

**WALL ST.
EDITION**

LATEST PRICES

NEW YORK
Journal American



No. 26,133—DAILY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1959

10 Cents

2d Station Drops DJ



TV Show Will End Saturday

By ATRA BAER

Rock 'n' Roll King Alan Freed's contract with WNEW-TV has been "terminated by mutual agreement," the station announced today.

The decision to drop Mr. Freed was reached even though the disc jockey signed an affidavit swearing that he had not accepted any bribes to play certain records in his television program.

The man generally credited with coining the phrase "Rock 'n' Roll" wept as he emerged from a meeting at which the decision was reached.

Only last weekend, Mr. Freed was fired by radio station WABC for refusing to sign a questionnaire stating that he did not let money influence the selection of records he played on radio.

At the time, Mr. Freed said he didn't sign the document because he considered it an "insult" to his "reputation for integrity."

Today, he stated:

"I signed this statement and not the one at WABC because nobody here tried to force me into signing it."

TEENAGE IDOL

A teenagers' Rock 'n' Roll idol, Mr. Freed conducted the Big Beat afternoon show on WNEW-TV. The program is a packaged product entirely operated by the electronic jockey.

The program is on the air daily from 3 to 6 p. m. and on Saturdays from 9 to 10 p. m.

On the show, teenagers dance to records and sometimes recording artists appear and do a "lip sync"—mimic the words—while their platter is being played.

In a move to gain tighter control over what is telecast over its facilities, the TV station said that from now on it will produce its own popular music shows and will not accept outside packages.

WNEW-TV said the Freed show will continue through next Saturday when it will end.

MUTUAL AGREEMENT

Station manager Bennet Korn read a letter from himself to Freed which said that although the contract would be terminated effective next Dec. 6, "except that you shall not be required to render any services in connection with any program scheduled to be broadcast after Nov. 29."

"We are mutually disengaging our contract," Mr. Korn told reporters.

Station manager Bennet Korn said the contract "would have expired anyhow" on November 29, which is next Sunday.

In his departure agreement, Mr. Freed signed an affidavit stating:

"At no time during my period of association with said program and Channel 5 have I at any time committed any improper practices or done or committed any act or thing for which I might properly be criticized."

The action was taken after Freed met for two hours with WNEW-TV official at the station's offices at 205 E. 67th st. Also attending the conference were Mr. Korn, Mr. Freed's blond wife, Inga, his lawyer, Warren Troob, the channel's general counsel Robert Dreyer, and Jack Lynn, station program director.

Martin Block Raps Bosses

By JAMES NOLAN and LARRY NATHANSON

Martin Block today accused 35 broadcast program directors of taking payola.

"There are those in the industry who must be paid off if a record is to get on their lists," Mr. Block charged.

In a blistering attack, the dean of record-show MCs said the current investigation is literally going around in circles by trying to link DJs with payola.

The program directors — whom Mr. Block did not identify—select the music to be played on many record shows.

Some industry sources maintain that 95 per cent of all DJs are told what music to play by station officials.

Block himself denied ever taking payoffs.

"The closest I have come to it was when I once received a record with a \$10 bill attached.

"They just don't approach me," Mr. Block declared.

"Of course, I want you to know I have many friends in the music business and if we exchange gifts at Christmas time it might be a bottle of liquor, something that says 'Merry Christmas,'" Mr. Block explained.

"If there is anything of greater value, it is immediately returned."

Mr. Block said he willingly signed WABC's affidavit swearing he never got payoffs.

Mr. Block, who was named at the end of the recent Congressional quiz show hearings when charges of payoffs were first made, said the investigation is not going to improve radio.

"The inquiry is not going in the right direction. You must go to the source, the music publishers and the phonograph record makers," Mr. Block replied. "A disc jockey can only play what is made. There should be more inquiry at the source.

"Why are there so many rock and roll records?" Mr. Block asked cryptically. He didn't answer, except to say only about 5 per cent of his music is rock 'n' roll.

"Mine is a packaged show and I select my own records," he added.

"I have refused to play rec-

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