

Open Nego Investment Company

DALLAS, Texas (Special)—Opening of "George H. Starke, Investments," believed to be the first Negro owned and operated firm to engage exclusively in offering a comprehensive range of investment facilities and services on a national basis, was announced here this week.

Geared to meet the investment requirements of both individuals and institutions," according to the founder-owner, George H. Starke, the company will handle underwriting, private placements, distribution of and dealing in listed and unlisted stocks, mutual funds, corporate bonds and municipals, bonds of Federal agencies, collateral paper and realty mortgages.

Mr. Starke has been engaged in the field of investments and finance for several years. He has been connected with two member firms of the New York Stock Exchange and also served for a time as adminis-

trative assistant to the president of another concern. More recently, he was associated with Moody's Investors Service, Inc., one of the best known investment counselling firms, now a part of Dun and Bradstreet. He was the first Negro serving in his capacity with Moody's.

A graduate of Palmer Memorial Institute, he holds an A. B. in business administration from Morehouse College, and did advanced study in economics, law and finance at Atlanta University, the University of Florida (being the first Negro student at the latter institution), and the New York Institute of Finance, respectively.

He decided to organize his own firm, he said, because he believes "it can effectively fill a demonstrated, wide-spread need by extending such facilities to increasing segments of the population, which are becoming more and more investment conscious."

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Ellington Composed Music at Stratford

When "Timon of Athens" opened at the Stratford Shakespearean Festival July 29 the music sounded Oriental, again South American, but specifically it was Ellington. That's the opinion of the composer, Duke Ellington who paid a fast visit to Stratford to confer with the play's producer, Michael Langham and the musicians involved.

Ellington admitted he was startled when he was asked last January to compose the incidental or supporting music for "Timon." A few years ago he had composed a jazz piece specially for the Stratford Festival. It was his tribute to Shakespeare. His public responded by commissioning him to do "Timon."

He met Peter Coe in London, Eng., and discussed the play—getting a "translation" to make plain the difficulties of the Bard's English—and Coe's conception of characters and events. Then, when Coe quit as producer and Langham took over, the Duke had to confer with him at Stratford.

"The play as conceived by Coe and the play as conceived by Langham are two different

plays," Ellingham said, "but the difference has affected the music only slightly."

Does the music swing? The Duke's prominent eyes showed amusement. "When the action swings, the music will swing," he said. Then he admitted that in the ballroom scene the music surely will swing.

No Swing

One piece that won't swing is the "Queen" at the start of the performance. The Duke looked shocked when it was suggested he might be planning a jazz version of the National Anthem to fit into the "Timon" music. "I don't like the idea of messing around with the National Anthem."

The regular complement of the Festival Theatre Orchestra of 12 players will be used.

When he isn't putting the polish on the "Timon" music, performing at the Newport Jazz Festival or leading his band on a tour, Duke Ellington is composing music, designing costumes and writing script for a 60-minute show, entitled "My People," to be produced at the Century of Progress in Chicago in August. He wrote one piece in a car on his way from Malton Airport to Stratford.

"My People" will be a spectacular production of ballet, chorus, band and soloists, plus a soapbox orator.

"Two per cent of it will have a definitely social message."

Negro Background

"My People" will have something to say about the American Negro, his characteristics and qualities, his needs and his desires.

"The facts will be presented, that's all. There will be spirituals and work songs and then the Blues. Primarily, it will be entertainment—I hope it will be entertaining—but . . ." the Duke shrugged his shoulders.

The man on the soapbox will have another name, but he will personify Martin Luther King.

PLANS TO APPOINT NEGRO TO BOARD

Washington (AP)—President Kennedy plans to appoint Howard Jenkins Jr., as a member of the National Labor Relations Board. If confirmed by the Senate, Jenkins will be the first Negro to serve on the board. A coloradoan, Jenkins would succeed Philip R. Rodgers whose term in the \$20,000 a year post ends Aug. 27.

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