

LP Release Plans of EMI Confuses World Disk Set-Up

NEW YORK, May 24.—The recent announcement by England's Electrical and Musical Industries, Ltd. (EMI), producers of HMV, Columbia and Parlophone disks, that they will start releasing LP platters in October adds more confusion to an already complicated world-wide disk picture.

American Columbia split with the EMI group—effective December 31, 1952—because of the resistance of the English organization to LP's, and made arrangements with Philips Industries to sell its records in England and throughout the world starting January 1, 1953 (The Billboard, December 15, 1951). English Decca, whose wax is marketed via the London label here, has had LP's

on the world market for about two years.

With EMI set to issue LP's come October, several questions, involved and temporarily unanswerable, are posed. These revolve around American Columbia; around EMI, Columbia's present foreign counterpart, and Philips, Columbia's future foreign representative. The points at issue are: Who owns the masters that American Columbia and EMI have exchanged over the years that have been issued on the two Columbia labels? Will British Columbia release any of these American Columbia disks on LP? If so, will the masters be turned over to Philips on January 1? In addition, when will Philips enter the British disk market with LP's?

At the present time this much is known: American Columbia is not issuing many waxings previously sent over by EMI in anticipation of the termination of the EMI agreement. It is understood that American Columbia is negotiating with EMI as to how the masters of each concern are to be divided. It is also known that when the American Columbia-Philips agreement starts, Co-

lumbia disks issued in England and on the continent, will be on the Philips label, since EMI controls the name Columbia for Europe. This of course raises another interesting question, with whom will British Columbia market its wax here, and what label will be used, since they cannot use the Columbia name in the U.S.?

English Decca

While EMI has been slow in producing LP's in England, English Decca has produced the large total of 376 LP's over the last two years. This figure compares favorably with American production. At the same time English Decca has also produced most of the LP attachments and three-speed gramophones for the English market over the past two years.

Philips Industries, one of the world's giant industrial corporations, has been losing no time in getting into record production since the firm made its agreement with American Columbia. It is producing records on the continent, and has signed up a healthy list of popular and classical artists for its talent stable. The records will be made available

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"Love You" Is Infringing On "Sailed Again"

NEW YORK, May 24.—In a suit involving the unique courtroom presentation of waxed evidence, U. S. District Court Judge Sylvester J. Ryan has found that the King disking of "I Love You, Yes I Do" infringes on an earlier Decca pressing, "Tonight He Sailed Again." The court enjoined King and its publishing affiliate, Lois Music, from further use of the material, and awarded Northern Music, Decca publishing subsidiary initiating the action, damages based on an accounting of profits.

The Decca version of the ditty, composed by Guy Wood and Sol Marcus, with lyrics by the late Eddie Seiler, was recorded by Lucky Millinder, who also supervised the King disking. Millinder figured as a defendant in the court action.

Record Evidence

To prove Northern's contention that the Lois song, written by Henry Glover and Sally Nix, infringed on its copyright, Decca's Sonny Burke prepared and offered as evidence 11 special records to demonstrate similarity of the two ditties. The disks, played in court, illustrated the factors of melody, harmony and rhythm, said to be common to both properties.

Judge Ryan, in his decision, found that the Decca song was an original creation, that the two songs were, in fact, similar, and that the defendants had access to the Decca material.

Attorneys for the plaintiff were Henry Cohen and Richard E. Colby, of the firm of Cohen & Bingham, Counsel for King and Lois Music was Jack Pearl, with Stuart Sprague representing Henry Glover, also named as a defendant.

Swedish Park Inks U. S. Bands

STOCKHOLM, May 24.—Director Lindgren of the Nofesfallet Amusement Park has signed up Louis Armstrong, Gene Krupa and several other American jazz musicians for summer engagements in Sweden.

Krupa, Charlie Ventura and pianist Teddy Napoleon are set to open at Nofesfallet on July 1, playing two weeks in the park's "Circus Revue," and remainder of the month as part of the open-air stage show. Trio is also set for a tour of Swedish parks during the month of August.

Armstrong and his orchestra are scheduled for an August or September appearance in Nofesfallet. Lindgren is not yet certain of exact date or the full line-up of Armstrong's ork, but expects he will bring along Barney Bigard, clarinet; Arvel Shaw, bass; and Coby Colc, drums.

Vic Hyde, American novelty musical act, also is set for appearance in Swedish parks this summer as are the Delta Rhythm Boys.

