

# Church-folk Ask Glaser To Let Satchmo Try His Vocals on Other Hymnals

**WHY DOESN'T JOE GLASER** let Louis Armstrong record a swing version of the Hebrew sacred anthem, "Eilic, Eilic?" asks a church-going reader of these pages in a letter to the showlife editor this week. According to him, Negroes the nation over would be glad to hear ol' Satchmo get off on an arrangement of that age-old hymnal, especially since he has done so well with "jump versions of heretofore sacred Negro spirituals. Louie Armstrong, king of the trumpet players, the reader says, has been singing and recording songs for a long, long time and with high honor and credit.

## Has He Run Out of Songs

It seems however, that he has run out of new songs, or that there aren't enough writers to supply him with new material. So, writes the reader, his manager, Joe Glaser, has seemingly decided to devote Louie's superb vocal talents to burlesquing a type of music most Negroes have been taught to expect only in the church or in religious gatherings.

"Armstrong," the letter reads, "has stepped in with a vengeance on ground formerly reserved for preachers, church choirs, gospel singers, etc., and is making questionable capital of something that doesn't ring so hot on the ears of many colored people who feel that it would be best for jazz musicians not to take church music for 'tomfoolery and commercial experiment."

## Feeling Widespread

That this feeling is widespread, was discovered a few weeks ago by a writer, who while in a grill listening to Armstrong distort "When the Saints Go Marching In," heard a tipsy patron declare: "Don't play that. Man, I ain't appreciate them jazzing up the songs my mother used to sing in church!"

Other opinion, although scattered, harped on the same theme. Hundreds of Negroes were reported to be incensed that Armstrong should be devoting his time to ridiculing the sacred side of the Negro's contribution to American and world culture while there was so much he could do in his own chosen field.

## Never That Hymn

That Armstrong would have a hard time getting "Eilic, Eilic," that Jewish religious anthem re-

corded, was a viewpoint expressed on many sides.

"They'd never let him do that," one person declared. "As long as he wants to burlesque his own people and their culture, they'll help him, but never, never, will he get a chance to insult the intelligence of the persons who control music and its output."