

LOS ANGELES—There can be no greater testimony to the basic schism between the American black music which is popularised on either side of the Atlantic than the attendance figures which two tours recently attracted in the States.

Neither Rufus nor George Clinton's Parliament/Funkadelic amalgam mean a light in terms of consistent British success. Chaka Khan and her Rufus lads played a big British gig but were most certainly not the main attraction; Clinton's musical manifestations have a cult following but certainly nothing more substantial as yet.

Yet in the States the picture is completely different. Rufus' latest album, 'Ask Rufus' is now gracefully sliding down the US Top 100 album chart having sold a million and "Hollywood", the current single, is trotting smartly up the 45 charts. (That single, incidentally, sounds ideal for British "pop" tastes in the light of successes by Deniece Williams, Syreeta, Minnie Riperton *et al* and could give Rufus a hit here if ABC persevere.)

Meanwhile 'Parliament Live—P. Funk Earth Tour', a brand new on-stage Clinton epic which commemorates their US tour earlier this year, has bludgeoned its way into the US pop album charts—first week at 79 (Billboard).



Clinton: cult following

Coincidentally, both groups were on tour at the same time a couple of months back and in one astounding week their four respective concerts all appeared in the top twelve box office grosses.

Rufus' four gigs attracted a total of 41,364 fans (one concert alone drew over 20,000) and grossed \$278,467, which must've helped them get over the shock of having about \$20,000 stolen from an hotel room in Chicago during the April leg of the tour.

And the outrageous Clinton's visually startling show was pulling them in during that week at the rate of \$4,980 (including two gates of just over 11,000) grossing, for the four shows, \$237,718.

Finally, the two groups were set to meet for a grand bash at the Los Angeles Coliseum on June 4. An expected 100,000 were due to attend and the full, mouth-watering bill read: Parliament/Funkadelic, Rufus featuring Chaka Khan, Bootsy's Rubber Band, Brothers Johnson, The Isley Brothers and Fred Wesley & The Horny Horns. Wow!