

Borde, Scibilia Get Long Lease On Cincy Taft

CINCINNATI, Oct. 13.—A definite operating schedule for the local Taft Theater and an ambitious program to attract more convention business to Cincinnati is seen in a deal consummated here yesterday between Al Borde, artists' representative and head of the Central Booking Office, New York and Chicago, and his partner, Anton Scibilia, well-known promoter, theater operator and producer, with the heads of the Cincinnati Masonic Temple Company for a 10-year lease on the building which houses the Taft.

Under the deal, Borde and Scibilia will assume full operation of the building, including the 2,500-seat Taft, 25,000 square feet of exhibit space, bowling alleys, a fully equipped kitchen and facilities and to feed 4,000 persons at one sitting. The lease becomes effective November 1. While the Taft Theater has been used to house occasional roadshows in recent years and spasmodic vaude shows, the remainder of the building's facilities have lain dormant since the building, originally a \$4,500,000 project, was erected in 1928. As a matter of fact, very few Cincinnatians were aware of the building's vast exhibit space and other facilities.

Borde and Scibilia will place special emphasis on attracting conventions and industrial exhibits which heretofore passed up the town because of the lack of suitable exhibit space. Located near the heart of town, within two blocks of Fountain Square, the Masonic building is within walking distance of all of Cincy's major hotels. Parking lot is part of the layout.

For the Taft Theater, Borde and Scibilia are mapping a combination policy to include name vaude attractions, concerts, operas and roadshows. First in under the new deal will be the Ink Spots, opening around Thanksgiving Day. Scibilia will be managing director of the new project, and attraction booker for the house will be Charley Hogan, Chicago.

There has long been a crying need here for the proper facilities to house large conventions and industrial exhibits, and the long-dormant Taft facilities stack up as just the proper thing to solve the problem. In their original negotiations, Borde and Scibilia negotiated solely for the operating rights to the Taft Theater. Shown the rest of the building's facilities, they were amazed with its possibilities and grabbed onto the project quickly. They plan to develop the project to the hilt, and have in mind a sort of a civic center idea for the spot.

Borde is heading into New York next week to scout attractions for Taft and to cast an eye for other equipment for the building. One of the plans is to augment the present four bowling alleys to 14.

Deal consummated by Borde and Scibilia will in no way interfere with the Masonic activities which have been held there for years.

Jennings Verdict Seen Affecting G. L. K. Smith Suit

DETROIT, Oct. 15.—Verdict in case won by Don Lee Network in Los Angeles upon charges brought by Al Jennings over use of details from his career on a *Lone Ranger* broadcast is seen here as having important bearing on case brought by Gerald L. K. Smith, formerly of *Committee of One Million*, against King Trendle Broadcasting Corporation. Latter case, which is expected to come to trial here within month, involves degree of liability of station for statements made on program where outlet does not have control of script, as in Jennings case. (This type of case is expected to become more prevalent in future, especially in Illinois which recently passed libel law holding station responsible for broadcasts even tho they don't originate in State.)

Raymond J. Meurer, attorney for King Trendle as well as for *Lone Ranger*, Inc. (KT owns *Lone Ranger*), reported tonight no notice or appeal has been received in Jennings case, but they will resist any appeals, of course. *Lone Ranger* was not directly involved in Jennings suit as formal service was not obtained, but Meurer attended trial.

Showbiz D. C. Hopper

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Here are high spots in the progress of major Congressional bills of interest to the entertainment industry:

HR-4314, BY REPRESENTATIVE CELLER (D., N. Y.).—This proposes important sweeping revisions to Federal Communications Act of 1934, with sponsor's avowed aim to "protect radio from over-commercialization." It follows up FCC's decision in AVCO case by putting strict limitations on sale prices in station transfers, based on original costs, etc. It would allow individual citizens to be heard before FCC in protesting against renewal of any license whose station is charged to have been operating against public interest. It seeks to let the public in on radio profits by opening all ledgers to unprecedented scrutiny. It gives FCC a voice in programming thru establishment of specific percentages of required time for non-profit sustaining programs. Its aim, in effect, is to end threat of big-biz monopoly in radio and improve programming. Bill is in House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, where it faces stormy future. (See story this issue.)

