

Entertainment



**BILL
ROWE'S
NOTEBOOK**

THE CRUTCHES OF THE 80 YR OLD NUL

N'YORK CITY: - The National Urban League took over our town and gave the Big Apple a polish that will shine for some time to come. It was a conference of pride and purpose and a look back over 80 years of struggle and strife counting the blessings whereby achievement out-distanced failures. Many who did not make headlines, the six or eleven o'clock news made this 80 years grown organization's conference an event worthy of a prime space in the archives of this new decade. So

this write hand salute is to Janet Dewart, public relations and communications director, assisted by Farida Syed, Michele Pittman and Josephine Hulett. Also Faith V. Williams, director of press services, assisted by Denise Wright, Melanie Long, Ralph Faust and Kathryn Thomas. Leslye L. Cheek, director of media relations' staff included Max Stamper and Robert Branch. Ex news editor Ernie Johnston, Jr., directed the press room assisted by Kip Branch. Mike Burton, audio-visual, and

Marie Givens, radio feed, did the job for the electric bunch, Paulette Robinson and Tunji Lardner filled desired eyes and ears with the necessary bulletins. These were the strong, working crutches of the NUL. To reaffirm its 80-yrs of service to humanity, the League highlighted the plight and the promise which inspired its formation and continued dedication by resuscitating the major programs which have influenced the human search for the light at the Tunnel's end to escape neglect, racism, bigotry and intolerance.

PROGRAMS:--"Stop The Violence Clearing House," under the guidance of Ruth Terrell. "The Seniors in Community Service" program, which is in its 13th year of operation is directed by Janet Zobel. Also the League's "Education and Career Development General Electric Math/Science Partnership" under the guidance of Dr. Stephanie Robinson...Then there were forum

sessions on: "Can the Community Reinvestment Act Rebuild Our Neighborhoods?," "Political Leadership for the 21st Century," "The Power of the Pulpit," "Up the Corporate Ladder," and "African Americans, New Immigrants, and Workforce 2000."

POINTS TO PONDER:-The League's "Newsforum '90: Blacks and the Media" shed little light on the subject. Without Wilbert A. Tatum, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Amsterdam News and Bob Law, host of WWRL's "Night Talk," this one would have been a lost ball in hi-weed. The other panelists represented the majority media, electric and print. George E. Curry, the N'York Bureau Chief of the Chicago Tribune. The moderator was Roz Abrams, anchor, "Eyewitness News at 5:00, WABC-TV, NY, and fellow-panelist Denise Richardson, human interest reporter WNYW-TV Fox 5 "Good Day New York," who snagged her undergarment early with

the announcement that she wasn't hired because she was Black. From this eye and ear view, though charming, and perhaps most competent, as non-policy makers, but hired help, they were not the ones to give answers regarding the serious disregards of the print and electronic media on the white side. The feeling is that is was high disregard of the purpose and plans of the League. There were those attending the League's 80th Anniversary conference who sttod and asked those questions for which there were no answers. Case in point: "How come organizations like the Urban League, NAACP, 100 Black Men, 100 Balck Women, The Guardsmen, EDGES, The 369th Veterans, The National Council of Negro Women, the College Frats, male and female, and the countless others have not pooled all that cash they leave in major hotels and purchase their own in cities where they leave millions annually?" An off-agenda question directed to



John E. Jacob

host John Jacob, the League's productive CEO, and we quote: "Mr. Jacob, one of your sessions is "Black Men at Risk," do you have any comments on the Central Park Jogger Case and how it is being handled by the media?" His answer: "Well I probably would had I followed it as closely as I ought to, but I have not, and that is because here at the League local issues are handled by the N'York Branch. Dennis Walcott is president and I try not of invade his territory, so I am perfectly willing to let you deal with him on that issue."

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