

General News

Steppenwolf
Files Lawsuit

LOS ANGELES—Steppenwolf and Steppenwolf Productions seek more than \$1 million damages from New Steppenwolf, claiming contractual breach and business interference, in a Superior Court suit here.

The plaintiffs allege that John Goadsby also known as Goldie McJohn and Nick St. Nicholas also known as Nicholas Kassbaum and Kent Henry violated release settlement agreements made in 1977 and 1979.

The amended pact of July 1979 called for the defendants to pay \$1,500 to the plaintiffs, along with \$687.50, which covered performances prior to July 1979 and 5% of gross on performances after that date with monthly accountings.

The suit also charges defendants authorized more than one group at a time to perform as Steppenwolf, worked without St. Nicholas and Goadsby and used John Kaye's name without permission. The suit charges these infractions were brought to the attention of the defendants and Steve Greenberg also known as Steve Green of Advent Talent in November 1979.

Big Pink Contract

SAN FRANCISCO—Locally-based 415 Records has closed a studio deal with the 16-track Big Pink Studios of Mill Valley, Calif. The deal calls for production at Big Pink of three albums to be released on the fledgling label.

Copyright Tribunal
Listens To Yetnikoff

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will be forced to go back to work as "dishwashers and waitresses."

Higher mechanical rates might even force CBS to drop production on less profitable lines, said Yetnikoff, using classical music as an example. "If the economic punch gets too severe," he said, "classical is one of the first areas we'll have to get out of."

Yetnikoff objected to the National Music Publishers Assn. proposal to set the mechanical royalty rate at 6% of the suggested list price of records.

Many record companies, CBS included, are in the process of getting rid of the suggested list price, he explained. Answering a question posed by Commissioner Clarence James Jr., Yetnikoff said that if forced to decide, he would suggest that the Tribunal somehow determine the actual selling price of records and set a mechanical rate at some percentage of that figure.

Yetnikoff stated that he believes whatever rate the Tribunal sets will become the actual mechanical royalty rate. "It's not going to be a ceiling," said Yetnikoff, noting that most Harry Fox contracts call for the "statutory mechanical rate."

Yetnikoff was followed Thursday (26) by Dr. George Butler, vice president of Columbia's jazz and progressive music a&r. He told the commissioners that dramatic change has taken place in the industry in the last decade.

"Ten years ago, material came

from publishers and was merely recorded," Butler said. "Today, the artist is a songwriter as well. Many artists are reluctant to record music other than their own." Butler said that 98% of jazz artists compose their own music.

TSOP Reactivated

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ergrass, Lou Rawls, the Jones Girls, Dexter Wansel, Jerry Butler, Frankie, Leon Huff, Dee Dee Sharp, the Futures, Bobby Rush, Silk and Billy Paul.

Depte explains that the reason for transferring Philadelphia International artists to TSOP is to balance the rosters so that too many similar type acts won't be on the same label. Future signings to both labels will follow that philosophy.

Depte will become president of both labels and the current Philadelphia International staff will work product by both labels.

First product on TSOP will be the O'Jays' "Girl, Don't Let It Get You Down," scheduled for release the first week in July, followed by its album "The Year 2000" at the end of July.

McFadden & Whitehead's "I Heard It In A Love Song" will shortly follow with the Stylistics' "Hurry Up This Way Again" to be released in August. Releases by MFSB (album and single) and Jean Carn (album and single) are expected in the fall.



BLUES DUES—A \$50,000 check from Universal Pictures and Blues Brothers Productions for distribution to children's charities is accepted by Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne from Blues Brothers Dan Ackroyd, left, and John Belushi. The donation is a gesture of thanks to Chicago for hosting production of the "Blues Brothers" feature film.

CARNEGIE CELEBRATES 90TH

NEW YORK—The Carnegie Hall debut of four major U.S. orchestras will be recreated during the 90th anniversary season of the famed concert hall in 1980-81. The orchestras are the Boston Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Another recreated premiere will be the touring Czech Philharmonic's performance of Dvorak's "New World" symphony, first performed in 1893 at Carnegie Hall.

Violinist Isaac Stern, who will be celebrating his 60th birthday and 20th anniversary as president of Carnegie Hall, will be presented as soloist in four orchestral concerts plus chamber and solo works.

According to executive director Stewart Warkow, Carnegie Hall is in discussion with several companies about record and broadcast productions relating to the anniversary.

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