

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

WITH MALICE TOWARDS SOME

WASHINGTON D.C.—The defense and condemnation of Judge Griffin Bell, the next Attorney General of the United States, has a flagrant ring to it caused by men who have lost their cool. In the arena of political conflict those on both sides displayed more madness than method. There in public, vocal jabs could knock-out the unity which brought them to this confrontation, and a verbal "declaration of civil war." The teevee exchange between northern based Clarence Mitchell, and southern legislator Georgia State Rep. Billy McKinney failed to deal with the sensitivities of the south. Ignoring the debt the south owes the northern blacks who marched in the fore front of the 60's fite parade for liberty, raised the money for freedom, tossed the bricks, and ignited the flames which burned down the barriers of unequal and separate democracy.

Such men should be aware that anger on the political battlefield blurs the vision and spoils the aim. Also, that there's an absolute and profound relationship between politics and compromise. East is east, west is west, never the twins shall meet is an American myth that has had it. Blacks from the north, the south, and the rest of America came together in an age when basic human rights were crudely trampled. When humanism and social justice were at their lowest ebb and this is not the time for brothers and sisters to sever links. Be ever reminded that there is something comforting about an open mind, and conclusions need a minute inspection before they are put on display.

TOUT A COUP—A lot of folks will not be given their walking papers when the new administration gets on board. Some like Deputy Assistant Secretary Minton Francis, who heads up EO in the Defense Dept., is expected to stay around. He just might be upped to asst. secy. to give his dept. more clout. Natch, his number one hand Charlie Fisher will hold on as he's that close to Senator Ed Brooke and used to be head of the DC Election BD . . . GA State Rep. Billy McKinney didn't make himself any new friends when he stated that Coretta King didn't lead anybody. The lovely widow of the immortal Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is being urged by some in Atlanta to seek the congressional seat, the Hon. Andrew Young is about to vacate to range over there at the United Nations. It looks like it's going to be a free-for-all for his house of Rep. job with several whites in the running.

The DC self-government has allegedly lost its charm for Mayor Walter Washington, and he is expected to join the Carter Adm. before the ice around town thaws . . . Should Cliff Alexander be named Secy of the Army

he may stay on just long enough to get on the mark to try again for mayor, a position he almost won the first time out against the present incumbent. . . Carla Hill, the out-gone HUD secy took a parting swipe at Sen. Wm Proxmire for his remarks about the housing agency and agreed that in-coming Amb. Patricia Harris was up to the job as head of that dept. Her remarks about Pat softened the blows blacks were throwing in her direction ever since she gave the astute Dr. Gloria Tootie the biz . . . Byron Lewis' UniWorld and Calvin Wall's outfit has snagged the contract to spend General Foods' Gs in the black press . . . Talented Melba Moore got her bid to entertain a special group of inaugural biggies, "write" from the Prez. She had to nix a hi paying gig to accept, but with all the ice about she was happy it wasn't her FL date.

Redd Foxx has been allowed to hold onto his we'end lease of the Silver Nugget casino's showroom despite the Jan-end change of name and mgmt of the former Thunderbird Hotel. In the long time ago, when the late Nat King Cole played this spot, we had to eat off-the-kitchen and spend our nites across the railroad. Now a bro all but owns the joint and is doing turn away biz wk'ends . . . Back in the iced east, vet pianist bob Howard is acting less than his seventy-odd age sounding the ivories Sunday nites at Crabtree's friendly tavern in W'chester . . . CBS-Records created a special V.P. slot and grooved Richard Mach into it to do his thing as nat'l promo Spinners made in a 5-day gig, but when he fell off the stage.

Gen. Chappie James offered Frank Sinatra the big choppers of his command when it was discovered that smaller ones could not make it through the weather in search for his mother. Her death was a solid blow to those who had met her and was close enough to Frank to be aware of his love for her . . . The Defense Dept. is expected to cool its beef about that awful job a grab-it-all black firm took two years to complete and spent 200Gs doing it. However, the bet is that sooner or later the stuff will hit the fan and no deodorant will submerge the smell . . . The biggest bash in D.C. after the new prez moves into the Oval office will be the farewell luncheon the Leadership Conf. on Civil Rights has fashioned for retiring ch' man Roy Wilkins . . . The B'way critics were as unkind to IPI TOMBI as the N'York groups which demonstrated before its box-office daily. Rex Reed, who dips his pen in acid, under a "Rhythm and Boos" head wrote, "IT Lacks Spark." Nuf Said as with all that and the continued picketing of folks, the South African musical seems doomed . . . STAY LOOSE.

THREE PROMOTED AT SOUTHWEST GAS

Al Curtis has been named Staff Quality Control Supervisor for Southwest Gas Corporation, according to Ralph Haven, Operations Manager for the firm. Curtis, of 4985 Billman, has been with the company since April of 1960. Previously, he worked with Phelps Pump and Equipment and Bethlehem Steel. Curtis has served in all classifications within the company's Construction Department, Haven reports. His military service with the U.S. Army included tours of duty in Germany and France. Curtis and his wife Karen have four children. In his new position, Curtis will be in charge of the company's Quality Control Program in the construction activity and will also conduct quality evaluation on construction materials.

