

**Billy Rowe's Notebook**



**A LOOK INTO THE PAST FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

**N'ROCHELLE, NY:—**In 1060 in Denver, Colo., the late President John F. Kennedy made this unforgettable statement, "We are at the beginning of an era when the inroads of poverty, hunger and disease will be lessened and when men and women everywhere will have it within their power to develop their potential capacities to the maximum." In line with this thought he appointed a commission on the Status of Women with Eleanor Roosevelt as chairperson. In her acceptance speech she said, "Because I anticipate success in achieving full employment and full use of America's magnificent potential, I feel confident that in the years ahead many of the remaining outmoded barriers to women's aspirations will disappear. Within a rapidly growing economy with appropriate manpower planning, all Americans will have a better chance to develop their individual capacities, to earn a good livelihood and to strengthen family life." It is now 32 years later, both of these estimable leaders have departed this earth of sorrow. The country hasn't changed too much. There is still much racism, poverty, hunger, hopelessness and disease including the recently discovered H.I.V. and AIDS virus. Women's aspirations are still high and some progress has been made politically and financially. However in line with this has come much sexual harassment. Even in Japan there's been this problem, and a recent court decision said it was a violation of human rights. Mrs. Roosevelt was right when she said in the years ahead many of the remaining outmoded barriers to women's aspirations would disappear. The committee proposed revision of laws governing jury service to ensure equal treatment of men and women in political affairs. Also there was a proposal for increased consideration to the appointment of women as judges. Progress has given us

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor sitting on the Supreme Court, as well as Justice Clarence Thomas. In the current political campaign in the search for our next president most of the nation's earlier and constant concerns are being ignored. Candidates seem to be more interested in character assassination than nation building. The hope is that when the ballots are tallied in this year of 1992, the winner will be a champion of government for the people and by the people.

**ED SULLIVAN CONCLUDED**

What follows is the end of our historic Ed Sullivan column. "What I have noticed about the 'Negro' performer in television, and it has been commented upon all the eventy people who work on our show, is that the "Negro" performer's material is always clean. Some of the white performers, at dress rehearsal, utter lines that would cancel us off the air and are astonished when told that such and such lines must be deleted. Ruby Vallee, surprisingly, had to be censored. The white transgressor always makes the same statement: "They let me do it at the Roxy", or whatever theatre they've played recently. The "Negro" performer, perhaps because of the fact that he has forever been on trail, instinctively rejects the dubious line or gesture. In my audience introductions, I've presented Joe Louis, Joe Walcott, Ezzard Charles, Jackie Robinson, Congressman Adam Powell and other distinguished members of the race. Nobody ever has raised the issue of segregation when the camera pans to the wide-angled shot of the audience to pick them out, and their applause always has been thunderous. In every which way, television seems to have a special niche for the 'Negro'. As one of the pioneers in television, I'm proud that I've had the very great opportunity to present so many 'Negro' performers to so great

an audience. To you friend Billy, thanks for allowing me this space to get these facts off my type-writer. As you know I haven't got this much space in the News. I shall see you on Midnite of April 9th., at Carnegie Hall when you bring so many of your great musical stars downtown. After that I shall write-up and see you again at 2091—7th. Ave., NYC (27)." There it is folks Ed Sullivan's 1994 column about the 'Negro' and television.

**NEWS NOTES:—**Word is that the opening night for "Jelly's Last Jam," starring Gregory Hines and Savion Glover, was a stellar event. Theatre goers included NY State Senator David Patterson accompanied by NY Post columnist Flo Anthony, (See Billy Rowe, Page 17)



Acclaimed character actor Bill Nunn, joins Academy Award-winner Whoopi Goldberg in Touchstone Pictures' new comedy "Sister Act."



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