

Film Stars Face "Red Smear" To Aid Race Movie Role

Miss Goddard, Scenarists In Joint Protest

Paramount Deletes Role Of "Intelligent" Negro In "Hazard"

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — (ANP) At the risk of being called communists, Paulette Goddard and Roy Chanslor, scenarist, have protested the Paramount pictures deleting a Negro character written into a film for that company.

According to Chanslor, he was called in by the studio two weeks ago and asked to revise the screen adaptation of his novel "Hazard" by changing a Negro character to a white man. The character, a Negro porter named Jerry, and a Sunday school teacher, as written, was a man of education and preception far above his employment. In one scene in the film, Miss Godgard as the leading lady was to ask him for a tip on the races, and to receive a polite answer that, as a Sunday school teacher, he was not conversant with racing.

"PASSING THE BUCK"

Chanslor says that the producer of the film told him Paramount's New York office feared Southern reaction and censorship and had therefore ordered the change, but Chanslor refused the assignment and made public protest. Paramount countered with an official pronouncement that the change had been ordered and not for fear of censorship, but because Negroes have objected frequently to depiction of members of the race as menials in films.

Miss Goddard and the Screen Actors Guild then entered the fight. Miss Goddard commented that she was helpless because she had no script approval in her Paramount contract, but she issued a statement saying:

"A few months ago, my guild, the Screen Actors Guild, discussed and came to friendly agreement with the Motion Picture producers regarding the problem of employing Negro actors and the treatment of Negro characters on the screen. While I am on the friendliest terms with Paramount studio as an artist and citizen, I was most perturbed over the recent deletion of the character 'Jerry' from the script of my new picture 'Hazard' simply because he is a Negro who is portrayed in a sympathetic role. I am referring this matter to my guild so that the guild may discuss it with the producers."

Meanwhile, Paramount maintains the position that the character has been deleted and announces that production on the film, minus Jerry, was scheduled to begin last week.