

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : John C. Harrington,
Chief, Complaints and Compliance Division

DATE: January 10, 1961

FROM : J. Philip Smith,
Attorney, Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Interview with Arthur Freeman, of Concord Distributing Co.,
620 Frankfort St., Cleveland, Ohio, with respect to Alan Freed and WINS.

INTRODUCTION

On January 10, 1961, the undersigned interviewed Mr. Arthur Freeman in connection with an alleged meeting. Mr. Freeman had in the summer of 1954 with representatives of Variety Magazine, Billboard Magazine, and WINS Radio Station, with respect to Alan Freed. Following is a brief report of the undersigned's interview of Mr. Freeman.

1. Mr. Freeman stated that his recollection of the subject meeting is very vague now. He did state, however, that he remembers that the meeting was arranged at his behest (although he has forgotten whether he asked Variety or Billboard to set it up), and that there definitely was a representative from WINS management present, although, he cannot remember his name or whether it was he, Freeman, who asked him to be there. Furthermore, he stated that he has no notes or memoranda that would reflect the exact people who were at the meeting or what was said. Mr. Freeman believes that the WINS man who was present was the program director.

2. Mr. Freeman stated that he remembers giving a copy of the letter which Alan Freed wrote to him to the WINS representative, as well as the representatives of Variety and Billboard. Mr. Freeman confirmed the fact that this was the letter wherein Freed stated outright that he would not play records for Mr. Freeman unless he received a regular stipend. According to Mr. Freeman, the subject letter was stolen during a burglary of his apartment about four years ago, and the police have not been able to solve the crime. The letter was in an attache case along with several other documents all of which were taken at the time of the burglary.

3. Mr. Freeman was then asked by the undersigned if the name Bob Leder struck a bell with him as being the representative from WINS present at the subject meeting. Mr. Freeman stated that the aforementioned name did sound familiar to him, but he could not be sure. Mr. Freeman was then shown a picture of Bob Leder in the January 2, 1961 issue of Broadcasting Magazine, and asked if said picture looked like the WINS

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man involved. Mr. Freeman answered that the picture did look like the man he spoke to at the subject meeting, but that he could not swear to it, it being some six years ago.

4. Mr. Freeman stated that he does not remember what the man from WINS said during the meeting - only that he was there and that he (Freeman) gave him a copy of Freed's letter and showed him the original.

5. The undersigned then requested Mr. Freeman to reduce to writing all of the events surrounding the subject meeting, as best as he could recall them. Mr. Freeman balked at this, stating that, before he would sign anything, he would have to consult with his attorney, and that he would not be able to get in touch with his attorney until the beginning of the following week. Mr. Freeman also stated that he would also have to talk with his wife about signing a statement because she is a very close friend of Mrs. Alan Freed. All of this seemed a bit incongruous in view of the fact that Mr. Freeman attempted to expose Alan Freed in 1954. However, Mr. Freeman explained that he married his present wife after the subject meeting in 1954. Furthermore, he explained that he and his wife are legally separated now, but that he is trying to effect a reconciliation. His wife is now living in Los Angeles.

6. The undersigned then helped Mr. Freeman compose some notes covering the matters which should be included in his statement when and if he should decide to furnish same. The subject notes were written by Mr. Freeman himself, and were retained by him.

CONCLUSION

The undersigned feels that it is very doubtful that Mr. Freeman will furnish the Commission with anything of value in writing. He

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seems to be resentful of the fact that neither the FTC nor the FCC took any action back in 1954, as a result of his endeavors. He has now signed a Cease and Desist Order with the FTC and is a little shop-worn with respect to furnishing any information voluntarily and seems to have no fear of the possibility of a subpoena if an investigation or hearing (this being merely an inquiry at this stage of the game) were ordered by the Commission. Actually, Mr. Freeman, if he is telling all he remembers and knows, does not possess any really usable evidence, anyhow, except that a man from WINS management was present at the subject meeting and was shown the letter from Alan Freed and was given a copy thereof.

The next step, as the undersigned sees it, should be to interview Bob Leder in New York City.

*J. Philip Smith (signed as of
Jan. 23, 1961)*

J. Philip Smith
January 10, 1961