

RIVIERA HOTEL today negotiated a limited contract with singing star Johnny Mathis for a 1-week engagement starting Jan. 15. He will appear for one show nightly at dinner. Buddy Hackett will perform at the midnight show.





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MENDING FENCES — President-elect Ronald Reagan Thursday met with blackleaders - many of whom opposed him in the election - at the Blair House in

Washington. From left are singer Stephanie Lee Mills, Helen Evans, musician Lionel Hampton, Reagan and W.C. Walker.

# HOPE

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political movement, if they want to be thought of as more than black free-loaders. That attitude has apparently impressed President-Elect Reagan. Edwin Meese, who is heading Reagan's transition team, said blacks will be assigned to the White House to deal with issues they know about instead of to be the black contact with the president.

"I'm tired of blacks being thought of only as poor people, people on welfare, people who are

unemployed," says Thomas. "That's the only way Jesse Jacksons and the other black leaders talk about black people. To them, we're all a monolith. Well, they are not talking for the 80 to 90 percent of black people in this country who have never been on welfare or in jail."

The reasons Clarence Thomas' conservatism come out in other areas of his life. He \$1,400 semester to send his only son to a private school because, he says, the public schools don't educate people they teach then they can get by without working. He is a supporter of the voucher system for education that would allow parents to send children whatever school, private or public, they please.

Thomas is also a man who has a sister on welfare back in his home state of Georgia, but is opposed to welfare because of the dependency it can breed in a person.

"She (his sister) gets mad when the mailman is late with her welfare check." he says. "That is how dependent she is. What's worse is that now her kids feel entitled to the check, too. They have no motivation for doing better or getting out of that situation.

As a follower of Thomas Sowell, the conservative black Clarence economist. Thomas also questions black support for the

minimum wage government iob programs. "The proof that they do not work is in the high black teenunemployment age rate." says Thomas.

While the black conservatives like Clarence Thomas complain that not all blacks are poor and in jail, their challenge will be to remember that disproportionate number of blacks are poor and in jail. This country is not vet so sophisticated that blacks, even black Republicans, can say it makes no difference what color an American is. But thanks to Clarence Thomas and other black Republicans like him, new approaches to stagnant problems are being discussed for the first time since Martin Luther King, Jr.

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