White Fans Hying R&B Platter Sales

HOLLYWOOD, May 24.—The slack that usually comes into the disk business with the start of summer is taking less effect this year in the r.&b. business thru Southern California because of a brand-new clientele which has taken up the jazz-blues buying and

listening habit. A survey of the leading indie r.&b. label distributors here disclosed that a major portion of the r.&b. sides now being sold are bought by Spanish and mixed-nationality buyers.

Distributors here attribute the new audience to the work of a group of leading d.j.'s, mostly on indie outlets, who have been doing a radio promotion job. These jockeys include: Hunter Hancock, KFVD, 2-3:30 p.m., and KGFI, 9:00-11:30 p.m., daily; Joe Adams, KOWL, Santa Monica, 12-3:30 p.m. and 8-8 p.m. daily; Gene Norman, KLAC, three hours daily; Bill Samson, KWKW, Pasadena, midnight to 6 a.m. daily; Ray Robinson, KFOX, Long Beach, 9-10 p.m. daily, and John Dolphin, KGFI, midnight to 3 a.m. daily.

The latter show is from Dolphin's Hollywood Record Shop, which now is operating on a 24-hour-per-day seven-day-a-week schedule. Dolphin reports that about 40 per cent of his retail business now comes from white buyers, where previously his trade was almost entirely Negro buyers. Dolphin has been giving away on his show one free disk of his choice with every record purchased as a teaser. In addition, d.j.'s, such as Gene Norman, KLAC, and Bill Samson and Bill Leyton, KFWB, whose shows are aimed more for pop audiences, have been whirling many r.&b. disks. The impact of the d.j.'s spinning is being felt as far as San Diego, where Don

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Cap Mulls 2d B. May Album

HOLLYWOOD, May 24.—The first Billy May dance band album, "Big Band Bash," has taken off so rapidly that Cap execs here are mulling a second release album around June 20. The first May package has been released only three weeks and has done as well in its first three-weeks as did the top-selling Jane Froman album when it was first released. A check of Cap regional sales records shows that the album is doing best in the Midwest and the East, where the new May band has been making its one-nighters, first with the Laine-Page concert package and now on dance one-night stands.

The second Capitol release will be called "A Band Is Born" and will tell the story of how the May aggregation accidentally hit. May was commissioned by Alan Livingston, Cap's a.&r. chief, to do arrangements and get the sidemen for a band to do an Arthur Murray dance album. The sides turned out so well that they were released individually. The six sides in the album will be the first six sides which Capitol released from October thru December by May and his band. It's the quickest re-release of individual disks into an album in Cap history.

The May band, which just started its first dance dates, did \$1,992 at West View Park, Pittsburgh, May 14.

Bahamian Song Album To Be Released Soon

NEW YORK, May 24.—A second album of Bahamian songs, featuring Blind Blake and His Royal Victoria Hotel Calypsoes, will be released here next week by Songs of the Islands, Ltd., on the Art label. This new set contains 11 tunes, one of which, "Peanut Rice," is often referred to as the Bahamian national anthem.

Woody Herman and his ork are planning to record one of the tunes in the new set, "Jump in the Line," and the Weavers are preparing two others for recording. The album will be available on both LP and 78 r.p.m.

PRACTICALLY GLUED TOGETHER

NEW YORK, May 24.—Bill Simon, now with Southern Music's affiliate, Charles K. Harris, and Jerry Wexler, now with the Big Three, were close friends when they were staffers together at The Billboard. They still stick together—like the two sides of a record. The coupling on the recent Ralph Flanagan ork record is "South," a Southern tune, and "I Understand," a Big Three melody. Jack Fina's ork has just cut "Saturday Rag" (Big Three) and "South" for MGM, and Cy Coleman recently waxed "South" and "In a Little Spanish Town" (Big Three) for Decca.

Cap Sets Up D. J. Series

HOLLYWOOD, May 24.—Following an increasing demand for recorded interviews from artists on the part of h.b. and Western d.j.'s in The Billboard's folk, talent and tunes column, Capitol's rustic disk promotion chief, Marv Townsend, this week was preparing the first of a series of 10-inch 78-r.p.m. disks by Hank Thompson. The Thompson interview carries a series of answers, running about three minutes, to questions contained in a script which will be sent with the disk. Interwoven into the interview is a portion of Thompson's current best seller, "Wild Side of Life," and a full rendition of its new release, "Waiting in the Lobby of Your Heart."

Ken Nelson, Cap's ostentatious a.&r. chief, who did the Thompson interview, is currently in Nashville, cutting interview material on six more Capitol disks. Disks will be sent out once each month. D.j.'s who are interested can write to Townsend at Capitol's Hollywood office.

Proposed Rule Would Hit DJ's

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cent levy. Early in the history of this type of production, even some record company execs were loathe to reveal the extent to which they were co-operating for fear of incurring Petrillo's wrath.

