Tax Refund

Phil Silverman (right) of Bruno, New York, RCA Victor Records' distrib in New York, presents a check to George Prince, National Manager of the Record Departments of Doubleday Book Shops, representing a refund of moneys paid on inventories held for resale by the record stores at the time of the repeal of the U.S. Excise tax on phonograph records. Process of passing refunds on to dealers is continuing in order of filing and alphabetically by distributor. Also in the picture is Alma Kaye, Record Buyer for Doubleday's, 655 Fifth Ave.

Kingsmen Act On Name Thieves

The Kingsmen, recording group that has sold several million records in the past few years with the Scepter-Wand label, have undertaken legal action to stop any musical group from falsely using the name of the Kingsmen in order to receive bookings and promote their careers.

A suit has been filed in Portland, Ore., against Jack Ely and his group for assuming the name of the original Kingsmen. Representing the Kingsmen is Stuart Hill of Giley, Busey and Hill, in Portland, Ore., with the New York law firm of Orenstein, Arrow & Lourie acting as associate counsel.

The Kingsmen, consisting of Lynn Easton, Mike Mitchell, Dick Peterson, Norm Sundholm and Barry Curtis, have undertaken this initial legal action to discourage this group and several other groups from continuing to receive bookings under the name of the Kingsmen or facsimile. Also open to legal action is any person or persons helping to promote and book these other groups.

London Unveils Biggest Ever Album Program

London Records, winding '65 in its peak period of chart activity in recent years, has announced a major new album stocking program. The plan, tabbed SP 66 (Stock Plan 1966) begins Dec. 20 and will continue in force until May 31, 1966.

The program, according to London National Sales and Distribution Manager Herb Goldfarb, is by all odds the most important ever unveiled by the company by virtue of the fact that the raft of the firm's top-selling LPs of 1965 are all included in the catalog stocking portion of the plan. Included in SP 66 will be all new albums released by the firm during the life of the program and the entire catalog of both London and the American London group. The plan also incorporates as a program within a program the annual March Is Marilyn Month promotion, as well as the Phase Four segment of the catalog. A highlight in the merchandising area will be a new all-wood Phase Four floor rack, available free to those dealers ordering a minimum of 200 units and at nominal charge to others.

Maximum discounts, dated billing and co-op ad allowances based on purchases, are also a part of the SP 66 program. Dealers will be supplied with highly effective window and in-store merchandising materials. Special exchange policies were to be in effect on certain segments of the catalog.

Covers Every Facet

New product already in the works covers every facet of the vast London catalog, including the top pop artists from Britain, London's well-known good music makers from the United Kingdom, key classical merchandise and important new entries from such American producers as Joe Coughlin, HI label and Tutti Camarata's Coliseum label.

At least a dozen new Phase Four albums will be issued during the period of the program by such leading names as Stanley Black, Frank Chacksfield, Eddie Money, Ted Heath and maestro Leopold Stokowski.

The program is being kicked off at least two weeks ahead of most other first-of-the-year stocking plans and in line with this, the entire London sales staff attended a special briefing meeting last week at London headquarters in New York. Presentation was made by Goldfarb.

C.O.D. Hit


Weiss Helms Monument's Global Qtrs.

HOLLYWOOD — Monument Records, as part of their general promotion program, opened their International Division headquarters at 9000 Sunset Blvd., Suite 519, on Dec. 15, with Bob Weiss helming their L.A. bureau as VP and Director of the International Division, it was announced by Fred Foster, President of the Nashville-based diskery.

All international business affairs will be conducted by Weiss from the new Hollywood office plus his constant in-person visits with foreign licensees and music publishers in England, on the Continent, in the Far East, Central and South America. Weiss will maintain liaison with USA and foreign producers of masters, publishers and songwriters, motion picture companies plus the Monument record distributors overseas.

Monument, plus subsidiary Sound Stage 7 and LTD International record labels and Monument-owned music publishers, Combine, Vintage and Music City Music, will be guided globally by Weiss. The local bureau will also acquire material for domestic release by Monument in the record and music publishing field.

Foster has named Brenda Wong as Coordinator for the International Division, and she will assist Weiss out of the Hollywood office.

Sister Act

The McGuire Sisters, flanked by ABC-Par's A&R director Bob Thiele (left) and their manager, Murray Kane (right), confer with arranger-conductor Bob Florence (glasses) as they record their first album for the label in a Hollywood studio.

Ashley Label Seeing Action

NEW YORK — Leon Ashley, President of Ashley Records, Inc., was here last week to meet with distributors to complete national distribution for the newly formed Ashley label. Accompanying Ashley was new artist Janianne, whose current release on the Ashley label of "Sippin' Away," a Top 40, R&B type record, written and produced by Margie Singleton, has met with tremendous acceptance by stations and distributors.

Ashley announced that Joe Petralia of New York and George Jay of Hollywood would handle promotion for all pop artists on the Ashley label.

A series of personal appearances, including several TV shows, has been arranged for Janianne. She will visit several major markets during December which include, Houston, Chicago and some on the West Coast.

Don A & Rs Babs

NEW YORK—Don Costa is writing arrangements for a single and LP date for Columbia's Barbra Streisand.

Ashley Label

NASHVILLE — Vernon Glen, Illinois entertainer and recording artist, recently signed an exclusive recording contract with Sims Records.

Glen at Sims

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