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Singapore 'Stonewalls' Music Reps

By LEO SACKS

NEW YORK — Government officials in Singapore "stonewalled" a group of U.S. businessmen and commerce and copyright representatives last month when they met to discuss commercial counterfeiting there.

The assessment by Stan Gortikov, president of the Recording Industry Assn. of America (RIAA), came after the group made "modest" progress during a week of talks in Taipei on the counterfeiting issue with Taiwan officials.

Authorities in Taiwan are publicly committed to curbing trademark, patent and copyright infringement, according to Gortikov, who estimates that fake goods represent 60% of the cassette market there, or 5.6 million units. Revisions in the trademark law are expected by June, he notes.

The march toward greater commercial protection in Singapore, however, looks grim. "Piracy is condoned by the government," says the
(Continued on page 57)

INDUSTRY CONCERNED

States Act To Pass Video Rating Laws

NEW YORK—A legislative trend that could end up bringing government regulation to the home video marketplace has caught the home video industry unprepared. Two states have already passed laws that turn the Motion Picture Assn. of America (MPAA)'s voluntary ratings system into full-scale legal requirements, and two other states are considering the same laws.

Legislatures in Tennessee and Maryland have passed ratings-related legislation that are waiting for the signatures of the governors to be enacted, and laws are under consideration in New York and New Jersey.

While the Maryland law simply requires that videocassettes be labeled with the different codes, in Tennessee video retailers will actually have to enforce the legislation, prohibiting

minors from renting both R- and X-rated cassettes. And additional bills pending in Maryland would prohibit the sale and rental of R- and X-rated cassettes to minors, the public display of video packaging depicting the same kinds of acts, and the playing of R- and X-rated features on in-store video screens.

The Maryland labeling law would hit violators with a \$25 fine. The Tennessee fine would come to \$50 a
(Continued on page 57)

Country Chart Wars Involving Publishers In Indie Promo \$\$

By EDWARD MORRIS

NASHVILLE—As the jostling for country chart position continues to intensify with tighter playlists and more breaking acts, record labels and producers are turning more often to publishers to help pay the fees for independent record promotion. It is a trend that most publishers privately denounce, but they are going along with it, primarily out of the fear that

otherwise their songs won't be selected for singles or, worse, won't be cut at all.

Even publishers who have a company policy of not hiring promoters admit to doing it occasionally if there is enough label pressure or other economic self-interest involved. Since an independent usually charges from \$1,500 to \$3,000 to work a single for its chart life, publishers are trying to establish stringent criteria for promotional participation, and some are asking songwriters to share the costs.

Publishers are generally cautious about acknowledging how labels squeeze them. But Donna Hilley of Tree International concedes, "There have been instances where if we had not hired an independent, we wouldn't have gotten the single. Certain labels do require that."

The resulting cost, Hilley says, has convinced Tree that it must begin asking its writers to help share in it: "We never have in the past, but we had a meeting with our writers re-
(Continued on page 57)

AES Confab: Bitter Aftertaste

By STEVEN DUPLER

ANAHEIM—"A lack of focus" and "a waste of time and money" are among the phrases being used by exhibitors to describe the second annual Audio Engineering Society (AES) international conference held here May 11-14. Anger, confusion and resentment clouded the scene, and many of the 65 manufacturers who exhibited referred to a "semi-boycott," marked by the conspicuous absence of such prominent equipment manufacturers as SSL, Neve, Otari, Shure, Harrison and MCI. The latter firm cancelled its reserved booth space just one day before the show opened its doors.