HR-4309, BY HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.—This is the "interim tax program" bill paring income and corporation taxes to reduced levels thru reconversion period until Congress can set up stable peacetime tax structure. Of chief interest to entertainment industry is inclusion in bill of "magic date"—next July 1—for reversion of key excise levies to 1942 levels. This means cutback on July 1 on taxes on theater admissions, cabaret bills, transportation, distilled spirits, etc. For example, theater admissions levy will fall back from present penny on every nickel admission to penny on every dime. Cabaret bill tax will drop from 20 to 5 per cent. Showfolk will find it slightly more economical traveling, with decline to 10 per cent tax from present 15 per cent. Drinkeries will get indirect opportunity for more sales thru cut of distilled spirits tax from \$9 to \$6 a gallon. Bill passed House and is getting hearing in Senate Committee, where some modifications are seen.

S-764, BY SENATOR BAILEY (D., N. C.).—This one is aimed primarily to end royalty fees on transcriptions. In effect, tho, it outlaws the whole labor royalty practice, banning payments by employers to representatives

of employee groups, except for dues, "check-off" or like practices in the normal operation of a labor union. Penalty for violation: \$10,000 fine or six months imprisonment or both. Principal targets, tho unnamed in bill, are boss Jimmy Petrillo, of American Federation of Musicians, and czar John L. Lewis, of American Mine Workers. Policy of bill is seen as contrary to National Labor Relations Act. Three federal agencies, including Department of Labor, have filed objections. Sub group of Senate Judiciary Committee will air arguments soon at hearing. Fate uncertain, altho some judiciary committee members want some kind of legislation on subject.

HR-2819, BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER (R., NEB.).—This is something like Bailey's S-764, and its author frankly describes it as intended to curb activities of Petrillo and Lewis. It calls for end of royalty fee practice, but penalty provisions haven't been written into bill yet. Miller hasn't been pressing for action on the measure which is dormant in committee on labor.

MR-1648, BY REPRESENTATIVE DONERO (R., MICH.).—This one is designed to cut down Petrillo's power by outlawing interference with non-commercial education broadcasts. Bill has had hearings in House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee where it's stymied, at least temporarily, thru division of opinion over proper form such legislation should take.

S-63, BY SENATOR VANDENBERG (R., MICH.).—This is Senate counterpart of Donero Bill and unlike the House measure, got speedy passage in the Senate. Its progress is halted until House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee decides on appropriate form of legislation.

HR-2118, BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMAN (R., MICH.).—This one is tougher and broader than the Donero and Vandenberg bills. Intentional or willful interference with "lawful production, transmission, dissemination or movement" of any "music, musical program or radio broadcast" would be punishable by imprisonment from half a year to five years or fine of \$100 to \$5,000 or both. Bill's in House Judiciary Committee in relatively dormant state.

S-599, BY SENATOR CAPPER (R., KAN.).—This penalizes Interstate

(Continued on page 39)

2 WLW 'Billy Units In Commercial Slots

CINCINNATI, Oct. 13.—Two WLW programs, both of a hillbilly nature, swung over to commercial slots during the past week. *Midwestern Hayride*, formerly the WLW Boone County Jamboree, popular for years on Midwestern fairs, where it operates under guidance of Bill McCluskey, started for Standard Oil Company of Ohio last Saturday (6:30-7, E.S.T.), with McCann-Erickson, Inc., handling the show thru its Cleveland office.

Originating at WLW, *Midwestern Hayride* is picked up by WTAM, Cleveland, with WSPD, Toledo, slated to come in October 20. Sohio plans to make it a regular Saturday-night audience feature at various cities thru Ohio this fall and winter. Produced by Charles Lammers, show is scripted by Dave Brown and Ollie James. Line-up includes Max Condon, featured tenor; Ollie James, columnist and editorial writer with *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, philosopher and storyteller; Dolly Good and the Buccaneers; Bonnie Lou and the Trailblazers; the Johnson Twins, the Turner Brothers, and Willard Lenay, emcee.

