

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

A Gala Night For Song and Celebration

N'YORK CITY:—During a gala night for song and celebration of the humanitarian contributions of Dorothy I. Height last week mine eyes were delighted by the full house turn out and mine ears rejoiced with the words of Richard Munro, chairman and CEO of Time Inc. Let me quote share them with you this write around.

"As corporate chairman of this event, with overall honorary co-chairs, Lena Horne and Mary French Rockefeller, I'm privileged to join in this outpouring of affection and gratitude of praise and admiration for this great lady. Dorothy Height

has richly earned it. Yet I'd be less than truthful if I ignored that, at least on the surface, this seems as ironic moment to be honoring the compassion and convictions Dorothy Height so eloquently embodies. Let's be honest the compassion and at first glance, doesn't this seem to be a case of the right person at the wrong time? Isn't this a decade in which people seem to have tired of difficult, heavy issues like poverty and racism and the struggle for equality? Isn't the age of lite? Lite beer-Lite cuisine-Lite trucks-Lite politics--Lite ideas-Lite commitments. Putting it

bluntly, doesn't this seem the wrong time for celebrating all the pain and promise of Dorothy Height's lifelong crusade for racial and social justice? Just look at the statistics. Looking at the last official count there were over 33-million poor people in America and 13-million of them were children. That's nearly one out of every 4-American child under six is on the poverty line. For Black American children, it's one out of two. Consider that this is the same America which ranks first in the world in military spending, but 14th. in keeping infants aliver. That a Black infant in Chicago is more likely to die in the first year of life than an infant in Costa Rica. We also have the highest drop-out rates of any industrialized country. In our inner-city schools it's routine for more kids to drop out than to graduate. It's a

grim picture."
"As a nation, a government, we've come to deny our ability to translate our national ideal of equality into reality. In the age of lite commitments, we've thrown up our hands at the problems of the ghetto, unemployment, drugs, despair and the pernicious effects of the enduring legacy of racism. We've spent millions studying and defining a phenomenon labelled the "underclass," and having defined it, written it off as a problem beyond our ability to influence. In this age of lite compassion we've listened to theories that say, "let the poor figure out how to pick themselves up by their bootstraps. If they have no boots, then so be it." "And almost inexorably, we've watched such theories become national policies. I'm afraid it's not a very inspiring or hopeful time. But that's precisely what brings us here. The need for hope, inspiration, for faith. These are what Dorothy Height's life has always been about. She has seen worse times than these. She was born in an America where separate and unequal was the law...Where the institutions of American apartheid seemed unshakable. Where racial lynchings were a fact of life. She and a determined band of courageous men and women changed that America. The changes came only gradually. Some like Medgar Evers and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had to lay down their lives. But the changes came and they will come again if we have the good sense not only to honor Dorothy Height on this one special evening, but to carry on the struggle she has waged all her life with full strength with soul and purpose. It's a movement as old as SoJourney Truth and as new as Rosa Parks. In



Sammy Davis, Jr. visits with Las Vegas poster child, Jenifer Jenkin, at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino during the taping recently of the Las Vegas segment of the Ninth Annual "Weekend with the Stars" Cerebral Palsy Telethon scheduled to air nationally January 17 & 18, 1987.

Imperial Palace Hosts Las Vegas Talent Segment of Cerebral Palsy Telethon

The Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino hosts the Las Vegas segment of the Ninth Annual "Weekend with the Stars" Cerebral Palsy Telethon scheduled to air nationally January 17 & 18, 1987.

During the recent taping of the Las Vegas talent segment at the hotel, audiences were treated to the talents of Sammy Davis, Jr., Engelbert Humperdinck, Billy Preston, Lou Rawls, Ben Vereen, Pia Zadora, cast members from the Imperial Palace's award-winning show, "Legends in Concert" and several other celebrity guests. David Hasselhoff, star of the hit television series, "Knight

Rider," was the host for the star-studded event.

Last year the "Weekend with the Stars" telethon was broadcast live on over 90 TV stations coast-to-coast and raised more than \$18 million to fund research and community services relating to the disabling condition that affects 700,000 Americans now and affects some 6,000 more newborn babies each year.

The telethon will air locally on KTNV-TV 13 in January.

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