

Maria Cole Working To Get To Her Grits

ACCORDING TO A "Special To The Daily Defender" carrying a Los Angeles dateline, Mrs. Maria Cole, widow of the late Nat "King" Cole, is returning to show business to pay off monumental debts and obligations of the beloved entertainer who enjoyed star status for more than two decades. Previous publicity releases announcing Maria Cole's return to a singing career had stated that her earnings would be used to establish a King Cole Cancer Research Memorial Fund.

The Chicago newspaper's report revealed startling figures in itemizing specific outstanding debts, crediting an unidentified accountant with providing the information that Cole died "steeped in debts and that taxes would nearly wipe out the \$140,000 estate left to his wife and children."

Mrs. Cole who was a night club singer before her marriage to the famed singer, has been authorized by the court to borrow from the estate to liquidate outstanding obligations.

Specifically, the news report stated that, in addition to claims which have been filed by former accountants, employees and others for services, other claims against the estate include two by World Minerals of the Netherlands totaling \$605,000 for loans made to Cole since 1961 and that the records show loans in the amount of \$50,000 each, made to Kell-Cole Productions, a firm owned by Cole. Nator Inc., formed for the construction and operation of a rest home in which Cole held two-third ownership, has also filed claim for a \$53,000 loan.

King Cole, for some time, had problems with the Internal Revenue Service, and nation-wide publicity was given to the occasion when the government placed a lien against his property for alleged delinquent taxes.

Medical care for the singer in his comparably brief but final illness is reported to run to more than \$20,000.

Curtain Going Up On First World Festival Of Negro Arts

SINGER MARIAN ANDERSON, composer Duke Ellington and his Orchestra, poet-author, Langston Hughes, and the dePaur Chorus will spearhead the American delegation to the First World Festival of Negro Arts which will be held in Dakar, Senegal from April 1 through April 24 this year.

Mrs. Virginia Inness-Brown, President of the United States Committee, the private, non-profit organization in charge of American representation at the Festival, in announcing the Committee's first series of selections of leading American artists and experts to represent this country at the Festival, said that many more American Negro artists and performers will be represented in Senegal in the fields of dance, theatre, films, painting, sculpture, photography, classical music, folk music, recordings, and education. Individual artists and/or their works will be at the Festival and they will be announced in the next several weeks.

Noted American specialists and educators in the fields of Negro and African studies will participate. They include Dr. John A. Davis, who is President of the American Society of African Culture and the Chairman of the Department of Political Science of New York City's City College (Dr. Davis is also vice-President of the U.S. Festival Committee); Dr. St. Clair Drake, Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago and a well-known African artist; Dr. Hale Woodruff, Professor of Art Education at New York University, who is also a noted painter;

and Dr. Warner Lawson, Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Howard University, who is also eminent in the field of music.

THESE EDUCATORS-ARTISTS, along with Langston Hughes, and others to be announced, will participate in the "Festival Colloquium", an international symposium on "The Function and Meaning of African Negro Art in the Life of the People".

The United States Committee for this unique international event was formed in September of 1964, at the request of President Leopold Sedar Senghor, of Senegal. Other officers of the U.S. Committee are Dr. Davis, vice-President; Frederick O'Neal, Actors' Equity President, Treasurer; and Manning Gurian, well-known Broadway theatrical producer and Manager, Secretary. United Nations Ambassador, Arthur J. Goldberg, is Chairman of the Honorary Committee.

Mrs. Inness-Brown, Committee President, who with Dr. Davis and Miss Anderson, will be the official United States hosts at the Festival, in a recent press interview said, "I am greatly pleased that these noted personalities in the arts and humanities have accepted our invitations to represent America at Senegal. We hope that everyone will realize the enormous significance of the Festival and will lend support to the United States Committee in this venture.

"We truly believe that participating in this Festival is one of the greatest steps that we as Americans can take to advance the understanding between Africa and America."

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