

Memorandum for Files.

5 June 1961

W.H. Hunter, Jr.

Ronnie Granger Interview *Vits*

On April 26, 1961, Ronnie Granger was interviewed in the presence of his attorney, W.P. Smith, at the Henry Hudson Hotel, New York City, from 9:45 pm to midnight. Granger had gone with WINS as a producer in 1956 and became the Librarian in 1957. The station was at 28 W. 44th Street and moved to Central Park West about the latter part of 1957 at which time the "Top 40" started.

Lacey and Freed did their own shows and their music was not determined by the program director or librarian, all others were. Had separate typed list for each d.j. to use as to what was to be played. D.J.'s could reject any record. Also could run in any record (substitute). No list made at any time of what was played. Before the top 40, each d.j. would listen to a group of records and pick out ones to be played. Librarian made up a list balancing it out (i.e. avoid two vocalists together). Received 200-300 new records a week. Pick hit of the week. (after top 40) was selected by director. Top 40 were selected by phoning record stores each Thursday and would combine lists based on votes. Permanent record was made of the record lists. Pick hit had to be played once a show and the No. 1 record once an hour. Three times an hour would have been O.K. Bob Smith was originally program director with Ronnie Granger and when went to Top 40. Leeds became Program Director (several program directors in between).

Freed had own library in Conn. The discs were played in Conn. Two engineers in Conn. and one in New York on a Freed show. Record companies would send records directly to Alan Freed. Freed would have his man occasionally pick up in New York special ones he (Freed) didn't have. New records coming into the station went to Granger first. Meetings were held each Friday. Present would be Mel Leeds, Mr. Granger, and whatever disc jockey or jockeys not on air and available. Mr. Granger's contact with record distributor and record company representatives were conducted in the foyer immediately adjoining the teletype room. Records would be handed to him to be considered the following Friday. When these contacts with record company or distributing company representatives occurred payments of money were not discussed nor did any money or other favors. Granger never discussed with anyone at the station his receipt of monies or other favors from record companies or record distributors. Granger never shared any part of any income, other than his salary as librarian at WINS, with any persons associated with WINS, nor with the company, ~~making~~ Gotham Broadcasting Co. Mr. Granger answered "no" in response to the question did he know from his ~~own~~ ^{own} knowledge that any one at WINS was receiving payments or substantial gratuities from ~~recep~~

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manufacturing company or record distributing companies. He also answered "no" to the question did any one tell him that they were receiving or had received payments or substantial gratuities from record manufacturing companies or distributing companies. Mr. William Payton Smith, Mr. Granger's attorney, advised Mr. Granger not to answer the question as to whether anyone had told him of someone else at WINS accepting or taking payments or substantial gratuities from record manufacturing companies or record distributing companies. Mr. Granger stated that he had never shared with anyone else at WINS payments or gratuities other persons may have received from record manufacturing companies or record distributing companies.

Mr. Granger stated that he had no contract of employment with the station and the provisions of Sec. 317 were never called to his attention. Mr. Granger had never been questioned by anyone at the station as to whether he personally had accepted payola or whether he had knowledge of anyone else at the station accepting payola.

Mr. Granger's first knowledge of his transfer to the news department at WINS, from his position as librarian, occurred about one week prior to his wedding which occurred June 6, 1959. Mr. Leeds at that time informed Mr. Granger that he was being transferred to the news department to fill a vacancy at an increase in salary and that (he) Granger could probably use the money in view of his forthcoming marriage. Mr. Granger resigned about 3 weeks after his return to the station. During the three week period Mr. Granger performed news room duties. Granger's European honeymoon lasted about ten days and was paid for by Mr. Granger (that part that was paid), from his own funds.

Mr. Granger's recollection of his association with a Mr. Gribble and Joachim was that he was approached by Mr. Gribble (no one else was present) to listen to some records and some tapes and to give his opinion as to their merit. Mr. Granger did accept some records, listened to them, and advised Gribble that they had no merit. The tapes were never presented to Mr. Granger for his evaluation. For these services Gribble paid Granger an amount (amount cannot be remembered) which

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represented payment for one week's services. The understanding was that this would be confiduous employment and an office and secretary to be furnished Granger. After giving his opinion on the first records Granger never heard anything more from Gribble or Joachim. At one time (1959) Granger contemplated forming a record manufacturing company but it was never finalized nor began operation.

During 1956-1959, Mr. Granger was also employed, in addition to his duties at WHNS by record companies as follows:

1959 - Co Ed (N.Y.) - duties promotion ^x - money compensation^{xx}

1959 - National Recording Co. (NRC) (Atlanta)- duties promotion ^x stock.^{xxx}

1959 - Carleton Records - record out in 1961 and Granger will receive compensation for title suggestion for album.

^x To approach d.j.'s at any radio station. ^{xx} Payments based on national *s.l.c.s.*,

^{xxx} With respect to the N.R.C. stock this was merely a contuing promise and the promised stock was never received.

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