The ill feelings stem from what many manufacturers regard as the inability of the AES to justify yet another trade exhibition, especially after its decision last year to hold exhibitions down to one U.S. and one international show annually. The AES had previously held two U.S. shows per year—one West Coast and one
(Continued on page 58)

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IN THIS ISSUE

— Inside Billboard —

• ASCAP HAS BEEN DEFEATED in its bid to win court approval to withhold a per-program license from the ABC television network. The U.S. District Court decision highlights the growing conflict over licensing procedures be-



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Not all **CHOIRBOYS** do their singing in churches. The fierce hard rocking sound heard on the debut album from **CHOIRBOYS** (ATCO 90161) sends shock waves from the band's native Australia to turntables across America. Re-choir-ed listening from Atco Records and Cassettes. (Advertisement)

- Inside Billboard -

- **ASCAP HAS BEEN DEFEATED** in its bid to win court approval to withhold a per-program license from the ABC television network. The U.S. District Court decision highlights the growing conflict over licensing procedures between the performing rights society and television stations. Page 3.
- **RADIO EXCITEMENT** over Bruce Springsteen's forthcoming album, "Born In The U.S.A.," has led CBS Records to obtain another cease and desist order. This one was issued to WSKS Cincinnati, which aired the album twice in its entirety almost a month before its scheduled release date. Page 3.
- **COUNTRY MUSIC VIDEOS** are on the rise. Nashville's major labels have all stepped up their production of country clips in response to the spread of music-oriented television outlets. Page 4.
- **WCFL CHICAGO**, the one-time top 40 giant, is being born again. State-wide Broadcasting, which is taking the station over from Mutual, is turning it into a full-service contemporary Christian outlet. Radio, page 12.
- **MEXICAN BORDER PIRACY** has reached "alarming" proportions, according to an IFPI report. Antipiracy action is being hampered by Mexico's "unsatisfactory" laws, IFPI says. Page 3.
- **PLOUGH BROADCASTING** will be selling nine radio stations to a group headed by Rob Dyson for a reported \$60 million. An agreement in principle has been reached with Dyson, who owns three stations in New York State. Radio, page 12.



CRISTY LANE "ONE DAY AT A TIME", another first in music. The world's #1 Gospel album finally charts at #25; two years and two million sales later. The first artist ever to receive an Ampex Gold Reel Award for Gospel, First to sell one million, has a new single and video "Midnight Blue" from the album "Cristy At Her Best". LT 51153. Her biography "One Day At A Time" (3rd printing) is destined to be a movie. LS Records (Advertisement)

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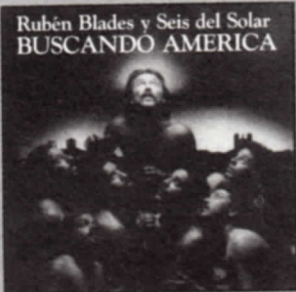
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RUBEN BLADES ■ BUSCANDO AMERICA



Rubén Blades y Seis del Solar
BUSCANDO AMERICA

- **PEOPLE** Monday, May 7, 1984
Blades is expanding Latin music, while preserving its roots. The album flies, as uplifting as it is ambitious.
- **THE NEW YORK TIMES** Wednesday, April 4, 1984
A rich, moving tapestry of life—and death. Although he has more than a decade as a popular singer, Blades gets the impression that when it comes to leaving his mark at large, Mr. Blades has just begun.
- **VILLAGE VOICE** Tuesday, April 17, 1984
A rich, moving tapestry of life—and death. Although he has more than a decade as a popular singer, Blades gets the impression that when it comes to leaving his mark at large, Mr. Blades has just begun.

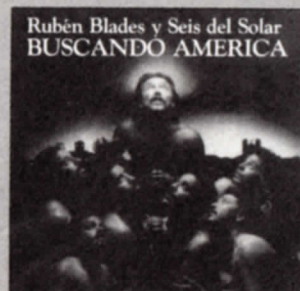


CREDIT CAROLINE GREYSHOCK/1984



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■ **VILLAGE VOICE** Tuesday, April 17, 1984

A gifted poet and sonero, Blades delivers humor, affection, and intelligence on the printed page that is amply fleshed out in his musical text.

Produced by Ruben Blades

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