

FINAL ** 5c

WEATHER: Cloudy, chance of
rain. Highest temperatures 55-60.

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Freed Out In TV Squeeze

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Freed Off TV—It's 'Mutual'

By MILTON CHERNIN

Alan Freed, the Big Daddy-O of rock 'n' roll, won't be seen on TV Channel 5 any more after Sunday. His "Big Beat" show has been dropped by the station.

He didn't quit—he claimed. He wasn't fired—they said.

But yesterday, after a long conference, his contract was, as they phrase such things, "disengaged by mutual consent."

JUST A FEW DAYS ago Freed was fired—no equivocation about that—from his radio job with WABC, because of his refusal to sign a statement denying he received "payola"—cash for plugging certain records. The question, Freed maintained, was an "insult."

For the TV people on Station WNEW-TV, he signed a notarized statement attesting: "At no time during my period of association with Channel 5 have I at any time committed any improper practice or omitted to do any act or thing for which I might properly be criticized."

"Does this mean," he was asked bluntly, "you have taken no payola?"

That, he said, was exactly what it mean. No payola.

WAS HE OFFERED any?

Not in New York, he said. But he remembered offers of gifts and money to play certain records back when he was in Cleveland and Akron.

Freed had a 2½-hour session yesterday morning in the office of Bennett Korn, vice president in charge of television for Metropolitan Broadcasting Corp., and both men came out issuing statements. Freed's was the "no-improper practice" one. Korn's said the station was taking over the program Freed had handled, so as to "have control over it."

Freed's "Big Beat" disc jockey show has been on from 5 p. m. to 6 p. m. Monday through Friday, and his taped show was seen

Saturday nights from 9 to 10. They are teen-age dance shows.

Freed was his own producer.

FREED SAID he has not been subpoenaed in either District Attorney Hogan's payola probe or the Harris subcommittee investigation in Washington.

"I'd be happy to testify," he declared, "and after I clear my name I'm going to continue in the broadcasting business. I have had offers."

He will go on with his Brooklyn

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ROCK 'N' ROLL POTENTATE: 'D BE HAPPY TO TESTIFY' TO 'CLEAR MY NAME.'

Alan Freed (center), and his wife, Inga, talk with WNEW general manager, Bennett Korn, before the two agreed on a disengagement from contract agreement "by mutual consent."

Photo from the Reader Staff

FREED: Out Of Job on TV

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Fox Theatre stage show at Christmas as scheduled, he said.

A couple of high-school girls, hanging around for his autograph, got turned down cold. But they remained loyal.

ON OTHER payola - probe fronts, Detroit disc jockey Tom Clay, fired for admitting an extra take of nearly \$8,000 a year, defended the system as "part of the business," just like "taking an apple to the teacher." Another Detroit jock, Don McLeod, quit yesterday.

Program rating systems are to blame for TV's ills, the president of Mutual Broadcasting System, Robert F. Hurleigh, declared in Chicago. He said they were perpetrated by hoax, riggings and pre-planning."

He called for a new rating service to provide a "solid, fundamental basis for analysis and comparison—a service that cannot be swayed or influenced by the person paying the freight." Present rating practices are "meaningless," he charged.