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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: THE BEATLES
FILE NUMBER: 62-52493-A

VICTOR RIESEL: INSIDE LABOR

Rallies Against Beatles

A MAN OF awesome courage, usually a gentle chap, now is roused and rallying forces in the State, Labor and Justice Depts. to stand off another Beatle invasion in May and August—moments for which the Beatlemaniacs have been living.

This fellow is Herman Kenin, successor to James C. Petrillo as president of the American Federation of Musicians. Mr. Kenin just doesn't believe the Beatles are culture.

"The Beatles are not immortal to us," Kenin said the other day. "We don't consider them unique. They are musicians and only sing incidentally. We can go to Yonkers or Tennessee and pick up four kids who can do this kind of stuff. Guitars are now in the ascendancy in this country.

"Of course, we have a cultural exchange with other countries, but this is not culture. If they do get back into the country, they're going to have to leave their instruments at home, because there are enough musicians in the U.S. and too many of them are unemployed. They were here before we realized what happened, but it won't happen again."

Mr. Kenin and his colleagues are incensed. They say that the Britishers can come in only if there is a reciprocal arrangement and American musicians are booked into Britain.

This exchange arrangement was made some years ago when Stan Kenton, purveyor of progressive jazz, wanted to swing a tour through England. The London musicians union and the government would have turned him down unless the U.S. took some players from England. Mr. Petrillo, who was AFM president then, countered with a proposal that the gates be swung wide open to both countries. The British refused and insisted on a man-for-man swap. The pact was made. Only such artists as Jascha Heifetz or Arthur Rubinstein were to be allowed free entry.

The agreement was monitored by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Labor Dept. on this side of the Atlantic. All went smoothly until the Beatles swarmed onto the horizon. They claimed they were singers and were in the country before the AFM could protest that they were musicians, and, therefore, should have come under the man-for-man arrangement.

So Kenin wrote to the British Musicians Union. Back came a reply agreeing that the Beatles are primarily musicians.

"We are entirely in sympathy . . . wrote Harry Francis, assistant secretary of the English union. . . . It is true that the Beatles and Dave Clark Five are members of the musicians union. But neither group submitted the contracts for their American visits to us for approval.

"Having now received your official complaint, we shall arrange to publish a statement in the trade press that in the future British beat groups performing in the U.S. may do so only in reciprocal exchange for the performance of American musicians in Britain."

Having shored up the international front Mr. Kenin turned his wrath upon our own Government. He protested to the Labor Dept. Secretary Willard Wirtz, agreed to extend to actors and other entertainers an immigration clearance order which it issues for virtually all other occupations. Under this procedure the department must approve the entry of aliens seeking work in the U.S. Such admission is refused if qualified Americans are available.

Thus, the Beatles will need the Government's approval for re-admission.

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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Handwritten initials

- The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Journal-American 2
- New York Mirror _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date _____

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