



**GUESTS AT TESTIMONIAL DINNER** - Well-wishers and guest of honor at Holiday Inn-Rivermont tribute in Memphis. Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee (left) Judge Ben L. Hooks, president of Memphis Jackson's Franchise System, Inc., and guest of honor (second from left) John Jay Hooker, Nashville business executive, (second from right) Lieut. George Lee of Memphis, (right) who introduced the keynote speaker.

### What Is Future Of American Cities?

BY JOSEPH L. TURNER

The Kerner Report on Civil Disorders in the U. S., made public March 1, 1968, became the subject of still another report last week, called "One Year Later." The new report, produced jointly by the Urban Coalition, and the Urban America, Inc., two independent non-profit organizations, assessed the nation's response to the crisis described in the Kerner Report, and found it still wanting.

No one denies the gravity of the crisis of our cities, nor do they deny the relevancy of the Kerner report findings. The issues, the implementation of the recommendations and/or other corrective programs seem to be twofold—politics and racism.

Part of the blame must be attributed to former President Johnson.

He empaneled the commission to write the report on civil disorders after several summers of violence. But the action was more political, designed to appease the fears and anger of whites, than to tell any truths. Consequently, President Johnson treated the report and its recommendations as if they were unwanted stepchildren. The general attitude that followed seemed to be, "... if the President doesn't care, why should we?"

President Johnson also, by the abdication of the intention to seek re-election, and by his concentration on ending the war in Vietnam, set the pace in responding, or failing to respond to the recommendations of the report.

The issue of racism was clearly outlined and discussed in the commission's report, in terms of its history, development, and ramifications. The significant change in one year has been an intensification of feelings brought on by the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther, King, Jr., and Sen. Robert Kennedy, and by the presidential candidacy of former Alabama Gov. George Wallace, the "more law order campaign" by Richard Nixon, and the derogatory remarks of Spiro Agnew.

Both political convention and the use of National Guardsmen and riot police showed the unwillingness of the established democratic process to openly address itself to the problems of the cities.

Actions at the conventions choked off all hope of working within a legal framework to solve the problems of the cities. In New York City, a dispute over decentralization, or community control of schools brought another aspect of racism to the surface—black anti-semitism.

Civil disorders have largely moved from the streets of the ghetto to the campus, both high school and college. The dissenters are no longer angry Black ghetto terrorists bent on destruction but also middle class Black and white young people who are angry and frustrated with the society they live in.

Why are they angry? Why are young people and Black people today, living in a land of freedom and prosperity, bent on changing the world they live in? What will this determination do to American cities?

The "One Year Later," report points out:

--No real steps have been taken towards erasing racial discrimination and poverty.

--No adequate programs have been developed in dealing with the conditions of slum-ghetto life.

--No serious start towards changing the national priorities, programs and institutions advocated by the Kerner report.

--Ghetto schools continue to fail.

--The Vietnam war continues to demand a greater portion of

the national budget.

--There is a tremendous gap in employment programs among the races, and job discrimination is as serious as ever.

--Welfare programs are creating a class of poor Americans who feel alienation for their neighbors, society, and for the government in particular, for doing nothing to help them.

--Black people have become so frustrated in America's disinterest in their problems they are no longer talking about integration, but black separatism.

Above and beyond these national inequities, the young people, who in a year or two years will be in a majority in the U. S., are angry at the hypocrisy of establishing a type of cities entrenched in U. S. government.

They are angry at the double standards of justice practiced in the courts; at the American idealism taught in the schools, but not practiced in the homes, in the churches, or in the actions, and attitudes of adults. They are angry at the government spending billions of dollars and thousands of American lives to fight a war in Vietnam, when America itself is bursting at the seams from insufficient poverty, malnutrition, and not enough jobs.

They are angry because, as each year goes by, adult America is putting the next generation of leadership deeper in debt.

They are angry because political leaders refuse to admit they have made mistakes, that they have not acted strong enough to eliminate discrimination and segregation in housing, education, and employment.

