

B/N - BOB MARLEY

Big racket uncovered in Marley estate

Court sacks Rita as administrator

A MAJOR RACKET involving the estate of the late Bob Marley, internationally famous reggae singer, stretching from the United States to various other countries, is under extensive investigation.

A Supreme Court order has dismissed the widow of the superstar, Mrs. Rita Marley, as one of the administrators of his estate.

Also, the Court has ordered that she account to the Court, for all the assets which went into her hand which belonged to the estate, so that they can determine what restitution is to be made. Furthermore, all the assets belonging to the estate which went into her hand, or that of any other person not entitled thereto, or her agent, are to be

delivered up immediately to the remaining co-administrators.

Any interest which Mrs. Marley has in the estate are impounded until the taking of account. She is one of the beneficiaries of the estate, being the widow.

The *Gleaner* has learned that Tuff Gong Recording Studios, the Bob Marley Museum and the home

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ve2 In St. Mary have been taken over by the co-administrators of the estate who have appointed managers to run these companies.

However, Mrs. Marley's attorney, Mr. Michael Hylton, of Myers, Fletcher and Gordon, told the *Gleaner* that Rita Marley still has offices at Tuff Gong. He said it is owned by the estate but the remaining administrators are principally concerned with its management.

The Court order was made on Tuesday on the application of the firm of attorneys-at-law, Livingston, Alexander and Levy, acting for and on behalf of Mutual Security Merchant Bank and Trust Company and Mr. George Desnoes, the other

two administrators of Bob's estate.

It was made against Mrs. Marley who was appointed by the Court in December 1981 as one of the three co-administrators of the intestate estate. She did not contest the application.

According to information reaching the *Gleaner*, Rita Marley was once represented by two Americans Mr. David Stienberg, a lawyer in Philadelphia and Mr. Marvin Zolt, an accountant in New York, who used to act for Bob Marley before he died.

They came to Jamaica shortly after he died and gave Mrs. Marley particulars of the foreign assets owned by Bob at the time of his death, including a number of companies and certain properties abroad.

After the Court appointed the administrators, who were to make sure that all the royalty payments due to the estate were paid in, there were a lot of activities trying to get the assets in. Eventually, after some time it was established that fairly large assets involving United States companies and properties had been held away from the Jamaican estate by Stienberg and Zolt.

The *Gleaner* learned too that Mrs. Marley has said that these men had misdirected her and improperly persuaded her to execute certain documents, giving her the right of ownership, certain companies and investments which properly belonged to the estate. The other administrators, the *Gleaner* learned, brought these matters to the attention of Mrs. Marley and she terminated the appointment of the lawyer and the accountant, and she tendered her resignation as co-administrator in September last year. (When a co-administrator resigns it has to be presented to the Court to relieve the co-administrator of the appointment).

Mrs. Marley, it is understood, also submitted to the other co-administrators, a deed of trust alleging that all the properties that they knew of had been purchased by her in trust for the estate and would be handed over to the estate at its request.

The investigations which started in July last year are taking place to establish the full extent of the assets, which should have been brought into the estate. The co-administrators have appointed a firm of attorneys Sage, Gray, Todd and Sims of New York and Miami to represent the estate and to carry out the investigations. They in turn have appointed Mrs. Deloittee Haskins and Sells, to probe the accounts and to bring up meaningful statements to indicate the value and detail of the assets including cash received and disbursed improperly or otherwise.

Also, litigation is proceeding in the New York Supreme Court against Stienberg and Zolt to recover what could be a considerable sum of money for the estate.

The estate of Bob Marley involves 11 children by eight mothers, including Mrs. Marley and her four children. The administrators had been overseeing the upkeep of these children.

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