

Freed Telling All

Payola Checkers Get His Story

25 NOV 1959

By EARL WILSON

Special to Newark News.

NEW YORK—Allan Freed, the twice-fired disc jockey for the past 48 hours has been busily but secretly telling all about payola practices to two investigators for the House subcommittee probing the radio and television industry, it was learned today.

Seemingly casting Freed as their star witness in the forthcoming Washington investigation, an investigator and an attorney asked him primarily about "disc jockey practices in other cities."

Freed acknowledged that he had been questioned about Dick Clark, his rival who he said "should be investigated."

"What if anything did you say about Clark?" Freed was asked.

"I merely answered some of

their questions about him," Freed answered.

They seemed primarily interested "in one individual," Freed added—being careful not to name the individual.

Freed also revealed today that after being fired by WNEW-TV, he is turning the tables and firing WNEW-TV—he is through and won't do any more shows, not even today's.

Government agents, he said, moved in yesterday and seized approximately \$6,000 due him from WNEW-TV and ABC radio, to satisfy tax liens against him.

"This shows how rich I must be," was his comment.

Though scheduled to broadcast his "Big Beat" dance show the remainder of the week on TV, Freed decided about 3 a.m. that he was through.

"I'm not notifying them—let this be their notice," he said after a supper party with his staff at a W. 58th St. restaurant.

"Played for Sucker"

"I decided I was being played for a sucker," he explained. "The more I thought it over the more I realized I was being a real creep.

"WNEW had said to me, 'Be graceful about it. We'll say it's amicable.' I finally said to myself, 'What's the difference? I'm being fired.'"

The Harris subcommittee quizzers started questioning him soon after he was fired and they also interrogated Johnny Brantley, talent coordinator of Freed's show, and Jack Hook, a former associate and onetime booking agent for his dance shows.

The questioning continued yesterday and will resume today