

Actor Turns Down Million Dollars To Stay in U. S.

By ALINE MOSBY
HOLLYWOOD, May 21 (AP)—Richard Burton, England's stage idol imported to Hollywood a year ago, turned down a million dollars to stay in America because, he said today, he might not be "hot" in movies next year.

England, by the way, may not recognize its Shakespearean star when he does hit home base. He's trekking back partly Americanized with a crew haircut, Hollywood lingo and a few speech habits picked up from Victor Mature and Humphrey Bogart.

"I'm not now," admitted Burton with a true actor's honesty. "But I may not be hot a year or so from now. Twentieth Century-Fox studio offered me a contract for ten years, at one picture a year. But I'd hate to sign something we both might regret."

England's Home
He doesn't give a fish-and-chips for the money, he went on, because, since he's paid in sterling, he could keep only \$150,000 of it. "Unless," he added, "I gave up my English stage career to live in Hollywood and act only in films."

"But I don't want to do that. My home is in England and I'm a stage actor. That's where I belong."

"I'll come back for a film if they want me and I'm free. But I just don't want to sign any contracts. They're for actors not sure of themselves."

Changed Man
The movie colony dubbed him a dazzling new cinema profile, but Burton is packing up to return to acting for pin money at The Old Vic repertory theater in London. On "The Robe" set he induces everybody from Mature to the wardrobe man to hold the book while he rehearses his lines for "Hamlet." He wouldn't even stick around for the premiere of "The Robe" next August.

The 27-year old actor is not being shipped back to The Old Vic quite the same man, he has taken to serving scotch in his dressing room and during a photographic sitting at the beach he happily leaped into the ocean, clothes and all.

"If I stayed here, the English colony in Hollywood wouldn't be my friends, anyway," he said ex-



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actly. "I like the Americans—Victor Mature and Humphrey Bogart."

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