

CRYSTAL GAYLE

HOLLYWOOD, TENNESSEE

Keepin' power/ The woman in me/ Ain't no sunshine/ You never gave up
on me/ Hollywood/ Lovin' in these troubled times/ Love crazy love/
Lean on me/ Crying in the rain/ Tennessee.

(CBS 85171).

Hot on the heels of her second Columbia album, 'These Days', which yeilded two No1 country singles, comes Crystal's new album. After a faltering start with her first album for Columbia, there is no doubt that Crystal is now back on top form.

These days, however, the lady's choice of material spans many musical categories, with the ever present support of Allen Reynolds masterful production. The album's title tracks which close side one and two respectively, are a good example of those contrasting styles. 'Hollywood' is a mainstream pop number with a solid up-tempo beat, while 'Tennessee' is fairly stark with only fiddle and piano accompaniment. Nice to see that Britain's own Roger Cook, now resident in the States, had a hand in penning both songs.

Disco and soul music get an airing with 'Keepin' Power' and the early Seventies, Bill Withers self penned hits, 'Ain't no sunshine' and 'Lean on me'. 'The woman in me' and 'Love in these troubled times' are set in the man/ woman ballad mould, the latter being the closest Crystal comes to a country number with its chug-along beat.

It really is a shame that Zella Lehr had a country hit earlier this year with 'Love, crazy love', because it has obviously detracted from the freshness of the song. That being said, Crystal gives the number her best, with that aching voice of hers. Given a sufficient push, however, 'Love, crazy love' could be a monster hit for her.

The falling piano chords on 'Crying in the rain' gives an excellent effect to the old Everly Brothers standard.

