

PRS Gives Arch Critic Voting List

LONDON—Following amendments to the articles of association adopted recently at its annual general meeting, the Performing Right Society here has supplied its arch-critic, Trevor Lyttleton, member and composer, with the 5,000 names and addresses of voting members.

However, the society executives have refused to indicate the names of members who have 10 supplementary votes, giving each a total of 20. The society secretary has written to Lyttleton saying he is "not empowered to disclose this information."

This latest move in the long-running battle by Lyttleton to have a full investigation of the management of the society is, according to him, wrong. "The PRS council is empowered to disclose this information."

"The council has clearly acknowledged the principle that those with one vote should be identifiable against those with no votes and those with 10 votes against those with one vote."

"It is contrary to such principle that those with 20 votes should not be identifiable against those with 10, one or no votes."

Now the matter is to be raised at the next meeting of the general council.

CBS Sets New Co. World Deal

LONDON—CBS U.K. has set up a long-term, worldwide production and licensing deal with a new company formed by Colin Robertson, Glasgow-based impresario, and Peter Shelley, earlier one of the main creative forces behind Magnet Records here.

The new company, whose name has yet to be decided, will function as an independent record label, with Robertson and Shelley responsible for all creative aspects and it will carry a special logo. A parallel music publishing deal has been set up with CBS company April Music.

Robertson owns some of Glasgow's biggest nightspots and manages CBS act the Dead End Kids and Flying Squad. Shelley produced hits for Magnet through Alvin Stardust and Guys 'n' Dolls, wrote chart numbers like "Jealous Mind" and "My Coo-Ca-Choo" and had hits in his own name as artist, notably the self-penned "Love Me Love My Dog."

Both men talked independently to CBS in London at the end of last year about separate projects and CBS managing director Maurice Oberstein got the two together.

Finns Bow New Cutting Facility

HELSINKI—Cutting Room AB, a Swedish plating and processing enterprise, has opened a Finnish subsidiary in Helsinki with an investment of \$250,000. The organization is headed by Rauno Liukkonen, known as Finland's only professional cutting engineer.

The emergence of the new center is welcomed by the local record industry, which for years has had most plating and processing work handled in Sweden. Local machinery has mostly become out of date and unsuitable for high-grade production.



NASHVILLE GOLD—Alex Balster, recording manager for Polydor International in Baarn, Holland, receives the official gold record from Eddie Jones, executive secretary of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce during their visit to the city. Balster, his wife Berta and children Meriam and Pamela were guests of Glenn Snoddy, president of Woodland Sound Studios. From left to right, Meriam, Jones, Balster, Pamela, Mrs. Balster and Snoddy.

French Radio & Television Is Losing Public Support

PARIS—Every year the French radio and television administration draws up popularity charts, based on public opinion polls and on the findings of a special program-quality commission.

A new report shows the commission finds programs generally are slipping fast in quality. And the public reaction shows an even more vehement antagonism to slumping standards. The public, dissatisfied with its television, now watches ever fewer programs.

The research shows that all kinds of programs are losing support. Radio, which broadcasts records and pop all day, does no better.

Additionally the special production company SFP, set up in 1974 when television here was split into three groups, is in a perilous condition.

With losses of up to \$500 million a year for SFP, none of three main networks is interested in outside production and prefer to work with independent companies, usually 30%-40% cheaper than SFP.

Result now is that Jean Charles Edline, SFP director, has seen Valérie Giscard d'Estaing, president of the Republic, to plead for a quota, so that the three networks would be forced to use SFP, 98% government-owned, for a high proportion of new productions.

Edline believes this is the only way out, since each time a network goes to an independent, SFP has to seek out new customers. Under this system, the French taxpayer not only has to pay a high tv-radio license fee, but also has to make good losses of the production group.

International Turntable

LONDON—Top level restructuring in the head office staff of RCA (U.K.) has led to the departure of two key executives, with further changes to be announced shortly.

Marketing manager **Julian Moore** and promotion manager **Ken Bruce** left the company at the beginning of August. Moore, previously Motown U.K. general manager, joined RCA two years ago as part of former managing director **Gerry Oord's** management team. Bruce joined from Phonogram 18 months ago.

Current RCA managing director **Ken Glancy** flew back recently from meetings in New York, and further announcements regarding the future structure of the company are now expected.

WEA Records of Johannesburg, South Africa, has hired **Nunka Mkhali** as its head of a&r and promotion. He is a former music journalist who will work in collaboration with **Richard Sasson**, creative services director and **Charmaine Phiri** to develop support for local repertoire.

David Hughes, former press officer for Polydor Records U.K., has been named new general manager of EMI's Motown office in London.

Vasilios Toumbakaris, EMI managing director in Greece will retire after 48 years in the recording industry. He is being replaced by **Marco Bignotti**.

LISBON—Expansion of company activities has led to personnel changes and upgradings within the Rossil record company here.

The executive panel now comprises **Jose Fortunato**, president; **Luciano Sa-Rebello**, financial manager; **Idilio Viana**, production manager; **Antonio Crespo**, promotion manager; **Lizet Grilo**, international department head; **Manuela Cintrao**, publishing division head; **Luiza Aco**, public relations officer; and **George Figueira**, marketing manager.

