

GREEK HEARING

Noise, Traffic Top Council Meet Items

By PAUL GREIN

LOS ANGELES—Noise, parking and traffic control at the Greek Theatre were the chief issues discussed at the third meeting of the police, fire and civil defense committee of the Los Angeles City Council here Thursday (6).

It was revealed that Barney Feldman, representing the concerned Citizens Committee for the Preservation of Griffith Park, reported 20 violations of city and state ordinances in connection with the operation of the theatre to the police department, which investigated the matter.

A police spokesman reported that four or five of the charges held up, and that the Nederlander organization, which operates the theatre, was notified of the hazards and deficiencies on April 12. Feldman's complaint has since been transferred from the police department to the District Attorney's office.

In the matter of noise control, the parties announced that it was agreed that folk/rock concerts would now begin at 7:30 p.m. instead of 8:30, with a mandatory curfew of 10:30. Previously, it was charged, encores would keep a concert going until 11:30 or midnight.

Furthermore, a penalty will be put on performers who exceed a specified noise limit. Offending acts will be forced to forfeit part of their earnings.

In the matter of parking, a representative of the Dept. of Traffic reported that the use of an island at the

theatre for parking during performances was deemed sensible, valid and legal if done under the direction of proper attendants.

It was revealed that there is room for 920 cars to park at the 4,600-capacity theatre, which conforms exactly with the city regulations requiring off-street parking space for every five seats within 750 feet of the theatre. Previously the requirement was one space for every 10 seats.

The issue of traffic was stressed with a fire department official insisting that even during the heaviest traffic at a sellout concert, at least one lane is left open for emergency vehicles that might need to get through.

Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson, who chaired the committee, did request, though, that police officers be posted on Vermont Ave. to give citations to any theatregoers who speed on their way out of the park. And the department of parks and recreation was instructed to open another exit from the park on an experimental basis beginning next season to divert some of the traffic from Vermont Ave.

The Greek Theatre's current three-year contract expires in December 1978, and the council requested another environmental assessment prior to the issuance of another contract. The council will meet again on the matter two months before the start of the new theatre season.

Roulette Records set to pick up Bobby Shad's Mainstream label for distribution. Morris Levy expects to complete the deal by next week. . . . Godfrey Dickey, who has been Phonodisc branch manager in San Francisco, hinted ready to rejoin Lee Hartstone, his one-time boss when Dickey operated distribution points in Boston, Cleveland and San Francisco in the 60s. Dickey would become vice president, working out of the Gardena base of Integrity Entertainment Co., parent of the burgeoning Wherehouse. Hits For All and Big Ben stores in California.

Agreement for Arista to distribute and market Buddah Records, announced during the Arista convention (Billboard, Sept. 10, 1977), was signed late Thursday (6) in New York. Meanwhile, Buddah closed its Los Angeles office.

Record/tape industryites topped the Reiss-Davis Child Study Center's benefit in Beverly Hills Sunday (2). Jane Morgan Weintraub was honored with "Mother Of The Year." Frank Sinatra and John Denver headlined the event, chaired by Mrs. Lew Wasserman, which netted \$450,000. . . . We were wrong. Radio sheet pioneer Bill Gavin hosted a group of his New York friends at his own birthday party Thursday (6). . . . London Records was inadvertently left out of the list of indie labels who fill distributors' coffers. . . . Alan Dulberger, Milwaukee's chain retailer/concert promoter, will be profiled on WITV Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. . . . Is Peaches opening a store right in the heart of Pickwick's home base, Minneapolis, or better, Bloomington, the Twin Cities' suburb?

Mary Megan Iverson is the first child born to the Peer/Southern's Ralph Peers Thursday, Sept. 15, in Los Angeles. It's the first grandchild for Monique Iverson Peer, too. . . . Paul Smith, CBS Records' sales executive, says "there is nothing more to the plan (see separate story on CBS price restructuring in this issue). There are no other phases built into this program. Prices at CBS are always under review due to such factors as cost," he concludes in answer to rumor that more would be forthcoming soon. . . . Popular Library pacted Dick Clark to put out the soft cover edition of his tome, "Rock 'n Remember." . . . ABC-TV has set an Elton John special for early 1978. . . . Randy Meisner left the Eagles, with former Poco leader Tim Schmit replacing. . . . "The Richard Pryor Show" has been dropped by NBC-TV. Last show will be Oct. 20.

