

AFTRA Strikes WPGC

AFTRA members struck WPGC/ Washington at 12 midnight May 2, upon the expiration of its contract

with the station. **Evelyn Freyman**, Executive Secretary of AFTRA's Washington/Baltimore local, told **R&R**: "The station is trying to destroy what AFTRA stands for." According to AFTRA, the main issues in the strike are the station's desire to gain the right to use pre-recorded tape in the future and the option to turn full-time air personalities into part-timers, a move which would deprive the AFTRA member of considerable benefits. "The company, **First Media**, owners of WPGC, wants to dispose of staff full-time benefits," said Freyman.

Attorney **Marshall Berman**, of WPGC's law firm Dow, Lohnes and Albertson, said, "I believe we have agreed on most issues." He stated that the station is asking for the freedom to use automation in the future, and that all present employees have been guaranteed that they will not be terminated, laid off, or become subject to reduction of hours or income owing to future automation.

AFTRA and WPGC's lawyers will meet with a Federal mediator Friday (5/5). Meanwhile, the striking personnel and other area AFTRA members are picketing the station, which has flown in jocks from First Media's other stations, **Z93/Atlanta** and **KAYK/Provo**. **Jim Collins** continues to program WPGC, but is not allowed to go on the air as he is an AFTRA member himself.