Captain Video In European Move

LONDON—Captain Video, the record promotion company set up here last October, is expanding its operations with a move into Europe. Within the next three months, owner Bruce Higham expects to have accounts with 60 outlets in ten European territories.

From the beginning of August, Captain Video promotional films will be screened in-store in Holland, Norway and Sweden. Towards the end of the month retailers in Finland, Denmark and Spain will come in, and by fall the firm's films will be showing in four additional territories: France, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium.

Higham says, "Research shows that where Captain Video promotional films have been shown in retail outlets, sales of the product promoted have increased by as much as 50%."

FIRST HALF FIGURES UP 6%

Japan's Disk Output Recovering At Last

• Continued from page 3

The tape output came to 21.6 million units, up 44% over the 15.8 million units of last year. Cassettes scored a 41% gain and cartridges, 50% with a total of 6 million units. Cassettes amounted to 15.5 million units.

The output of disks in the first half of this year was worth about \$370 million, an increase of 9% with allowances for currency fluctuation, over the same six-month period of last year, while the production of tapes was valued at \$147 million, up 30%.

The singles output stood at 49.3 million units, up 6% over the 46.5 million units of the same period last year. The production of 10-inch disks stood at 68,000 units, down 78% from the 314,000 units of last year, but 12-inch LPs advanced 7% from 41.4 million units to 44.2 million units.

The total production of disks was valued at \$371,260,000, up 9% over the \$341,720,000 registered in the same six months of 1977. Singles were worth \$91 million, up 8%, 10-inch disks were worth \$220,000,

down 48%, and 12-inch LPs were worth \$279 million, up 9%.

The tape production was worth \$147,640,000, up 30% over the same period of the year before. Cartridges were worth \$28 million, down 6%; cassettes were worth \$118 million, up 43% over the \$83 million registered last year.

VIDEO DEPT. FOR MCPS

LONDON—To meet anticipated action in the licensing of mass-produced video productions and films, the Mechanical Copyright Protection Society here has set up a special video department.

In the past, the society's licensing department has handled video licensing. But with industry interest in the whole business of video product sold and hired to the public to discotheques, etc., a specific section within that department has been set up to cope with the mushrooming video business.

Caroline Robertson, previously in the MCPS international relations department, is taking control of the new project.

Bob Kingston, MCPS chairman, says, "We hope this move will tighten up on the existing video operators as well as establishing a firm basis for the future operating of a successful licensing system."

Midler At Palladium

LONDON—Bette Midler, "the divine Miss M," is to make her first British concert appearances late September at the London Palladium.

She kicks off her world tour with three concerts there Sept. 21-23, presented by promoter Freddy Bannister in association with ICO, the International Concert Organization. The artist is bringing her six-piece band plus the Harlettes, her three-girl vocal group.

Prior to her visit, London Weekend TV is screening her Emmy-contending television special "Ol' Red Hair Is Back" Sept. 3.

MCPS Field Force

• Continued from page 62

lisher; Mike Hill (north west), former administration manager of Sunbury Music; Les Sully (south), with MCPS for the past three years; Brian O'Brien (greater London), negotiator in the MCPS licensing division.

70,000 MASTERS INVOLVED

U.K.'s Charly Records In Deal With Gusto Of U.S.

LONDON—A licensing deal between Charly Records here and the Gusto Record Corp. of Nashville, Tenn., means that the U.K.-based company now has access to the entire King-Federal-Starday catalogs, comprising some 70,000 masters.

This adds up to sufficient pre-rock, early 1950s r&b material for several hundred albums.

But Joop Visser, Charly boss, warns, "Severe legal action will be taken against any persons bootlegging King material. We know a lot of the label product is being bootlegged and we are determined to put a stop to it."

Formed in the mid-1940s by Syd Nathan, King operated out of Cincinnati and recorded pioneer r&b artists such as Billy Ward and the Dominoes, Jackie Wilson, Earl Bostic, Memphis Slim, Albert King, Otis Redding and Johnny Otis. Country acts such as Cowboy Copas and Hawkshaw Hawkins were added.

The Charly aim is to launch a 15-album series under the banner "Kings Of Rhythm And Blues." Says Visser, "It will be authentic. Sleeves will be infor-

mative, though I see problems getting pictures of some of the more obscure artists. We look for a first release batch of 15 LPs in January, selling at \$6.20.

First artists planned on the release roster include Clyde McPhatter, Billy Ward and the Dominoes, Hank Ballard, Charlie Feathers, Earl Bostic, Johnny "Guitar" Watson and jump blues specialist Wynonie "Mr. Blues" Harris.

Since its inception some two years ago, Charly has become known for a superior reissue and repackaging program with Sun repertoire licensed from the Nashville-based Shelby Singleton Corp., and Visser is expected to apply the same approach to the King-Federal-Starday catalog.

Meanwhile, Charly has renewed its license deal with Singleton here, for another five years. "Sun Sound Specials" is the collective title for the label's new rockabilly album series, the first seven being issued Friday (18). A new single line, "Double-Headed Monsters," is planned for September.

BILLBOARD IS BIG INTERNATIONALLY