London Records moved its Hollywood offices to 7430 Sunset Blvd. . . . Kenny Rogers married Marianne Gordon of tv's "Hee Haw" Oct. 2 in Los Angeles. . . . By mid-November, fans will be able to visit Elvis' gravesite at his Graceland mansion. . . . Mike Post and Pete Carpenter set to co-write the movie score for Joan Rivers' "Rabbit Test," the story of the first pregnant man. . . . Ralph Tavares and wife, Karen, are parents of Amber Ellen born Sept. 10 in Providence, R.I. . . . MCA shelled out a rumored \$50,000 for the War bash thrown last week on a Universal Studios set.

CBS Records and Mrs. Coretta King have announced a \$100-a-plate dinner in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., with proceeds going to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center For Social Change. U.N. ambassador Andrew

Inside Track

Young will serve as M.C. with Vice President Walter Mondale as featured speaker at the event to be held Wednesday (12) at the New York Hilton. Columbia artists the Emotions and Broadway star Stephanie Mills will be among the evening's entertainers. . . . "The Barber Bridegroom" and "Chapeau," two Broadway musicals, are now set for national tours through the spring of 1978. Macmillan Performing Arts publishes both shows which were penned by Robert Waldman and Allyn Uhry.

Disc-O-Mat, the New York retailer whose expansion plans were nipped in the bud by Jimmy's Music World too-quick debut, says it will open two new stores next month now that the price wars have leveled off. Disc-O-Mat plans to take half of Jimmy's defunct Times Square location as well as another store in the Grand Central area. That will give them a total of four. . . . King Kame, in the meantime, is in final stages of negotiating a lease on yet another store in mid-town Manhattan. Deal will bring chain string to seven.

Charles T. Winant, former financial vice president and treasurer of Pickwick International, has opened an office in New York where he'll offer consulting services on accounting procedures, among other things, to the record industry. . . . Disco owner Regine, a former club thrush, returns to the boards Nov. 16-20 at Las Vegas' Caesar's Palace. She's on the bill with Paul Anka. . . . Elton John makes a rare in-store appearance at Sam Goody's Radio City store Wednesday (12) to promote his latest MCA release, a twin pocket greatest hits package. . . . Soul shouter James Brown's former personal manager, Charles Bobbit, is now special adviser to Alton Bongo, president of the African Republic of Gabon. Bongo's son, Alain, was recently signed to UA, with LP, "A Brand New Man," due soon.

Eagles' new bass player is Timothy B. Schmit, formerly with Poco. He replaces Randy Meisner and goes to the studio immediately to begin work on a new LP with the group for Asylum. . . . After 45 albums with CBS and RCA, singers Earl Wrightson and Lois Hunt now have double LP anthology out on Ben Arrigo's GP Records. . . . Rod Stewart and the Babys now featured on giant boards overlooking Times Square. . . . Ex-Rascals Gene Cornish and Dino Danelli teaming with ex-Raspberries Wally Bryson to form a group called Fotomaker. They wanted to call it Dancer first, then Player, but both names were already listed by BMI and ASCAP. Arista's original soundtrack version of "You Light Up My Life" score, Kasey Cisyk singing, being called for title tune by some radio stations over Warner's version with Debbie Boone on vocals. Arista has no single scheduled yet.

Mark Vorman and Howard Kaylan, aka Flo and Eddie, write and perform the soundtrack to the X-rated film "Dirty Duck." . . . K-Tel, Anchor Records and Chas Hopper Productions teaming for an LP by the London Symphony Orchestra comprised of rock tunes. Targets any listener who may appreciate the symphonic version of "Paint It Black," "Whole Lotta Love" and other. Recording was done at Abbey Road Studios.

Albert King LP Highlight Of 1st Tomato-GRT Meet

By GERRY WOOD

NEW ORLEANS—Product presentations, rap sessions and a live show highlighted Tomato Music's first convention held Thursday-Friday (6-7) in New Orleans.

Tomato, a New York-based independent label, co-hosted the two-day meet with GRT Tapes. Tomato's independent distributors from across the nation were treated to a product presentation and hospitality at the Maison Dupuy Hotel and a dinner climaxed by an Albert King show at Rosy's Club.

The fete was headed by Kevin Eggers, a music veteran who previously ran Poppy Records and Utopia Records. Eggers brought his executive staff, including Phil Lawrence, secretary-treasurer; and Milton Glaser, graphic artist who has conceived some dramatic graphic achievements for the fledgling label.

Herb Goldfarb Associates has been directing the independent distribution and coordination of sales and marketing, and Goldfarb will soon become general manager and senior vice president of Tomato. Several GRT Tape officials also attended, along with Tomato's regional force.

