs on the tour. The vet tee-man has put more than 30 yrs on the links, and just may rack it up for sure this time. He has been retiring for the last five seasons.

The Chgo Old Pros Unlimited Club honored William "Bill" Foster, organizer of the Negro Baseball League Bill is the retired Alcorn baseball coach who though he was himself a great player, came along before the late Jackie Robinson added color to America's greatest pastime... Ben Holman, dir, Community Relations Service, Justice Dept., has forged an agreement with city officials of Texarkana, Ark. that will insure the participation of blacks in policy making decisions, and improve their employment conditions... Project Equality will honor vet labor leader and civil rights giant A. Philip Randolph Equitable Life Assurance Society and the Urban League's LEAP program Sept end... STAY LOOSE...

"Thoughts" by Quincy Jones

On Black Music"

Continued from August 5, 1976

From another vantage point, it has been interesting to note that European classical music has been greatly influenced by the music of Africa and Black America; and vice versa. It has almost been like a relay team where one school of thought borrowed heavily from the other.

Naturally both schools embellished what they borrowed with their own sense of feeling.

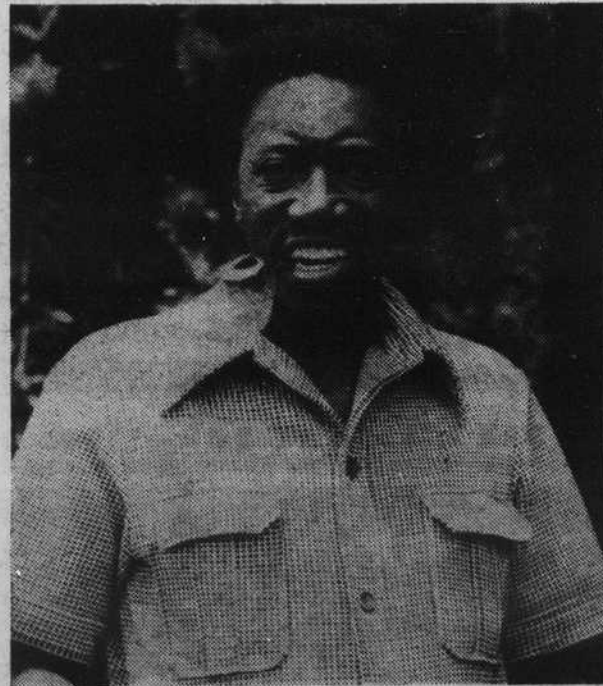
I have been writing my own interpretation muscially, and I intend to showcase it in the form of an 80-minute, two-record set. The work calls for gospel choir, symphony orchestra, large and small jazz band, dance and solo voice.

Along with the album, I hope to produce and direct a series of 13 public television specials documenting the educational aspects of the entire project. Additionally, plans call for a book to be written in conjunction with Alex Haley, covering the historical and education elements of the research.

Hopefully, there will be a traveling roadshow where concert productions of this work will be performed. I have been in contact with various symphonic conductors in major cities, and some have agreed to act as guest conductors for that performance.

The final thrust for this project will be a feature film, where we team up once again with Alex Haley for the screenplay. I feel that there are two elements that must be covered throughout the entire project; and they are education and entertainment.

This project has become my obsession in a sense. I have spent years researching and writing it and have tried to complete it for the past couple of years; but it keeps growing and growing. I find myself discovering more information and writing more music. The job of editing will be one helluva job.



JOE WILLIAMS, VOTED NUMBER ONE male jazz singer in the world in the 'Donwbeat 1975 International Critic's Poll,' will share the stage with pianist Roland Hanna and the New York Jazz Quartet on 'At the Top,' Saturday, Aug. 14 at 8 p.m. over TV 10! Williams first achieved success as the featured vocalist with the Count Basie Orchestra in the mid-1950's. He is probably most widely remembered for a commercial hit recording of the standard blues number, "Every Day," popular in 1955. Since that time, he has gone on to be recognized as the best male jazz singer in the world today.

Join Ray Willis and Maria Donoso for a look at what minorities are doing in Southern Nevada.

Along with special local and nationally known guests, they make this an interesting and informative half-hour

Sat. 4:30 PM Sun. 7:00AM



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