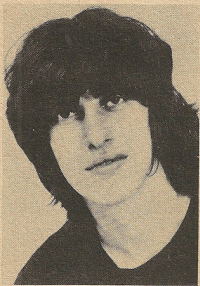


IT'S ALL DOWN TO BLUES, IN ENGLAND



SAYS 10 YEARS AFTER'S RIC LEE

WHAT is the reason behind the current popularity of British groups in the States? Is it because American audiences are so much in advance of the British, or is it a question of talent being appreciated away from the home country? Who better to find out from but a member of Ten Years After — one of Britain's top ambassadors of pop.

Once again the trans-Atlantic lines were busy as I talked with Ten Years After's drummer Ric Lee. Ric took a bit of time off from his extremely hectic American tour to tell me what it's all about.

"I think the reason why British groups, especially the blues-based ones, are so popular in America is the awareness of the people," Ric said. "Another possibility is the fact there are so many more people. In England, people tend to keep to the established scene — I mean the out and out pop scene, and they don't really look at the new things. This is possibly why so many progressive groups are labeled 'underground'. In the States, the people know all about you before you arrive at a gig. They go out and buy your LP's as soon as they're released."

Ten Years After return to England very soon from their third American tour and I asked Ric if he noticed any trend in pop music in the States.