

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

N O W

GOT THE POT AND WINDOW.

N'York City --- We're suffering double eyeing once mighty guys, RRedd FFox and JJoe FFrazier. Redd's varley hour on ABC-TV, which started in Sept. '77, will end in Jan. '78, while JJoe, who has lost a number of close decisions to the "Greatest," told a Boston TV audience he's still smokin' enough to smother any fire Muhammad Ali has left. In each case the limelight for both is not about to dim, so hold the count-down. The wily Foxx knew what he was about when the ABC-TV contract was being negotiated to lure him away from that CBS-TV's 'junkyard.' He made sure that he got more than a window, which is why they are cancelling the show, but not the Foxx. In Frazier's case, his feeling is that "He may not be as good as he once was, but is as good once as he ever was, especially against an also aged Muhammad Ali, just one more once.

A report that Billy Taylor had passed into the Great Beyond is not only premature but also exaggerated. It was not Billy Taylor, the pianist. He's still pounding the keys with gusto. We regret to announce it was Billy Taylor, Jr., popular jazz bassist in the Washington, D.C. area who died at 51. Like others, we did a double take when we spotted the headline. It's sad anyway you look at it . . . Melba Moore, Cliff Anderson, Dina Merrill and others appropriately saluted Wilburt Burgie, head of the New York City Mission Society Cadet Corps, 3,500 strong, at a dinner dance at the Plaza and everyone was plazahed . . . And the Honor Legion of the N.Y. City Police Department, finest of the Finest, was the fund recipient of a dinner and show benefit at which such personalities as Yul Brynner, Richard Kiley, Robert Preston, Betsy Palmer, Victor Borge, Anne Bancroft and Stephanie Mills lent their talents, along with CBS anchorman Jim Jensen who emceed the activities with dejay Ted Brown.

STRANGER THAN FICTION.

They do funny things in Frisco. This time it's the plan to feature one, Placido Domingo, in the title role of "Othello," a character created as a black by the satient Shakespeare. Mebbe we missed our color line and Placido is truly black as were Paul Robeson and Julius Bledsoe, a couple of fair (not ofay) Othellos of times ago . . . Christmas in Chicago: they plan to open at the Blackstone Dec. 27 with guess whar? The Broadway hit, "For Colored Girls Who Try To Commit Sucidie when the Rainbow Isn't Enough". They could at least change "rainbow" to "mistletoe" and they'd be in season . . . The first black saint in the Catholic church, St. Martin de Porres who died in Lima, Peru in 1697 but wasn't canonized until 1962, is scheduled for filming in the Akron and Canton areas of Ohio. It will be a full-length opus on the black saint's life under the title, "Hear the Call" with Joseph Guzzo, as writer and producer, Eleanor Goth, associate, and Ted Lawrence, director. It is a timely idea for the screeching 70s.

The Federal Communications Commission is engaging in a "strained contention" if it agrees with a petition requiring all handicapped people to be treated as a minority and therefore jobs should be opened up to them in the broadcast industry. Station WABC strongly condemned that interpretation in a brief it filled with FCC stating that while it endorsed improved employment for the handicapped it lacked jurisdiction to compel "beyond its regulatory purpose" the industry to provide them jobs under penalty of being declared "discriminatory" if it did not do so. It asked summary denial of a petition brought by the California Ass'n of the Physically Hnadicated in Los Angeles . . . Great picture coming up: "The Wild Geese" now shooting in Africa with 1975 Tony Award-winning best actors John Kanl and Winston Ntshona co-starring. They won Tony awards for smash Broadway play about South Africa and its mores.

Oldtimers recall how Detroit's Graystone

ballroom echoed to the strains of such late greats as Don Redman, Louis Armstrong, Fess Williams, Fletcher Henderson, Duke Ellington, Chick Webb and Jimmy Lunceford among others who strode the musical greatways of the nation leaving giant sounds. The Black Bottom, The Lindy Hop, the Joe Louis shuffle and all the other movements of the time cut figures across the waxed boards of the Graystone. This day in time it is just a command away from the wrecking crew. While there is still time, jazz lover Midge Ellis, fighting to save the 50-yr old ballroom from total extinction, is attempting to gather enough forces to raise the necessary cash to convert the place into a Jazz Museum. Motown, the building owner, but abandoned same when it took its wax works to Calif., is willing to cooperate. We reported back awhile that the Louisiana Superdome was into all kind of disagreement with the black run housekeeping and security firm contracted by the state for these duties. The Hyatt Management, which took over the place to shore up the loses sustained under state management, picked no bones about the matter and fired Superdome Services Inc. Blacks bristled and threatened, so the Hyatt folks rehired the Indians, but not the chiefs. So Shermin Copelin and Don Hubbard have donned the legal war paint and taken State and the Hyatt Co. into civil court with charges of "conspiracy." They are asking for more than \$3-mil in damages --- STAY LOOSE.

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Summer Jobs

The deadline for applying for summer jobs with the National Park Service next year is Jan. 15, 1978 - one month earlier than in previous years, according to Howard H. Chapman, Western Regional Director of the Service.

Chapman urged interested persons to write immediately for an application packet to the Employment Office, Western Regional Office, National Park Service, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94102, or to call (415) 556-6429.

Applicants must be United States citizens and at least 18 years old, Chapman said. He noted that the National Park Service is an equal opportunity employer and that all qualified applicants will be considered for a seasonal position without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.

A limited number of jobs are available at the 38 national parks in the states of Calif., Ariz., Nev. and Hawaii.

Lieutenant Governor Bob Rose has stated his strenuous opposition to a boycott of conventions and meetings in Nevada by the National Organization of Women.

In a letter to Eleanor Smeal, national president of NOW, Rose called for an end to the boycott.

He stated, "While NOW may be disappointed that Nevada has not passed the Equal Rights Amendment, attempts to impose economic sanctions on the entire state are not appropriate."

NOW has initiated a boycott by conventions and meetings of states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.

Lt. Gov. Rose declared, "Any tactic by a national organization which may adversely affect Nevada's economy must be opposed."

"Nevada has a healthy economy and I want to keep it that way," stressed the lieutenant governor.

Rose outlined two reasons for his opposition to the NOW boycott. First, the attempted economic coercion is having a negative effect on Nevadans.

"Rather than winning new supporters and friends, the boycott is turning Nevadans against the Equal Rights Amendment. Many who favor ERA are adamantly opposed to the boycott," said Rose.

Secondly, he stressed if the boycott were at all effective, many innocent people including those who actively support ERA would be adversely affected.

"A healthy economy is my primary consideration, and it should be the primary concern of anyone who lives in Nevada," said the lieutenant governor.

Tourism is our primary industry in Nevada and generates much of the revenue for the state, Rose noted. While the NOW boycott has had no real impact of Nevada's economy thus far, it is potentially more dangerous for Nevada than any other state, he added.

In his letter to NOW, Lt. Gov. Rose, a supporter of ERA, stated, "The boycott is counter-productive to the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment by the Nevada Legislature."

SCLC

To all members and concerned citizens of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC):

Due to the approaching holidays, the Board of Directors find it more feasible to suspend its weekly meetings until Tuesday, January 17, 1978 at 7:30 P.M., in the West Las Vegas Library, corner of "D" and Jackson streets.

The weekly meeting dates are changed to monthly meetings, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Rev. Joseph Prudhomme
President

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