

# Entertainment

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

### NNPA Stand Against Bigotry Tab Tops \$50,000

'HITE' O' THE NEWS:— The one thing that wasn't postponed this write 'round was my assignment to fill this space. The "Hite of the news" is when all of the tabs are in, with the tabulations of lost registration fees and corporate support dollars, the aborted '87 Mid-Winter Workshop of the National Newspaper Publishers' Ass'n, could cost the organization of the Black Press of America in excess of \$50,000. In the words of Christopher Bennet, NNPA's president, "It's a small price to pay in dramatizing a strong stand against bigotry highlighted by the insensitivity of Arizona's Gov. Evan Mecham. Though his attitude is untenable, come hell or high tide he isn't about to stay a pre-election promise to rescind the state's recognition of the immortal Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s holiday, Bennet and NNPA's board members on the scene gave Executive Director Steve Davis the word to furl the organization's flag and quit the scene. Bennett, publisher of the Seattle Medium and owner of one of the city's most successful radio stations, and board members, had high praise for the citizens of Phoenix who celebrated the historic second national b'day holiday inspite of the Governor's high handed decision rescinding it for the state. Also the Holiday In Convention Center management which did not attempt to dot every 'I' to

block any and all escape clauses. It was a great time for the Black Press to flex its muscles...Congress is sticking to its promise to take a sharper look into FCC regulations, and other b'casting rules covering the spotlight industry. Special attention will be paid to rules giving preferences to minorities in the purchasing of electronic media. According to a member of Rep. Cardiss Collis' staff, her office intends to make big waves about this. The Congresslady from Illinois kicked off her crusade in a letter to the editor of Add'Age in sharp terms. "I believe," she paraphrased, "that the Fed. gov. should not support business whose advertising expenditures are so lopsided. I will reintroduce the "Non-Discrimination in Advertising Act" to deny such businesses a tax deduction for their advertising expenses. This legislation would allow an injured party to file a civil suit to recover damages by these practices." Excluding other minority groups, she questioned whether then \$200-Billion plus annual spending power of this market reflects the advertising dollars directed towards it. In '84 national ad spending was \$88 billion. However, Afro-American magazines received less than 1.5%, just \$75 million. Radio stations received less than 1%-an estimated \$52-million. For the period the percentages for TV and newspapers were so small

that comparable figures were not available for her detail letter...At last what minority media owners and public relations people have been saying for years seems headed for national eye/ear level.

TELL 'EM:—The art of Black America exhibit stacks up as a major spotlight event of Black History Month. The Philip Morris Companies are sponsoring the Studio Museum in Harlem attraction...Due respect to May Morgan Robinson, the Yonkers based nationally recognized pioneer civil rights activist. She publicly spurned that city's first annual "Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Award." Her action shocked officiating dignitaries, who included the mayor and the Hon. Joseph Burgess, the city's first Black elected councilman, to their socks. She told them that when the city recognizes the immortal peace maker's birthday she will accept its award...If the remainder of the PBS series, "Eye on the Prize" is only half as exciting and enlightening as the initial chapter, its TeeVee audience is in for a rare educational experience...The sixth annual "Men Who Cook" benefit for the Children Art Carnival has become an affair

worth looking forward to with an empty stomach. Its sixth annual has been set for the front burner of the Jacob Javits Center...Piano stylist Dorothy Donegan has been around long enough for those new to the write hand scene to stop treating her like a new comer. Would you believe 40-plus years?...Deadline time caught me in between performances of "The Great American Dance Experience" at Lehman Center. World renowned drummer Ladji Camera featured this Sabar Ar Ru Afiq's Obara Wali Rahman conceived and directed opus...The W'chester Coalition has set the second wk'end of "Luv Month" for its "Gospel Fest '87. Hope you can find a heart to escort...After B.R's encouraging words I can hardly wait to view NBC-TV's "Showtime at The Apollo" pilot. Thanks to Cheryl Sutton, the boss' beautiful and brainy daughter, for moving my boss the Ernie Johnston from the "buzzard's roost" to the spotlight section.

PEOPLE CHATTER:—H'cum so many folks are movin out of Las Vegas without leaving forwarding

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### Platters at Four Queens Hotel & Casino

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