

ywood

QUICK NOW: who do you know who puts formaldehyde on his fingers to toughen them, has a sister who's a gospel singer in England, and who has been awarded the keys to the city of Albany, New York?

Then you obviously aren't one of the thousands of people across the country who've bought and flipped over a new record album titled "Presenting Rubin Mitchell," which is easily one of the most exciting jazz piano sounds to hit the show business scene in recent years.

THE MAN who makes the sounds, pianist Rubin Mitchell, is understandably as fascinating as his music. I soon found this out when I caught one of his sessions recently at the plush Century City Plaza's Hong Kong room in West Los Angeles, where he drew the biggest crowd in the

history of the popular night spot.
Under contract to Capitol Records, Rubin is a native of Tampa, Fla., where he delivered the Tampa Bulletin and the Fla. edition of the

Pittsburgh Courier as a boy. He and his sister, Betty Mitchell, a gospel singer in England, credit their musical careers to their father, a Bishop in the Emanuel Taber-nacle Baptist Church of the Apostolic Faith. "Very few people would argue the fact that

good jazz, gospel singing and preaching are essentially the same thing," notes Rubin. "However, if you walk into a down-home, fundamentalist-type church and announce that you're a jazz musician, more than a few eyebrows will be raised.

THERE SEEMS to be a kind of unwritten acknowledgment of the idea that music may be from heaven, but the devil stole a piece of it when he was kicked out and turned it into jazz. Many good Baptists will tell you that 'you can't serve two masters; if you play jazz you're serving the devil, and if you sing spirituals you're

praising God'.

"Of course, in reality they're one and the same. It's just that many 'good Christians' think of jazz being played in dirty, smoke-filled bars with aptly-endowed prostitutes weaving their ways through a sea of ogling men. That's why Duke Ellington is having trouble taking his sermons into some pulpits.

"On the other hand, some musicians have deep feelings of guilt over religion's accusations against jazz. They try to dismiss these feelings by rejecting religion and refusing to be identified with the church. The simple truth is that you can't separate the two.

WHEN I SIT down to a keyboard before an audience I know I can either use the jazz medium to say the rosary or curse or preach a fireand-brimstone sermon. I've actually gotten on stage hungry, played my soul out, left, gone to eat and discovered I was full. Now what is that but an undisputedly religious experience?

"I'll have to admit that at first my own father had doubts about my pursuing a jazz career. However, the miracle of television brought the same music I wasn't allowed to listen to on the radio as a boy right into his living room. I left home with his h

The senior Mr. Mitchell has very reason to be proud. Rubin's first Capitol album, "Presenting Mitchell," sold over 40,000 copies the first week it was on sale. After Los Angeles, he'll be off to New York, where he'll appear at Albany's "The Lion's Den" and also cut a new

A third generation of Mitchells has already made his presence known: Rubin's nine-year-old son, Andre, is an acknowledged genius on (what else?) the piano and organ.

THE WORLD'S number one female vocal group, "The Supremes," will make their very

A Change For The **Better With** Chaney" VOTE MAY 2ND **Elect James** CHANEY **NLV CITY** COUNCIL



Pass Bill Prohibiting Apprenticeship Bias

THE CALIFORNIA General Assembly passed 43-26 a bill adding enforcement teeth to a law prohibiting racial discrimination in the apprenticeship programs of craft unions.

The measure was introduced by Assemblyman Leon Ralph (Dem.-L.A.) and makes violation of the law a crime, punishable by a \$1,000.00 fine and six months in jail. The bill now goes to the Senate. This measure is strongly supported by the NAACP and Mr. Leonard H. Carter, Regional Director, plans to testify for the bill during the Senate hearings.

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Remarkable" Rubin



CAPITOL RECORDING STAR-Rubin Mitchell, jazz planist under contract to Capitol Records. is climbing high on the national charts with his hit album, "Presenting Rubin Mitchell."

first Southern California appearance when they perform at the Hollywood Bowl on April 29th, The show is being staged for the benefit of the Motown Scholarship For Musical Excellence at UCLA, and for the United Negro College Fund. There will undoubtedly be a capacity crowd.

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