

STARD ENTERTAINMENT

MOTOWN RE-HIRES JR. WALKER

HOLLYWOOD—Jr. Walker has re-signed an exclusive artist-writer-producer contract with Motown Record Corporation. The announcement of the re-signing was made by Ewart Abner, president of the label.

In making the announcement Abner stated: "the re-signing of Jr. Walker pleases all of us here at Motown. Jr. Walker has been an important member of our family of artists for a long time; he is a major contributor to what has become internationally known as the "Motown Sound".

"We were recently the beneficiaries of an advance preview of his next album and all of us have become extremely excited about the prospects of this product; and we're even more excited about our continuing relationship with a gentleman and a great artist."



Shown above at the signing of Jr. Walker's exclusive artist-producer contract with Motown Record Corp and (l-r) Ewart G. Abner, president of the L.A. based company, Suzzanne de Passe, vp of the Creative Division, Walker, and Robert Gordy, vp of Jobete Music Company, the publishing arm of the company.

OHIO PLAYERS SIGN WITH PHONOGRAM/MERCURY



The Ohio Players, the number one progressive soul group, have been newly signed to a substantial, long-term, worldwide agreement with Phonogram, Inc./Mercury Records it was announced by Irwin H. Steinberg, President of the firm.

The agreement was the culmination of a series of meetings involving Steinberg; Dick Shelton, the Ohio Players' attorney; Bill Traut, the group's negotiator; Elzy White, management representative for the group; and Clarence Satchell of the Players. The contract was negotiated by Steinberg and Traut.

"The agreement creates a longevity of association between Mercury and the Ohio Players in addition to reaffirming the success this union of artist and record company has enjoyed this past year," stated Steinberg. The signing anticipates the release of the new Ohio Players LP, "Honey," due shortly.

The Ohio Players first album for the label, "Skin Tight," was released in March of 1974 and

within four months was certified gold, a first for the group. Since then, both "Skin Tight" and the followup LP, "Fire," have won platinum awards for sales in excess of one million units each. The title tracks from both albums have also been certified gold as singles.

Additionally, "Fire" attained the unique status of simultaneous number one positions on the R&B albums and singles charts, and followed one week later with the same dual number one positions on the pop charts.

Since the release of the pivotal "Skin Tight" album, the Ohio Players have risen from a third-billed concert act in March 1974 to headliner status starting in late February of this year. Nineteen seventy-five has also seen the group make great stride toward worldwide acceptance, witness by a highly successful European tour in January and early February, and huge overseas sales of the "Fire" album and single.

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