



# On The Air

By BOB WILLIAMS

The prosperous, well-educated middle class Negro, still barred from white society, is turning back with concern for the plight of his less fortunate brethren. Being "equal" in a materialistic society, it develops, is still being "separate."

A "mental revolution" is taking place amid affluent Negroes. The "NET Journal" series examined it last night on Ch. 13 in a 90-minute program which was the product of two middle class Negroes, William Branch and William Greaves.

Actor Ossie Davis served as narrator of the report, which included the awakening of one well born man of middle-class privileges to the idea that he'd been thinking "white," all his life, oblivious to the social problems of his race. The "successful" Negro, it seems, still has to pick vacation spots away from white territory, doesn't go to white parties and is reverting to the honest idea that being black is "beautiful."

Syracuse football star Horace Morris, now an associate director of the Urban League in Washington, told how it was for a middle class Negro now in the U. S. He tried to visit relatives in Newark during last summer's riots and police guns killed his step-father and injured his brother. The "NET Journal" report on the quest of the Negro in the American Dream-scheme of things was a discouraging one in a time when one out of four Negro families presumably is attaining so-called middle class eco-

omic stature. It said what had to be said.

Author Truman Capote, on "Tonight" last night, suggested that the FBI was searching for more than one man in its hunt for James Earl Ray, the supposed slayer of Martin Luther King Jr. He contended that Ray himself is dead. Capote, as demonstrated in his journalistic novel, "In Cold Blood," is a dedicated investigator of murderers. He also argued that that slaying of King could have been a "leftist" plot, the result of "disappointment" with the apostle of non-violence in the civil rights movement . . . He left us with a "maybe," however.

No sparks flew on "Today" when Red Barber confronted Joe Garagiola, his former fellow Yankee baseball broadcaster. Barber, in his new book and elsewhere, had some unkind references to Garagiola. It could be that Garagiola disarmed the old redhead with his warm and reverent greeting . . . NBC's shift-

ing Its Huntley-Brinkley Report to Indianapolis May 7 for coverage of the Indiana Presidential primary elections, with plans for subsequent special reports.

Comedienne Joanne Worley said it succinctly on the Rowan and Martin "Laugh In" on Ch. 4 last night: "If we get rid of cruelty and violence on TV, the kids will have nothing to watch Saturday mornings."

The "N. Y. P. D." crime series is coming up better in the TV "numbers game"—the audience ratings. And that's why ABC has restored the series to its fall schedule as a Tuesday night (at 9:30) entry. "Felony Squad," another crime series, is being kept alive in a Friday night time-slot in September. "Dream House," a give-away show, is being dropped as a nighttime entry in the fall, but preserved in the ABC daytime schedule. This is how the TV networks program crassly "by the numbers" of the rating services. It's noteworthy again that none of the network series entries again next fall will deal with present-tense society except in terms of violence and pointless situation comedy.

Ch. 4 will televise a "Portrait of a Policeman" Saturday at 7 p.m. as the first of some 20 programs on the subject of law enforcement. . . It turns out that Milburn Stone, the "Doc" of "Gunsmoke," is up for his first Emmy Award May 19 in the annual TV prize handout, after 13 years in the series. It just goes to show that the Emmy Awards, given time, leave nobody out in the TV Academy's desire to please everybody in the industry, somehow.