

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

During his Black Media conference Pres. Carter gave no indications that his lovely special ass't, Martha "Bunny" Mitchell was about to be replaced as the rumors go. The feeling here is that the critical appraisal of her are unjust . . . Dick Gregory is the kick off dinner chairperson of the 1st. annual nation of neighbors awards dinner that will honor Republican Perry B. Duryea, who's in the hunt for the governor's mansion of N.Y., and the very astute Democrat, Lucille Rose, who could use a job. She was replaced as Deputy Mayor of NYC when cong' man Koch took the office from Mayor Beame . . . Cinema-13 cashed in on the wave of renewed public attention and interest in the distinguished career of the late Paul Robeson when it presented two weekends of a duel set of his most legendary flicks "Emperor Jones" and "King Solomon's Mines." "Emperor," a screenplay from the genius of DuBose Heyward was filmed in '33 and "Mines" followed in '37 . . . HEAR THIS--When the first Lady of Soul, Aretha Franklin, last collaborated with Curtis Mayfield, the result was '76's RIAA gold album, "Sparkle." Well they're pen and voice teamed again with a set of grand new songs and it's "Almighty Fire." . . . The American Newspaper Publishers Association is looking for a worth journalism student to award its annual \$1,000 scholarship. It will be awarded without regard to race, creed, color, sex or age.

"Our man in Congress," Charles B. Rangel, is still on the Beulah Bryant case. His latest letter to the Hon. Clifford Alexander, Secy of the Army, request that he use his offices to see whether or not this ample talented lady can be used in one of the many entertainment programs of the Army. Beulah has gone to the mat with her case charging the dept. with racial and age discrimination. Both the cong' man and the AGVA are working to have her reinstated on the "USO" tours . . . If you're in The Apple mid'March do yourself a favor and join the Northside Center for a "Sunday Kind of Love" at the Terrace-Penthouse. The invite for the event is 'boss', worthy of a keepsake niche in any archive and attest to the good taste of Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark, the center's exec. dir. . . . Entertainment is alive and jumping in N'Orleans where the cuisine runs the gamut of desired taste . . . Jonah Jones, one of the giants of jazz, and his quartet just concluded a heavily attended run at Le Club, the hot spot in the posh Hyatt Regency. As he took off for a session in Bermuda the legendary vocalist Helen Humes took over the stand for a 3-wks stint with her trio. However she missed Maynard Ferguson and his orchestra which appeared in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt just before she hit the boards. Nonetheless Helen did have an opportunity to eyeball the road running "Bubbling Brown Sugar" which ended February at the N'Orleans Theatre of the Performing Arts. Now they missed Johnny Mathis, who has been called "the greatest romantic singer of all time," who appeared with full concert ork. at the same theatre the wk'end before Bubbling bounced on stage. Natch the town sways with local talent like Lavern and Two who create musical sound waves in the Fairmont Court in the hotel of the same name. Most of the locals are booked in the French Quarter, The Vieux Carre or "Old Square," as it is referred to by the natives. This is original N'Orleans and if you cannot find it there, food or entertainment, it isn't in the world.

OF PEOPLE AND PLACES: -- Baseball's homerun king, hammering Hank Aaron is more determined than ever to melt off the 40+ lbs he has taken on since his baseball days as the over-poundage has been diagnosed as the cause of his recent chest pains. He's just back from an army recruiting mission in Puerto Rico . . . The Capital Press Club is up in anger over the failure of teevee's WJLA's failure to pickup the co-anchor contract of Delores Handy. The storm caused by the 'dismissal' is still blowing chilly winds in the direction of the DeeCee station. CPC'sprexy, Marlon Haynes Hull, who met with the outlet's GM., indicated that this just may be a pattern since Carol Hall was let go after just a few

months. Calvin Rolark, Larry Bryant and Al Sweeney made up the CPC delegation who sought an explanation from WJLA . . . "Timbuktu" is odds on favorite to be critically appraised as a "B'way Smash." Eartha Kitt, the most exciting feline of them all, and Melba Moore are among the slew of stars expected to make it so. That's Judge "Turkey" Thompson, not me, on that commercial being used to entice audiences . . . Naw, they're not trying to tell you a thing. The fact that the Dinner of the Metropolitan Women's Dem. Club, honoring DeeCee minority businesses that have contributed to the economic growth of the city, falls on April-one is no joke. Among those to be honored are W.H. Bone & Co., Foxtrappe and Ofield Dukes.

Veep Walter F. Mondale will after-dinner it, Sen. Ed Brooke will emcee it, Lt. Gov. Mervyn M. Dymally, Calif., Mayor Richard Hatcher, Gary, Carl B. Stokes and Percy Sutton, a couple of distinguished ex's will be honored, George L. Brown, McGeorge Bundy, Coretta Scott King, Ernest N. Morial and Commish. Eleanor Holmes Norton will be special participants; so how can The Joint Center for Political Studies dinner, "A Decade of Black Political Progress" be a dud. The same could be written about the upscheduled NY Urban League's annual awarding of the Frederick Douglass Awards. Three outstanding Americans will receive same; Lloyd K. Garrison, Romare Bearden, dean of American black artist and Ernest Green, one of the original "Little Rock Nine," who has grown up to become an Ass't Secy of Labor. Bess Myerson and Dr. Jerome "Brud" Holland co-chairs this event which is the pet of the dedicated Mrs. Theodore W. Kheel . . . Prince Phillip Mitchell 'Self-produced Atlantic debut album is amply titled, "Make It Good." . . . Ray Parker, Jr. whose group, Raydio is making the leap on the pop and R&B charts with a fast becoming gold single, "Jack and Jill." is just as happy about his new guitar. Designed by "himself," and Ollie Brown, it was made at Valdez guitar shop in H'wood at a cost of 3Gs. It's shaped like a radio, is red and chrome with AM and FM bands and has radio station numbers on the neck. It was 5 months in the making, oversized and made out of a sinble piece of wood, powered by two-9-volt batteries and has a 4 shift phaser and an envelope filter for fuzz tone. The head is made with bass tuning pegs and the guitar strap is mirrored. Sounds like it needs billing. --- STAY LOOSE.

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