

CHI AFM 5-DAY WEEK RULE UNDER FIRE

CHICAGO—A 10-year-old regulation by AFM Local 10, limiting tootlers playing Chicago to a five-day week, is starting to show its first signs of cracking.

Nitery owners have chafed under the regulation, which exists in no other city, because they are pressed to recoup in five nights the same hefty talent tabs that ops in other cities have six or seven nights to recoup. But Local 10, home local of James C. Petrillo, has never given way to the bended-knee pleas of employers.

The new development, in fact, is not a relaxation by the union but a decision by the London House owners, Oscar and George Marienthal, to invoke an old union regulation seldom resorted to before. The old—and incidentally little known—regulation provides that a musical attraction can be booked as an "act," permitting seven-night play, provided an additional unit is booked as a house band for five nights plus a replacement unit for the remaining two. The Marienthals have signed the Carol Colema Trio and got it recognized by the union as a house band, with the Eddie Higgins Trio as off-night replacement. Armed with this recognition, the Marienthals then proceeded to sign the Teddy Wilson and Bobby Hackett units, the Martin Denny Group and others on six-night contracts, the first such pacts inked by a jazz house here in a decade. Some units, said Oscar Marienthal, will play seven nights.

One wrinkle of the regulation is that a contract for an "act" must specify the number of performances per night, instead of a grind policy of forty minutes on and twenty off each hour. Marienthal said his acts will play four or five shows on most nights, which is roughly

equivalent to a grind policy anyhow.

Marienthal pointed out that Chicago talent buyers, no matter how they work it, still are penalized by the local regulation. While his new move allows him to play an expensive attraction for six or seven nights, like competitive bidders in another city, he is still saddled with the burden of carrying a house band, at a nut of several hundred dollars per week, which hosts in other cities are not required to carry.

Another major jazz impresario, Frank Holzfeind, owner of the Blue Note, said the latent regulation permitting "acts" was complete news to him. While greeting the wrinkle with interest, he said a quick calculation left him feeling it was of no real help to the situation. Hiring of a house unit plus replacement would cost him close to \$900 for the dubious privilege of offering live music for a sixth night. He regarded this as a pure surcharge over the cost an op in any other city pays to do business and estimated that on a Monday or Tuesday he would not bring this amount back into the till. Holzfeind attributed the high mortality rate of jazz clubs in Chicago to the local regulation, inferring that local employment of musicians is being hurt by it.

Veejay-Abner Deb Pop LP's

CHICAGO—Vee Jay and Abner Records are debuting in the field of pop LP's with three pieces. Two on Abner will feature Jerry Butler and Dee Clark, while the Vee Jay number is Wade Flemons. The disks, now being recorded, will be in stereo and mono.

Victor Inks Pop Organist Quartet

NEW YORK — Herman Diaz, RCA Victor exec, stated this week that the label had pacted pop organist Marjorie Meinert and the vocal quartet the Skip Jacks, for album waxings by the label. LP's by these artists will be released shortly.

LID ON JAZZ, R.&R. IN U. S. MOSCOW PACKAGE

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Also, they feel that even a limited exchange, on a peaceful and co-operative basis, putting officially representative American talent in a Moscow theater constitutes a giant step forward.

McClellan said that altho no live American talent has been formally scheduled for the exhibition site itself, "mikes will be set up all over the place. If a visiting artist cares to perform, and we think he can do it within the framework of what this exhibition is trying to do—we'll invite him to go ahead."

Also missing from the picture of America "just as it is," will be the juke box, popcorn and vending machines. "There will be no juke boxes or popcorn machines. We do hope everyone visiting the fair will have a sample of American soft drink, and arrangements are being made." (Pepsi Cola will do the honors.)

Among the nearly 500 firms exhibiting, members of the Institute of Hi Fidelity Manufacturers will put on a stereo exhibit, but no record companies per se are planning recording exhibits or the making of records, McClellan said. Most of the music-on-records at the pa-

STEREO SELLS TAXI RIDES

TORONTO — Music has been adopted by more than 100 taxicabs here to attract customers. Instead of serenading their customers with AM hit parade tunes, the drivers are using stereophonic, dual speaker setups in their cars. Those using the gimmick say that business is better, tips are higher, and some passengers look for cabs with a music sign on their roofs.

Many of the customers stay in the cab to hear the end of a symphony, say the drivers, while one driver won himself a 120-mile trip from a customer because of his promise of music.

Verve Goes All Out on '99-er' Plan

HOLLYWOOD — Verve Records' entire catalog of more than 500 stereo and monaural packages is being made available to a short-term discount sales plan. Verve is launching its "monaural and stereo 99-er Sales Plan" April 6 to continue thru April 30. During that period, the purchaser will pay only 99 cents for any Verve LP of his choice for each Verve album bought at full price.

Verve lists its monaural LP's at \$4.98 and stereo packages at \$5.98. This plan differs from similar discount sales programs in that Verve is opening up its complete catalog to the 99-er sales push.

Lawrence New Sunbeam Exec

NEW YORK — Bernie Lawrence is the new national sales manager of Sunbeam Records, the Tommy Valando label. Sunbeam also added Jay Morganstern to the label as business manager and Guy Ward has been named West Coast representative.