What then is the future of

### More Than 20,000 Persons See Motown's Temptations

NEW YORK - More than 20,000 raving devotees of the Motown Sound thrilled to the vocal and visual splendor of the Temptations last Friday night when the male vocal group made its debut at the new Madison Square Garden.

Appearing in the massive arena for their first time, the Temps pulled out all stops and gave an unprecedented hour-long performance for their appreciative fans.

The Temps' show was ably supported by the satin smooth vocalizing of Motown's Gladys Knight and the Pips and a



**HARLEM SALUTE** - to Motown's Temptations (left to right) Melvin Franklin, Dennis Edwards, Eddie Kendricks, Otis Williams and Paul Williams, is presented by Tony Lawrence (in turtle-neck sweater), director of the Harlem Cultural Festival. Tony made the presentations to the happy and surprised Temps last Friday before they went on at Madison Square Garden before a capacity crowd of more than 20,000. The Harlem Cultural Festival presents free park concerts for the Harlem community during the summer months. (Motown Photo by Ed Bagwell).

### Civil Rights Roundup

TO CONTINUE

BATON ROUGE, La.—An NAACP boycott of a Baton Rouge beer distributor will continue despite the arrests of two local NAACP officials, the association's state president, Emmitt J. Douglas, has declared. "We truly believe that the action taken against Schlitz Beer and the Baton Rouge Wholesale Beverage Co., by the Baton Rouge NAACP branch and youth council is justified," said Douglas. Two high-ranking officials of the local NAACP branch have been arrested on charges of extortion and conspiracy to commit extortion. The two men, the Rev. Joseph C. Melanson, 29, and Joseph H. Simms, 32, were accused of threatening certain beer distributors with boycotts unless they were given money.

MATHEW PALMER

PHILADELPHIA - The idea that Negro families are matriarchal is a stereotype and often inaccurate, according to Dr. Andrew Billingsley of the University of California, Berkeley, and Dr. Alvin Poussaint, a Tufts University psychiatrist. Both addressed the National Conference of Black Social Workers, where Dr. Poussaint asserted that the Negro family is strong. At the same time, he suggested that there are ways to make it stronger. "The effort should be at strengthening what we have, rather than linearizing about structure," the psychiatrist added.

GILL FRIED

SYLVESTER, Ga.—A. U. S. District Judge has freed a Black girl held on charges of cursing a white classmate. The release of Dorothy Young, 15, was ordered pending her appeal to the state supreme court. She has been a symbol of protest since she was attended in this South Georgia city.

RAGLE EQUALS CROW

MILWAUKEE - Black Abnerman Cyril E. Pitts has kicked up a local storm by seeking membership in the all-white Eagles club, which has been the target of civil-rights protests for several years. Pitts had his application submitted by a white fellow abnerman, who is an Eagle. According to the letter of application, Pitts, a former boxer, wants to use the club's athletic facilities "to get back into fighting trim."

The executive board of the Milwaukee County Democratic party is pressuring the Eagles to mend their ways, sometime years after the Rev. James F. Groppi led civil-rights marchers to the home of Eagle members.



As yet, the political machine of American cities must be propped up, and made responsible for the needs of all of its citizens. Black people who discuss "long nothing" or "nothingness" in terms of measure or power, in a big city political machine, if they bring nothing, they get nothing.

It remains to be seen, in the Black people of the cities to develop a political machine, and social structure.

TO APPEAR AT SAINT AUGUSTINE'S—Lou Myers will be presented at Saint Augustine's College as a lyric feature on Thursday, March 20, at 8 p.m. in the Emery Health and Fine Arts Building. The program will consist of songs and drama. The songs are original and come out of the artist's background and experiences from growing up in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia. The dramatic material has been selected from classical characters who have spoken from a black point of view. The music makers, long with Lou Myers, include congo drums, flute and piano. The public is invited without charge.

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