HOLLYWOOD — Despite rumors of a Beatles break-up, Alan W. Livingston, President, Capitol Records Inc., announced that a new, long-term recording contract has been signed with the quartet. The new pact, which will run for nine years, was signed at 11:15 AM in London by Sir Joseph Lock- wood, Chairman of Electrical & Musical Industries Ltd., (principal stockholder in Capitol Records) and the Beatles manager Brian Epstein.

At the same time, Livingston also announced that Capitol has already received more than one million pre-release orders for the Beatles' new single (their first of 1967) "Strawberry Fields Forever"; "Penny Lane," which will be released on Feb. 19.

Capitol will ask the RIAA for gold record certification of the single on the day it is released. The gold record for "Strawberry Fields" will be the 22nd the British foursome have earned since they made their American debut via Capitol on Dec. 26, 1963. Like the 21 previous gold disks, it qualitatively meant it was put on sale in record stores, a sales feat which no other recording group, either foreign or domestic, has ever equaled.

The 22 certified gold records are more than any other artist(s) have ever earned in the history of the record industry. Ten of the Gold Records are for LPs, 12 for singles.

Mrs. James' LP

NEW YORK — "Milton Ross, head of Impulse Distributing Corp., which owns Faith Records, is producing another James LP, 'No Man is Above the Law,'" Warren Troob, attorney for Impulse Distributing Corp., told Record World Friday afternoon, Feb. 10.

The album is an answer record to the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell's Jubilee LP, "Keep the Faith, Baby." Mrs. James reportedly has been given a $1,500 advance by Faith Records, a division of Impulse Distributing Corp.

William Kaplan, Director of Legal and Business Affairs of ABC Records, Inc., producer of Impulse Records, stated: "ABC . . . is quite disturbed because of the confusion in name being carried in the press. The record was sold at a record buying public and will take steps promptly to change Impulse Distributing Corp. to change its name in order to avoid the confusion.

Beetles Ink New Capitol Long-Term

SINATRA & STREISAND, BEATLES & BRASS

Again Head List of Grammy Candidates

Plus Nancy Sinatra, Houston, Mamas, Etc.

Three giant and completely diverse talents—Frank Sinatra, the Beatles and Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass—top the lists of candidates for this year's Grammy Awards, the recording industry's most coveted honors, awarded annually by members of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. (NARAS). Winners will be announced Thursday evening, March 2, at ceremonies in New York, Nashville, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Results of the final nominations, just released by the Academy, reveal that Sinatra is connected with seven nominations, five for his recording of "Stringers In the Night" and one each for his albums, "Sinatra: A Man and His Music" and "Sinatra at the Sands." The Beatles, as a group and individually, tied with Sinatra in seven categories for "Revolver" and for "Eleanor Rigby" and "Michelle." Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass account for five nominations, all associated with "What Now My Love.

All three have been nominated for Album of the Year, along with Barbra Streisand for "Color Me Barbra" (also nominated in two other categories) and the film score of "Dr. Zhivago" (nominated in a total of four categories.

Sinatra and the Tijuana Brass are also pitted against each other for Record of the Year honors, along with the New Vaudeville Band's recording of "Winchester Cathedral." Also in this category are two new artists—country singer David Houston and the Mamas and the Papas for "Monday, Monday." Other noteworthy nominations in the popular field this year run the gamut from Nancy Sinatra, whose recording of "These Boots Are Made for Walking" was cited in three categories, including Best Vocal Performance—Female, to "Batman Theme" (Neil Hefti) for Best Instrumental Performance and Best Instrumental Arrangement, to Mrs. Miller's "Downtown" for Best Comedy Performance.

All told, the Grammy Awards, which are based upon quality of performance rather than quantity of sales, will be given out in 42 categories this year, ranging from pop and contemporary to jazz, country and western, rhythm and blues, Broadway shows, spoken word, religious and children's and

Royal Ruckus

Some sort of set-to seemed to be forming at the end of last week in regards to the various versions of "The Ten Commandments From Woman to Man" on RCA Victor and King.

Both are by songstressess calling themselves Princess Buster, and although the official comment from RCA was "no comment," it was rumored around that RCA was going to try to enjoin the King version.

Actually, the RCA tune, according to the label copy, is

Greeting Tony

Janis Page greets Tony Bennett and his co-star Gene Baylos in Tony's dressing room after they opened at the Copacabana Feb. 3. The Columbia recording artist has been playing to SRO audiences during his two-week engagement at the club.

Singleton Firsts Include:

Label (Black Pearl), Debut Single ("Touch Me," Etc.)

NEW YORK — In operation barely more than one month, Shelby Singleton Productions has initiated activity on several fronts and shows promise of its first release developing into an immediate hit.

The initial recording venture by Singleton's recently formed independent production operation is "Touch Me, Hold Me, Kiss Me" by the Inspirations. It debuts on Singleton's own Black Pearl label and was produced for him by Bob Wyld and Art Polhemus. The record has been met with strong radio and consumer reaction in Detroit, Philadelphia and New York. Distribution in various regions is currently being set, according to Singleton.

Kolsky-Kahl Deal

In addition, Singleton has concluded a deal with Joe Kolsky and Phil Kahl to produce three artists for their Diamond label.

The first of these, to be released immediately, features eleven-year-old Dewey Jones. Jones is a veteran of Broadway and off-Broadway legitimate shows, making his recording debut with an Art Wayne tune, "Please Mr. Johnson (Send My Brother Home)" b/w "My Su- ccess." the single was produced by Wayne and Singleton.

Another single, scheduled for immediate release with an album to follow within two weeks after the single, has been set by Larry Utyl of Amy Mala, Bell in a deal with Singleton involving The Tennessee Guitars. The single, from their album, is "Third Man Theme" coupled with "Wildwood Flower" and will appear on the Bell label. In addition, three single acts will be recorded for the Amy/Mala/Bell combine by Singleton Productions within the near future.

A variety of deals between his production operation and MGM are also being negotiated, reports Singleton. Initially, he said, they will release two masters that the production company placed with Bob Morgan of the label.

In January Singleton did much Nashville work, too.