Circle Arrow last Sunday (7) took the air for Western Auto Supply Company in the 10:30-11 a.m. slot, E.S.T., handled by Bruce B. Brewer & Company agency, Kansas City, Mo. Ken Smith is producer and Dave Brown writer. In on the hook-up from WLW are WRC, Washington; WSM, Nashville; WTAR, Norfolk; WPTF, Raleigh, N. C.; WMC, Memphis; WSMB, New Orleans; KVOO, Tulsa, Okla.; KARK, Little Rock; KROL, Knoxville; KSD, St. Louis; WDAF, Kansas City, Mo.; WIS, Columbia, S. C.; WSB, Atlanta, and KRIS, Corpus Christi, Tex. Other sta-

Dram Nose-Lookers Elect Brown Prexy

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—Aisle pooh-bahs held their annual elections at the Hotel Algonquin, Wednesday (10). Crix circle officers for the coming year are: John Mason Brown (*Sat. Review of Lit.*), prexy; Ward Morehouse (*Sun.*), v.-p.; Thomas H. Wenning (*Newsweek*), treasurer, and Rosamond Gilder (*Theater Arts* mag.), secretary. Richard (Go) Watts Jr., Harry A. (Town and Country) Bull, Irene (Cue) Kittle and Joseph T. (New Leader) Shipley were elected to membership.

Aquacade for N. Y. Garden?

NEW YORK, Oct. 13.—Elliott Murphy, who parlayed an Aquacade, last summer, at the Flushing Meadow Park (World's Fair) Amphitheater, from an early-season flop to an end-of-the-summer capacity business hit, is trying to convince Madison Square Garden biggies that his Aqua idea is a winter must for the big indoor arena. Garden non-committal but said to be seriously mulling over the project.

tions are slated to be added to the chain in a few weeks.

Line-up has Max Condon, Dolly Good and the Buccaneers, the Johnson Twins, Howard Chamberlain, Jimmy Leonard, emcee; Jack Saatkamp, organist, and Taft Blevins, floating spot.

MacArthur Cuts Radio Rep In Japanese Area

TOKYO, Oct. 13.—Drastic reduction of network newscasters permitted to remain in Japan was ordered by General MacArthur's headquarters today. NBC, CBS, ABC and Mutual were all cut to two correspondents each in Japan, and one each in the Philippines.

Order also affected Australian network, ABC and BBC, ABC (Australian) was allotted one correspondent for Japan and one for the Philippines; BBC was allotted two newscasters in Japan.

Carroll Takes First Step Toward That \$5,000,000 Radio City

HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 15.—Earl Carroll made the first move in consolidating his plans for construction of a \$5,000,000 amusement center on Sunset Boulevard by naming his assistant, Harry Engel, head of the newly formed Radio City Realty Corporation.

Company, under Carroll's guidance, will direct the construction of a limit high building near Gower Street to house the American Broadcasting Company's local radio and television studios, a 7,000-seat film showcase equipped with three revolving stages, plus space for offices. Current plans now in discussion call for a huge parking lot to be situated underneath the building.

Work will get under way in March of next year, with building expected to be completed a year after.

CBS Film Project Runs Smack Into Jurisdiction Mess

NEW YORK, Oct. 13.—CBS television last week found itself in the midst of a jurisdictional muddle, said to be of its own unwitting creation, which forced temporary suspension of a new type of video project. Columbia planned to shoot on film a series of vocational shows, dealing with television, which would later be put on the air.

Columbia, which has a contract with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers-AFL, planned to use a set of IATSE-AFL electricians and a non-union film crew brought in from the outside. (The IA juicers are regularly employed at WCBW, Columbia's station here.) However, IBEW claimed that IBEW juicers and cameramen had to be used, since the film would be shot in the studio and televising a film constitutes a recording.

CBS wanted to use the IA electricians because they are part of the regular crew and outside film men because it wanted 35 mm. However, it could not use union cameramen because IBEW would object to IATSE men as much as it did to non-union guys. Furthermore, non-IA cameramen are less expensive. Despite IBEW's offer of a union film crew and juicers from Local 3, CBS has decided to postpone the project.

Detroit Outlets Hit By Gasoline Strike

DETROIT, Oct. 15.—Radio programming has been among the victims of the gasoline strike here, with CKLW, which operates as an international station, particularly hit. Station has its major studios in Windsor, Ont., across the river, reached by tunnel and bridge from Detroit.

At least one major program, however, *Early Morning Frolics*, handled by Joe Gentile and Ralph Binge, found it impossible to make the daily trip across the river—both principals have their homes in Detroit. Because of the thousands of cars lined up at the tunnel entrance for the purpose of crossing to Windsor to buy gasoline, all service stations in Detroit are closed except for the few designated by the union for emergency service. Result was a shift to the Detroit offices of the station, which is rarely used for broadcasting, altho it originally housed studios.