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ABC Denies Aiding Clark

WASHINGTON, May 3 (UPI).—The head of the ABC network denied today that television disc jockey Dick Clark was permitted to sign a special "easy" affidavit stating he never took payola.

Leonard H. Goldenson told the House payola investigating subcommittee there was no significant difference in the wording of the "no payola" affidavit Mr. Clark signed last November and the one sworn to by other employes of the network.

Mr. Goldenson, president of American-Paramount Theaters, Inc. and of its American Broadcasting division, thus replied to a charge made by Alan Freed, former disc jockey for radio station WABC, the network's New York City outlet.

'DOUBLE STANDARD'

Mr. Freed was fired when he refused to sign ABC's standard affidavit denying he accepted payola. He has accused ABC of having a "double standard" and allowing Mr. Clark, star of the "American Bandstand" program, to sign an easier affidavit than others did.

Mr. Goldenson said there was "no basis" to Mr. Freed's charge. He said Mr. Freed was fired "because he refused to

provide us any information at all under oath upon which any judgment could be exercised."

Mr. Goldenson said ABC asked all employes involved in any way in music selection to sign the affidavit, and 110 persons responded with Mr. Freed the only exception. He made public a letter which he said Mr. Freed wrote ABC last Nov. 21 branding the request for the affidavit "a lack of faith and understanding" and "improper and uncalled for."

Mr. Goldenson declared that ABC is "unqualifiedly opposed" to payola and to hidden plugs on the air and said that the network has formed "certain new controls" to prevent these practices.

He said that ABC employes and performers now clearly understand that they face dismissal if they violate this policy. He renewed ABC's endorsement of a broad criminal law outlawing payola.