The promotions of William S. Fielder and James Vincent were announced by R. L. Hammett, Southern Nevada Division Manager for Southwest Gas. Fielder, of 4712 Rip Van Winkle, has assumed the duties of Construction Superintendent for the Southern Nevada Division. Prior to joining the company in June of 1976, as a Distribution Engineer, he worked with Arizona Public Service Company and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation. His formal education includes attendance at Antioch College in Ohio, the University of Arizona in Tucson, and a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering earned at the University of Houston. Fielder served with the U.S. Army during World War II. He and his wife Beth have two children.

James Vincent, 3552 Paradise Road, has been named Construction Supervisor for the Southern Nevada Division. He joined Southwest Gas in March 1972 as an Engineering Technician. Vincent's previous work experience was with N. J. Devlin Consulting Engineering and Transwestern Pipeling Company. He has attended the University of Southern Utah and has been involved in many special courses and training programs.

WIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO HOLD SECOND MEETING

WASHINGTON—The National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition will continue its study of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program at the second in a series of meetings, Feb. 9 and 10 in Atlanta, Ga.

The meeting will be held in the Holiday Inn, 175 Piedmont Ave., Atlanta, Ga. Sessions are open to the public, and begin at 8:30 a.m.

Discussions at the Atlanta meeting will focus on the WIC program proposed regulations and issues to be addressed in the council's report to Congress on WIC operations.

At the council's first meeting, held last Oct. 27 and 28 in Arlington, Va., members heard an introduction to the WIC program, and reports on recent evaluations of WIC medical benefits and methods for delivering foods to program participants.

The council, established by Public Law 94-105, includes representatives from federal and state agencies concerned with nutrition and health.

Persons planning to attend the Atlanta meeting should so advise Bill Shaw, Special Supplemental Food Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. The telephone number is (202)447-8421.

THE NEW LABOR SECRETARY: A SIGN FROM CARTER

Few tasks facing the Carter administration are more urgent than attacking unemployment, especially as it affects minorities. Eight years of Republican rule have left a tragic legacy of millions unemployed. A stagnating economy has halted, if not reversed, the black progress that was so rapid during the 1960s.

We do not yet know the exact shape of Carter's program, but he has selected a fairly liberal cabinet and can be expected to follow an expansionary economic policy. One cabinet department, Labor, will play a crucial role in any effective strategy to attack unemployment. The experience of the last fifteen years demonstrates that full employment without inflation cannot be achieved unless, besides other steps, there are selective programs to employ the young, train the unskilled, combat discrimination, and promote the development of lagging regions and areas.

Fortunately, in Ray Marshall, Carter has made an excellent selection for his Secretary of Labor. Marshall is among the nation's outstanding manpower economists. He has won the admiration and respect of nearly everyone he has worked with. George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, has rightly described him as one of the few American professors who understands working people.

Unlike many academic experts, Marshall knows poverty first hand. He grew up in an orphanage in Mississippi and entered college under the G.I. Bill. After getting his doctorate in economics, he returned to the South and stayed there despite lucrative job offers from prestigious universities. During the late 1950's and early '60's he was an outspoken champion of intergration when that was not a popular position to take in Southern universities. Marshall has a deep and abiding commitment to develop programs to uplift the poor and disadvantaged.

Marshall may become one of Carter's chief economic advisors. The kind of advice that Marshall will give the new President was indicated in his testimony on the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill before the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress in mid-1976. He stated that it is mistaken to believe that full employment will necessarily lead to intolerable levels of inflation. "The best attack on inflation," he declared, "is to increase output and efficiency through fully utilizing the nation's productive potential." The most effective way in Marshall's view of overcoming our most serious social and economic problems is to improve the quantity and quality of jobs available to the poor and near-poor.

Marshall has been a leading figure in developing programs and approaches to increase minority employment in the construction industry. We can expect this to be one of his major priorities as Secretary of Labor. In his opinion a major obstacle to increasing minority employment in the construction trades is the high level of cyclical and seasonal unemployment—there are two construction workers for every job. A scarcity of jobs places the interests of employed white workers in direct opposition to those of minorities seeking to enter the industry, thus slowing minority economic advancement. In a recent study Marshall concluded that a high level of national employment is among the "essential measures for achieving racial equity in the construction industry."

Marshall recognizes the complexity of the construction industry and warns of the limited effectiveness of legal approaches or quota schemes, such as the Philadelphia plan, as the main instruments to promote real and lasting integration. Those who thought union racism was entirely at fault "assumed that there were many qualified blacks available for employment and they could easily be recruited. This proved untrue." The primary market for union construction is commercial and industrial building which demands high levels of skills and training. Consequently, the most effective approach, and one that is supported by the labor movement, is apprenticeship outreach. According to Marshall outreach programs, particularly the Recruitment and Training Program, have been successful in increasing the number and proportion of minorities in the skilled crafts with a minimum of conflict. Today, as a result, twenty percent of the construction union apprentices are minorities.

Because Marshall enjoys the confidence of both labor and blacks he may be able to put together a program that both can support. The central element of such a program would be the need to create more jobs, while continuing to increase the effort to open more opportunities for minorities.

Ray Marshall will be an active and creative Labor Secretary. His presence in the cabinet is a welcome sign that the Carter administration intends to take vigorous action to create more and better jobs.