It is generally assumed that the amendment will quickly be passed by AFM delegates, but there is much conjecture already on whether the AFM can enforce its stand and also whether it can make the amendment retroactive to halt use of disks recorded prior to the change in the by-laws. In any event, the AFM has made clear its position on the use of recorded music on TV—sign up for the 5 per cent deal or use live musicians.

"SUGARBUSH" ON FIRE

Schirmer's Ruffled by Success of Old Tune

NEW YORK, May 24.—Staid, dignified G. Schirmer's Inc., one of the oldest standard publishing firms in the country, is beginning to take on the frantic atmosphere of the Brill Building. This revolution took place the day after Columbia Records released the pop waxing of G. Schirmer's tune "Sugarbush" with Doris Day and Frankie Laine. Ever since the deejays got on the tune, Schirmer's have been on a merry-go-round.

"This happens to us about every ten years," stated Gus Schirmer. "The last time we had a hit pop tune was back about 1940, when Rudolph Frim's "Allah's Holiday" was recorded and became a hit disk. Then there was "Trees," which someone turned into a pop, and we sold a tremendous amount of sheet music. And Paul Whiteman dug the song "Sylvia" out of our catalog back in the 1920's and made it

a big hit. I guess we'll have another "hot" one about ten years from now. "Sugarbush" has been in our catalog for about 10 years, with other Josef Marais tunes.

Schirmer's do not have any deejay promotion schemes planned, mainly because they lack someone to handle this task. Nor do they intend to make a powerful effort to get additional sides recorded. "We'll call some companies," Schirmer said, "In fact, I received a telegram from a large company who want to record 'Sugarbush,' and I sent them a lead sheet."

According to the firm they think they will sell about 100,000 copies of the tune, or more, if the record goes. "If the Doris Day-Frankie Laine disk becomes a big hit and the phrase 'Sugarbush' catches on, the word may take the place of dear or honey," Schirmer said hopefully.

DANCE THEME

Hillman's Tune Seen As Ork Plug

HOLLYWOOD, May 24.—A theme song tying in with the current increase of national interest in dance bands, "Let's Go Dancing," written by Roc Hillman, is being promoted here by Barney McDevitt, back for the Palladium. The tune, yet unpublished, has been sent to Benny Strong, who will make an arrangement of it to be played right after the band's theme on all network remote shots from the Palladium. Tommy Dorsey, current on the Sunset Boulevard dancery stand, has made up the arrangement which will be played for the first time Monday (26). Dorsey may do the tune for Decca the following week.

Herb Hendler, one of the men behind the meeting of dance band leaders in New York recently, has copies of the song and is attempting to get NBC to utilize the tune as the theme of its new summer band series, replacing the Saturday night "Show of Shows" on TV (The Billboard, May 10).

McDevitt has also dispatched letters and copies of the song to Otto Weber, managing secretary of the National Ballroom Operators' Association, and members of the top ops' board of directors. Hillman got the inspiration for the tune from reading of the growing interest in the dance band business in recent issues of The Billboard.

NBOA Confab Set for Chi

FARGO, N. D., May 24.—The National Ballroom Operators' Association will hold its annual convention September 30-October 1 at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago. R. E. (Doc) Chinn, president, announced here today.

Due to increase in membership gained as result of winning the cabaret tax fight, group expects this to be the largest convention it has ever had.

Chinn, just back from a meeting with ballroom operators in Seattle, reports NBOA well organized on the West Coast, with members in California, Oregon and Washington. Other State meetings are being planned. First will be with Wisconsin group in Milwaukee at an as yet undetermined date.

NBC and GAC For Sat. Show

NEW YORK, May 24.—The National Broadcasting Company TV web and General Artists Corporation have lined up name bands for nine of the 13 weeks of the "Saturday Night Dance Party" show. The program replaces "Show of Shows" for the summer (The Billboard, May 10).

The opening show will be kicked off on June 7, with the Ray Anthony ork and Joe Bushkin as an added attraction. Other bands set thus far include Stan Kenton, Billy May, Buddy Morrow, Hal McIntyre, Woody Herman, Ralph Flanagan and Jimmy Dorsey. Emcee duties will be handled by the band leader on most of the shows, the NBC may throw Jerry Lester into the spot occasionally.

Middleman to Sell 240-Disk Catalog

NEW YORK, May 24.—Al Middleman has put up for sale his entire catalog of 240 masters. These include the ARA label and sides by Al Trace, Hank Williams, Judy Canova, Buddy Clark, Reilly Shepard, Ace Harris, Skinnay Ennis and Earl Hines.