BIG MOM

By JAMES HICKS

Congressman Adam Clayton Powell remains the "Peeks's Bad Boy" of New York politics. Powell, a Democrat, doesn't have to depend on the Democrats to get elected, but the Democrats can scarcely elect anyone in Harlem without Powell's help.

A few days ago when Powell returned from Europe the Democrats hastily staged a "welcome home" dinner for the handsome Congressman. But there is always a gimmick in politics and this dinner was no exception. The gimmick was to use the dinner to play up Harlem leader Hulan Jack, who is Democratic candidate for the presidency of the borough of Manhattan, and help him get his campaign off the ground.

Of course with the Democrats picking up the check for the dinner, everyone expected Powell to get up and endorse Jack and rave over how he would be elected and what a good man he would be.

Politics Confounded

But once again Powell confounded the political boys. After stuffing himself with chicken paid for by the Democrats, Powell rose to speak. Said he:

"I, haven't been back long enough to know what's going on and I haven't made up my mind yet just who I am going to support!"

The guys who staged the dinner silently threatened to hang him!

But life went on in the Big Town.

Fred Weaver and Grant Reynolds are brothers of Omega Psi Phi and Grant is national president. But the brothers are bitter rivals in the present mayoralty campaign. Fred, appointed of the present mayor, is supporting impalliniori for re-election. Reynolds is all out for racket busting Rudolph Halley who is making a strong bid to unseat Fred's man.

Last Monday the two men stood on the sidewalks of New York and gave each other a friendly rough time over the merits of their respective candidates. Then Reynolds said to me "Come on Hicks let's get out of such company. Come on in and have a sandwich" (nothing to the coffee shop.)"

"Sandwich!" yelled Weaver. "You mean to tell me Halley is notpaying his workers enough to buy a dinner. You can't win this campaign on sandwiches."

Reynolds looked hurt and faced Fred in deep humility as he said "My dear brother — you belong to the 'Ins.' We are the 'Outs.' You are feeding at the trough. We can't afford steaks at every meal YET."

I took the sandwich and life went on in the Big Town.

Word of the automobile accident of Marion Jackson, billiard of the Atlanta Daily World brought sorrow to his many friends on the sidewalks in the Big Town. . . . "That's All" by King Cole is simply cute as pie. That's all and "Thereon (whatever) Earl Golf is making ready for a new little bartender up at his house. As a mixologist, Earl should be an ace when it comes to whipping together a barfly formula.

A Harlem halo to the mayor of Fredericksburg, Virginia for setting aside an "NAACP Day" in his town and a deep low bow to the NAACP person who proposed such a deal. That is really something in Virginia.

Former athlete Ripp Day is opening a swank public relations office at 126th st., and Seventh ave. He's out for the big stakes and has the equipment to get them.

So happy that the people of Washington remembered to toss roses at Mary Church Terrell while she could still smell them. So sorry I couldn't be there to see her get them. But thanks for your invitation Dr. Buddy Dean!

Watch For Robeson

Go see "Take A Giant Step" You'll be happy that you did! Louis Fair, former boss of the New York Shriners is steadily improving and is expected to be throwing his weight around again soon. Few people know it but Fair's illness cost him one of the top political jobs in this state of New York.

Paul Robeson has sold his Connecticut home. When the Robeson's moved, out neighbors gave Paul a gold watch with expressions of their affection written on it. B. B. Beamon of Atlanta may book Edna Mae Robinson's new show in his hometown. AFRO photographer Jim Campbell got out of his sick bed to photograph the homicide in 409 Edgecombe.

Incidentally, across the bars of Harlem, they are saying that Carter, the man who was killed in the 409 homicide, was slain over 4 numbers hit. What? You mean to tell me they play numbers in 409! Shocking!

Randy White of Baltimore has moved his byline over to the New York Times. Bumpy Johnson, Harlem tough man who is going straight, has moved his chemical business office from Broadway because the building is being torn down.

Shirley Kyle of the Baltimore AFRO office came to the Big Town several weeks ago and a Harlem wolf has been burning up the long distance wires ever since. Ruth Bowen, wife of Billy Bowen of the Butterball Fire (he was formerly an Ink Spot) is now going to school studying how to be a press agent. Ruth figures that some of that dough paid press agents could be kept in the family.

A Smart Move

Back in 1950 before going to Korea I did a feature story on piano playing Eddie Heywood while covering the NAACP convention in Boston. Last week I was introduced to a beautiful young woman working at the UN, named Heywood. I asked the natural question: Any relation to Eddie. She said "Yes I'm his wife" and then added "Do you know Jimmy Hicks." I confessed and from her purse she pulled a worn copy of the story I had written on her husband, telling me at the same time she felt it was one of the best pieces done on him.

When I came out of the clouds we compared notes and now my son and Eddie Heywood's son have a date to play together. She lives with Eddie in Riverton right under my nose all the time. The Big Town sure is Big.

Cleveland's shapely Esther Morris has returned to New York another mystery. She came here with a modelling career in her mind few years ago. Things didn't jell, Now she's back just to be a New Yorker. Welcome home!

If what this column hears is true that cigarette-firm which publicized Vera Francis during the Elks Atlanta convention did not give her such a good deal after all. This entertainer says Vera got $100 from the firm and this column KNOWS Vera gave the firm $5,000 worth of publicity. Vera is now toying with the disc jockey idea.

In $1 Bills

Gospel Singer Mahalia Jackson paid off her hotel bill in one dollar bills when she left the Big Town.

Hottest tip on Seventh ave. is that the narcotics agents are hot on the trail of a wealthy Nassau playboy who visits the Big Town often.

That dress (green crochet) which Mrs. Gladys Johnson of Washington wore to the first world series game cost a cool $165. Mrs. Johnson, the wife of Col. Edward Johnson is the sister of Roy Campanella.

Cutest and most curvaceous truck driver in Harlem these days is Betty Everett who is driving a big ten-ton sound truck for the Halley campaign. Her hubby is a college professor.

The establishment of a Frolicers Club in New York is a welcome item. Come on in fellows — the waters fine!

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NATIONWIDE TV DEBATE

Williams, Talmadge clash on separate schools issue

WASHINGTON (ANP) — A southern liberal and a Dixie racist last week engaged in a tug-of-war over the issue of segregation in the nation's public schools.

Aubrey Williams, former NYA administrator under President Roosevelt, engaged Gov. Herman Talmadge, Georgia's chief executive, in a nation-wide television debate on the touchy subject.

Mr. Williams, whom many colored persons remember as head of the program, which provided jobs for youth during the depression, said segregation violated the individual rights of colored people and that the U.S. Supreme Court must decide the issue once and for all.

Mr. Talmadge, on the other hand, disagreed and defended segregation. He also reiterated his statement that Georgia would abolish its public school system if the high tribunal declares segregation unconstitutional.

"It's an individual thing. Their rights are being violated when a child is refused the right to go to a public school, he has the right to get the highest court in the land," Williams said.

"The time has changed when an issue such as this (segregation) can be decided over a long period of time. It must be done decisively and clearly by the Supreme court."

Talmadge Counters

"Segregation does not mean a violation of the rights of anyone," Talmadge contended. "And equality doesn't mean that races should have to go to school in the same building and in the same room, either."

Talmadge said his attitude was not based on a belief that colored people are inferior to white. He said "there are inferior people in every race." But the Georgia executive said he believes the issue should be decided by the states.

On the question of whether or not colored people want integration, Williams said there was no merit to statements that colored citizens do not want the end of segregation.

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