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 provide the first time, federal criminal penalties. If passed, a convicted violator can get up to ten years in jail and 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 personal representatives 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 or 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 diskyer, said that the “incredible 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 Roger Edens which will be produced by the George Gobel and Sam Levens. 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. Green. Stanley Prager will direct. An unusual aspect of the new show is that Sam Levens scored one of his first triumphs in the original show and now will be featured in its musical adaptation.

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

The show will premiere at Philadelphia’s Erlanger Theatre on Sept. 7 and will open at New York’s Eugene O’Neill Theatre on Oct. 6.

Rydell A Smash In Copa Debut

NEW YORK—Bobby Rydell elicited a standing ovation from his fans when he appeared at his Copa debut here two weeks ago. He sang, playing to a roomful of an audience, unveiled a night club act that incorporated elements of song-dance-comedy and performed it with the panache of a seasoned professional. The special material which most of the act was built around was of the highly intelligent level and was composed of a great night club future for Rydell. Frequently, however, he let his act become a variety show act of stage presence and audience communication and not once during the 47 minutes he was on stage 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 1 after which he will jet to Las Vegas for four weeks at the Sahara Hotel. Shaking the bill there will be George Burns.

Cash Box—Jazz Pick Of The Week... African Waltz (RLP 377) Billboard—Spotlight Winner... African Waltz (RLP 377) Variety—Best Bet... The Uptown (4501) Billboard—Late Pop Spotlight... T. W. Giel’s Personal Pick... The Uptown (4501) Cash Box—Pick Of The Week... African Waltz (RLP 377) Billboard—Spotlight Winner... African Waltz (RLP 377) Cash Box—Jazz Pick Of The Week... African Waltz (RLP 377) Billboard—Late Pop Spotlight... The Uptown (4501) Bill Gavins’ Personal Pick... The Uptown (4501) Cash Box—Pick Of The Week... African Waltz (RLP 377) Billboard—Spotlight Winner... African Waltz (RLP 377) Cash Box—Jazz Pick Of The Week... African Waltz (RLP 377) Pick Of The Week... The Uptown (4501)