

Celler Vigorously Attacks Bootleggers In Address To ARMADA Conclave

HOLLYWOOD, FLA.—Congressman Emanuel Celler, Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, insisted in his address to ARMADA members that present federal and state laws are grossly inadequate to meet the problem of bootlegging—which is robbing all in the business of untold millions. State statutes, most of which consider the crime a misdemeanor and carry minor penalties, are therefore no deterrents. Furthermore, since counterfeit records are being shipped in interstate commerce across state lines, it is frequently too difficult for local authorities to secure the evidence and handle the prosecution successfully at the state level.

Celler said that for the proper administration of justice, it is essential to have federal criminal statutes. Such statutes will add the full power and weight of the FBI and other federal agencies to the state and county law enforcement organizations.

Celler then went into bill H.R. 6354 which he recently introduced in Congress and which, if passed, will impose for the first time, federal criminal penalties. If passed, a convicted violator can get up to ten years in jail and up to a \$10,000 fine or both. Celler pledged to fight for passage of this bill vigorously.

The congressman also stated that he would look into what he felt were other abuses in the record industry such as "mirror copying" of records and "covering" of records.

Celler praised ARMADA for its accomplishments against bootleggers in the short time since it was formed. He explained the pricing structure of the bootleggers' sales system in both singles and LP's and called for the

Federal government to help fight the bootlegging evil. He also made it clear that members of the record industry must support ARMADA. He accused people who purchased the bootlegged disks of being as guilty as those who manufactured them.

"Persons engaged in the manufacture, distribution and sale of records are in a command position to help stamp out counterfeiting. Manufacturers and pressers should undertake to better identify their own labels and such labels should be made difficult to copy."

Celler went on, "Distributors and dealers should join the manufacturers to eliminate conditions that offer opportunities of great profit to counterfeiters." If, on the other hand, they conspire with the racketeers either actively or passively, they too should be punished and will be punished under my bill. My proposal provides for the punishment not only of disk counterfeiters but also of those who knowingly receive or ship counterfeit records."

King Extends Deals

CINCINNATI—The extension of two dealer package plans was announced here last week by King Records. A new termination date of Aug. 31 has now been set on the two plans, the "Buy Three-Get One Free" EP deal and the "Two-For-The-Price-of-One" LP pre-pack (on 16 selected LP's). Originally, the plans were to terminate in June but Syd Nathan, head of the King diskery, said that the "tremendous success" of the program necessitated its extension.

Victor Gets Disk Rights To New B'way Musical

NEW YORK—RCA Victor has acquired the rights of the original cast recording of "Let It Ride," a new musical by Jay Livingston and Red Evans which will star George Gobel and Sam Levene when it opens on Broadway in the fall.

The musical is based on one of Broadway's great, long-running comedy hits, "Three Men On A Horse," and features a book by Abram S. Ginnes. Stanley Prager will direct. An unusual aspect of the new show is that Sam Levene scored one of his first triumphs in the original show and now will be featured in its musical adaptation.

Contractual arrangements were completed last week by Victor's A&R director of Broadway musicals and motion pictures, Joe Linhart, and Robert L. Yorke, VP, commercial records creation dept.

The show will preem at Philadelphia's Erlanger Theatre on Sept. 7 and will open at New York's Eugene O'Neil Theatre on Oct. 6.

Rydell A Smash In Copa Debut

NEW YORK—Bobby Rydell elicited a standing ovation from the SRO crowd at his Copa nitery debut here two weeks ago. The singer, playing to a mostly-adult audience, unveiled a night club act that incorporated elements of song-dance-comedy and performed it with the elan of a seasoned performer. The special material which most of the act was built around was on a highly intelligent level and promised a great night club future for Rydell. Particularly impressive was the way Rydell handled himself on the floor. He has a surprising amount of stage presence and audience communication and not once during the 47 minutes he was onstage did he lose his audience. When he completed his act he literally left the patrons asking for more. Rydell will be at the Copa through July 5 after which he will jet to Las Vegas for four weeks at the Sahara Hotel. Sharing the bill there will be George Burns.

Richmond-Telefunken Offer 20% Summer Discount

NEW YORK—London Records last week announced the instituting of special summer LP program for Richmond and Telefunken labels. Called the Richmond-Telefunken Summer Sales Program DB-61, it offers dealers special purchase plans on entire catalogs of the \$1.98 mono and \$2.98 stereo lines, new merchandise included.

As of July 1 and continuing through Aug. 31, dealers will be able to purchase either Richmond or Telefunken LP's at a 20% discount, plus extended billing of one-half Nov. 10, one-half Dec. 10, with an additional 2% discount.

According to a spokesman for the Richmond division, this plan is designed to "keep the dealer competitive under most circumstances as the extensive dating enables the dealer to anticipate his needs and stock his catalog in good depth."

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