

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

OIC: — A LIGHT AT TUNNEL'S END

PHOENIX, ARIZ. — In these times of setbacks, which create setbacks, and balanced budgets which unbalance the living conditions of people, Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America appear like the gleaming light after a long walk through a dark and dank tunnel by those of us caught up in the neglected and impoverished niches of our nation. To brighten the way, Rev. Leon Sullivan, founder and chairman of OIC/A, has launched a dramatic job for youth campaign to immunize the imponderable effects of an immoderate society upon the untrained and unhired. Thus he hopes to remove the impact of Federal cutbacks in job and poverty funding through 10,000 jobs within the private sector for disadvantaged youth. He's also seeking the active support of fair minded Americans for several OIC employment bills now pending in Congress. Each is designed to provide tax credits and other incentives for hiring those who have been implicated by poverty and neglect.



Ben Hooks

This grandiose survival strategy was the focal point of the organization's 17th Annual Convocation here during four-days of serious "Taking Care of the business of people." The Confab attracted persons of goodwill from every plateau and racial mix in American. Among the prominent, national and international newsmakers were: — Ben Hooks, the NAACP head bias hunter, who said, "There is an effort in this Country, not just to turn back the clock, but to roll back the calendar," and Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, who

called the Reagan Adm.'s plan to fund social programs through block grants a "copout."

Rev. Joseph Lowery, President of SCLC pointed to the particular social plight of Afro-Americans. He said that some of the gains made have been lessened by apathy "because blacks just sat on the mountain and watched it erode after they had climbed up." The Hon. Elizabeth H. Dole, Ass't to the Pres. for Public Liaison,



DR. LEON SULLIVAN

left these words: "The social barriers, the racial barriers, the barriers of sex, prejudice and superstition are all slowly, but surely crumbling away. But only skill and motivation will carry this and future generations of needy Americans across the threshold to a better life." Deputy Treasury Sec'y Richard T. McNamar told some 2000 dinner guests that his boss, Pres. Reagan, backed OIC's Job-Training approach to reducing unemployment. Dr. Joan Wallace, Ass't Sec'y of Agriculture, urged OIC to "redouble its very successful capability to create jobs." Rev. Ralph Abernathy, a filler-in for a "no show black Fed. Govt. official," did not speak for the Govt. as he praised OIC for getting so many blacks in who had dropped out. Dr. Sullivan warned that the thunder of denial could be followed by the lightning of frustration that could reignite our cities.

The counters said that 4000 delegates and interested folks made it to See ROWE, page 12

COASTERS WERE HIT IN VEGAS

One of the most popular groups to perform recently in Las Vegas is the original Coasters.

This group was formed in February of 1956 as an outgrowth of another group called the Robins. Their first hit was "Down in Mexico." From this song a career was launched which has sustained itself to the present.

Their remarkable staging power has been a result of the unique two tone sounds, combining the highs of Jimmy Diggs, Kendiel Floyd, Jesse (Baby) Floyd, and Carl Summers, and the deep, resounding, unforgettable basstones of Will (Dub) Jones. His sound, has become one of the Coasters best known trademarks.

In addition, the Coasters were the first rock 'n roll group to introduce comedy routines to their act.

During the last two decades, people have had the pleasure of being entertained by this group on three continents of the world.

Additionally, it should be mentioned that Billy Guy (the original lead singer) is still responsible for making sure that the unique Coaster sound is perpetuated on all this groups musical efforts. Assisted by Robin Guidry (music director) they write, arrange and orchestrate most of the new material the Coasters use.

Jazz Society Given Funds By Federation

The Western Regional Federation for Jazz, a confederation of local jazz societies drawn from the entire area west of the Mississippi, has taken a giant step towards operational reality at an organizational meeting held in Las Vegas.

Initiated in 1980 when a gathering of individual enthusiasts and non-profit societies authorized action by a five-man Steering Committee, the Federation now includes 19 initial member groups from nine States. The follow-up meeting, held on June 28 at the Tropicana Hotel, was attended by delegates (designated Trustees" of the Federation) from the member societies and by a number of observers and guests including representatives of State and Regional Arts Councils. Dr. Walter Anderson, Special Assistant to the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, who was the keynote speaker, disclosed that the N.E.A. has backed its expressed enthusiasm for the Federation by providing some immediate support from rarely-used discretionary funds.

The W.R.F.J.'s announced goals are to support member organizations in such areas as performance and education, and to provide technical assistance to existing and new societies. Much of the day-long meeting was devoted to

formulating details of such goals and to appointing committees to work towards these ends as well as furthering the Federation's fundraising and membership development plans. Also approved were preliminary plans for a 1982 Jazz Festival, proposed as the first in a series of annual major events.

Presiding over the meeting was W.R.F.J. President Monk Montgomery, the veteran bassist who heads the Las Vegas Jazz Society. Other continuing officers of the Federation are

Treasurer Leo Johnson, also of Las Vegas, and Secretary Duane Martin, of the Dallas Jazz Society. The attending trustees re-elected first Vice-President Orrin Keepnews (San Francisco Bay Area Jazz Foundation) and second Vice-President Benny Powell (Committee on Jazz, Los Angeles), and completed the governing Executive Committee by selecting as members-at-large Maxene Adams (Wichita Jazz Festival) and Jim Brown (Jazz Society of Oregon).

The full present membership of the W.R.F.J. consists of six See JAZZ, page 12

Jimmy Smith

An Afternoon of Jazz

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Sunday, July 19, 1981



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