

M E M O R A N D U M

October 28, 1960

To : MR. JOSEPH STONE  
From : INV. E. JOHANNSEN  
Re : DISC JOCKEY INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to your request and upon the direction of Mr. Thomas M. Fay, Jr., Chief Investigator, the writer visited the New York Public Library, 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue, Theatre Collection Room 315~~8~~, and obtain<sup>ed</sup> a copy of the August 25th, 1954 issue of Variety.

On Page 39 an article entitled "Blowing The Whistle On A Taker", containing no byline, read as follows:

"Variety's current editorial focus on the payola situation in the music biz in recent issues sparked a novel press conference in New York last week. Art Freeman, head of Benart Distributing in Cleveland, called the meeting to blow the whistle on a Cleveland disk jockey who allegedly has made a tie-up with a rival Cleveland distrib.

"According to Freeman, this deejay put pressure on several diskers to switch their distribution affiliation from Benart to the competitive company. Bait was that the jockey would give them spins and the threat was if they didn't switch this jockey would ban spins of their releases. Freeman also produced a letter from this jockey in which he frankly asks the distrib for a regular monthly stipend to plug certain disks.

"Freeman raised the issue in New York because this Cleveland jockey is launching a show on a New York indie outlet. Reps of this station were present at the conference and squawked at not being notified in time to straighten out any differences. Freeman stated that the differences between himself and the jockey have resulted in a \$100,000 loss to him and hinted that he would take legal action to clip this jockey's operations."

A photostatic copy of page #39 has been ordered, the writer being advised that it would be sent to this office and would be received on or about Tuesday, November 1st, 1960.

J. M. S. P.

E. Johannsen