On the artist level, Sunbeam pacted singer Robert Spencer and Ralph Bailey last week. They were formerly lead singers with the Cadillacs. Their first sides as a duo will be out next week.

HOT 100 ADDS 5 MORE

NEW YORK — There are five new sides on this week's Hot 100 chart. These are:

- 77. So Fine—The Fiestas, Old Town
- 83. Lovey Dovey—Clyde McPhatter, Atlantic
- 95. Only You—Frank Pourcel, Capitol
- 98. That's My Little Suzie—Ritchie Valens, Del Fi
- 100. I Never Felt Like This—Jack Scott, Carlton

'KANSAS CITY' KEEPS TRADE FEVER RISING

NEW YORK — For the second week in a row the tune "Kansas City" kept the singles business at fever peak. As of this week the two hottest of the five records out were on the Fury recording of the tune with Wilbert Harrison and the King Record with Hank Ballard. The Fury record is being bid for by a number of diskeries, including Liberty, Cameo and Dot, but so far Fury label chief Bobbie Robinson was not selling.

King Records chief Syd Nathan informed The Billboard this week that the original waxing of the "Kansas City" tune was first cut by Little Willie Littleford on the Federal label back in 1952 with the title "K. C. Lovin'." Tune was penned by Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller, the cleffers who have written many hit tunes, and published by King Records. This record sold a bit in a few cities back in 1952 but never really broke out.

Nathan has sent a letter to all of the labels that have cut records of "Kansas City" stating that his firm is the publisher and that Lieber and Stoller should be credited as writers. Recordings of the tune include a Chess record with Rocky Olson, an End record with Rockin' Ronald and the Fury record. None of these labels had credited

Lois or Armo, the King Music firms with the tune (they credited Fire Music instead), nor did they credit Lieber and Stoller. In addition to the King record with Hank Ballard, Federal Records issued a new Little Willie Littleford version a while back. These last two credit Armo Music and Lieber and Stoller as writers.

There will be one more version of the song, according to Jerry Lieber. This will be by Little Richard and will be issued this week on the Specialty label. This recording of "Kansas City" was cut about three years ago by the singer for an album.

Teen Disk Hop For Charity

DETROIT — Over 6,300 teenagers were on hand to attend one of this city's largest record hops, staged at the Light Guard Armory Saturday, March 21. The event was hosted by local deejay Tom Clay of WJBK.

Among the artists furnishing live entertainment were Al Martino, the Impalas, the Royaltones, the Imperials and the Intruders. Another highlight of the hop was the crowning of "Miss Teen Queen" for the city of Detroit by Governor G. Mennen Williams. Miss Michigan was also in attendance.

Proceeds were turned over to the Detroit chapter of the National Foundation for Cystic Fibrosis Research. The dance was one of a monthly scheduled series, promoted and managed by National Teen Clubs, a dance promotional firm.

CRDC Ups Frank Page

HOLLYWOOD — Frank B. Page Jr., was named national promotional manager of classical products of Capitol Records Distributing Corporation, moving up from his former post as classical field rep. He will report to CRDC vicepres and National Sales Manager Max Callison. Duties include directing work of the classical field reps and handling classical artists and product promotion. He will replace Roger Hall who recently resigned.

Ralph E. Romann was named classical artist rep and will report to Page. Don Owens was appointed pop artists rep and will report to CRDC's national pop sales promotion manager Joe Mathews.

Hugo-Luigi's New Talent

NEW YORK — Hugo Peretti and Luigi Creator, free-lance Victor a.&r. men, affectionately known as Hugo and Luigi, have waxed another new group for their second Victor release. The new group is The Tradewinds, four high school boys from Newark, N. J. Their first record is called "Toni" and will be issued Thursday (9).

The first talent recorded by Hugo and Luigi under their Victor pact was Chico Holiday. This record "Young Ideas" was issued about a week ago. It is understood that the third record from the duo will also feature a new group. It will be out in a few weeks.

Big Reaction To UA Contest

NEW YORK — United Artist reports having received tremendous response to its national "Gazachstahagan Contest." Thousands of entries including letters, pictures, posters, special art work projects, etc., have flooded the diskery's office in recent weeks.

In order to consider each entry, UA will not announce the final winners until next week.

The contest, which was to identify a "Gazachstahagan," was open to all deejays and their listeners. First prize to the winning jockey and his listener is a week's free vacation in Nassau.

In a separate UA contest involving "Gazachstahagan," the Wild Cats hit recording, Nelson Verbit of Marnel Distributors in Philadelphia copped first place honors, an all-expense paid trip to the British Colonial Hotel in Nassau.

Vanguard Exec To Continent

NEW YORK — Seymour Solomon, director of Vanguard Records, will leave for Europe on April 22 for an eight-week European recording trip. Sessions will be held in London and in Vanguard's Vienna studios. Label will cut works by Khatchaturian, Kabalevsky, Dvorak, Mozart and Bach.

Mel Albert New Apollo Flack

NEW YORK — Mel Albert has been signed by Apollo Records to handle promotion and publicity for the label. Albert will establish a policy regarding the label's new set-up in both pop and spiritual fields.