

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

THEY ALSO TOOK CARE OF BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In hordes folks came from every which way, using all manner of transportation, to be on the "seen" of the 17th annual Legislative wk'end of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Without mirrors the event reflected the potential power and political glory of the African American segment of the United States' ethnic masses. For these seventeen years the CBC has written a prescription that could well be an antidote for democracy's illness. The malignancy retained by the classes to insure their leadership of the masses. The

Caucus wk'end is many things to many people. Its magic and magnetism are unaffected by the passing years. From many eye sights, and within most ear range, it's just one big party, and annual wk'end to be all you think you would like to, or could be. On tis seventeenth trip, this write hand opened other doors than those behind which the tempo and the tinsel lurked. In a large measure they were more becoming to the image of the members of this Congressional body and more beneficial to those who depend on its members to keep this nation honest in its dealings with "We the People."

Such was the gathering of ten Congressional representatives for a joint plenary session which afforded members an opportunity to address a list of major issues confronting America's designated ethnic citizens. Georgia's highly respected former Senator Julian Bond, who missed out joining this august body in his bid for a congressional seat, was moderator. His serious opening remarks reiterated these facts. "There are no Blacks in the Senate and no Black Republicans among the twenty-one Black representatives in Congress. He highly praised the 21 Democrats of this body for having introduced more than 300 pieces of people-serving legislation up to date. It was interesting and totally enlightening to ear what each had to say

when questioned about issues that are relevant to African Americans as viewed by the majority members of the House Committees and sub committees on which they serve. The Hon. Mervyn M. Dymally (D-Calif.) talked about the frustration involved in being the Black on the Foreign Affairs Comm. In his words: "It's an unfair, unproductive, oppressive, intimidating, confronting, ideologically misdirecting, racist system. The Hon. Cardiss Collins (D-Ill.), the Subcommittee on Telecommunication and Finance: She pictured Black/minority's participation in media as dismal. Said, "The law which enhances the opportunity for Blacks and other minorities to purchase radio or television outlets may be done in." She further revealed that the failure of advertising agencies to advertise through Black media is a problem that will be addressed by the Caucus. The Hon. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) hit the just released Democratic internal report. His expressed opinion is that it was an inadequate representation of the party members' concerns, especially Blacks. "The report is full of platitudes, euphemisms and slogans. "He further criticized the report for not mentioning voting rights, E.R.A., Nicaragua, Angola, National Health Care and South Africa's "apartheid" policy. Nor Black conservation, the elderly and family.

The Hon. Alton Waldon (D-N.Y.) worded his alarm that too many youths are not finishing their education. "They are being seduced by crime and drug involvement." In his mind America has failed miserably in terms of giving hope. He tossed the baton to the CBC whom he stated should not only give Black youth a sense of self esteem as role models, but work to help them through the introduction now of legislation for their benefit. The Hon. Parren Mitchell (D-Md), chair of the Committee on Small Business, as an update outlined that "We are in the second phase of the Civil Rights struggle, economic empowerment," and that "You don't get political power until you have economic power.

The Hon. George Crockett, (D-Mich), member of two Foreign Affairs Committees,

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pointed out two recent events as accomplishments: the appointment of a Black U.S. Ambassador to South Africa and also the tone of a special directive of Secretary of State George P. Shultz: It called for the increased involvement of Black Americans in the formulation of foreign policy. The Hon. Mickey Leland (D-Tx), CBS's chairperson, used his allotted panel time to bitterly attack the misuse of federal monies for hunger relief. He hit the prez administration's attempt to tap into a \$300 million resource reserved for famine relief for the Contras in Nicaragua. The Hon. Julian Dixon (D-Cal.), chairperson of the Committee on appropriation, defended his attempts to eliminate the U.S. Civil Rights Commission by allocating funds to shut it down. He stated that it was a painful decision. However, in his view "the Commission is no longer acting as an impartial fact finding body, but a par-

tial one which fails to deliver." Our man, Dee Cee Delegate The Hon. Walter Fountroy's pitch was a reminder that 138 White members of the House of Representatives owe their election to Black voters. He urged that we should set as a goal the election of three Black Congresspersons from that area. "They would be the first to sit in the House since reconstruction." The Hon. William Clay (D-Mo.), member of the Committee on Education and Labor, revealed that "the overall anti-union climate that abounds in the nation has hurt Blacks." Also the transfer of jobs from heavy industry plants to minimum wage hi-tech positions. Next write around we will do some name dropping. Hope you eye on . . . STAY LOOSE . . . Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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—B/R

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