The events began with dinner at Rosy's Club and a strong performance from King, whose LP "King Albert" was highlighted at the Tomato conclave. King, who plays a mean and bluesy guitar led his six-man blues band through a torrid run of songs before the full house that was brought down with "Laundromat Blues."

Then the 91 attendees—indoctrinated with Tomato's theme "Grow With Us"—gathered for the Friday

product presentation as Eggers and Goldfarb praised the role of the independent distributors and unveiled some new King product.

Both King and his producer, Don Davis, took part in the presentation.

Eggers announced that Townes Van Zandt, a former Poppy artist is signing as an exclusive artist with Tomato. The label's first seven LPs are by such artists as Lightnin' Hopkins, Dick Gregory, Clifton Chenier and Van Zandt.

Tomato's distribution lineup includes Tara, Atlanta; Acquarius, Boston; MS, Chicago; Action, Cleveland; Big State, Dallas; Record Merchandising, Denver and Los Angeles; Music Trend, Detroit; Pickwick, in Fla.; Minneapolis and St. Louis; Nylan, Honolulu; Daily, Houston; Hot Line, Memphis; All South, New Orleans; Beta, New York; Schwartz, Philadelphia and Washington; Alta, Phoenix; Pacific, San Francisco; and Sound Record Distributing, Seattle.

Timely Springboard

NEW YORK—Springboard International Records has launched a new program calling for monthly releases of what it considers timely product directed toward the budget buyer.

Four of its 14 October releases are film oriented, in keeping with the recent success of "Star Wars" and other movie scores. In addition, Springboard is releasing a two volume "Hits Of Elvis Presley" by Bucky Dee James. A similar approach to the November product schedule is expected.

AIMP Grows Strong, Begins Flexing

• Continued from page 4

have been even bigger if it had licensed print to a major instead of trying to do it itself.

Print music, according to Carlton, once a label topper, is cleaner than the record/tape industry. There are no freebies, no discounting and he said that print licensors are wary of letting such practices enter in.

Almo has a single formula pretty much for doing business with licensees, Carlton stated. The firm pays 12.5% on mix, 10% to 12.5% on educational, 35 cents per copy of sheet music and 5% to personalities.

When queried about advances, Carlton and his fellow panelists warned that the higher the advance, the better must be the music's potential.

Reiner said it's easier for the jobber and retailer in sheet and folios to deal with one publisher. Tony Stetcheson, Hollywood sheet/folio retailer, pointed out that on "Annie," where there are two publishers issuing print, he plays one against the other to get the best price for what he needs.

Carlton explained that if he pays top dollar at Almo for tunes, he expects complete exclusivity, so he can get his money back. Reiner noted

that WB Music now has 105 employees, capable of operating a totally self-sustaining print house, doing everything from creating arrangements to making good graphic print material.

He said his staff has the expertise to advise the client where his music should go into the various classifications of print.

Carlton discounted the claim that a song can be overexposed in print. He said that "Moon River" appeared in 4,000 different print releases in a four-year period. During that same period, mechanicals increased 400%, he added.

Kahn, who works for Leonard, a house specializing in the education field, favored greater specialization and non-exclusivity. He and Reiner and members of their staffs attend the state and regional music educator conventions yearly.

Typically, more than 3,500 Midwest music educators attend the pre-Christmas Chicago annual conventions, where literally hundreds of these influential educators hear seven band concerts yearly where the top school marching, and stage bands and choruses perform.

Schiff pointed out that the child playing a school music organization

is the best record/tape buyer in an adult. "They never forget the music they played in school," Reiner said, too, that major print licensors can help encourage greater expenditures from school budgets for music departments by doing as he and other firms on the panel do in supplying record demos to individual educators.

Kahn said educators favor current pop material arranged for the school music organization. Reiner said good band arrangements cost 10,000 to 15,000 at from \$15 to \$20 each. Reiner and Schiff encouraged lyric writers to lay off using clichés and obscenities, because they slashed into the possibility of school using the song.

Panelists agreed that sheet music should remain at a \$1.50 suggested list, when Stetcheson mentioned he had heard there was a 50% raise imminent. Carlton said that 80% of his print department's income comes from folios and the sheet music are found dollars.

Almo collects an average of 60 cents with a payout of 35 cents. There is not much room for a change right now, he added. Stetcheson warned that if prices rise, "we are in for much Xeroxing and copying."