

## Secondary boycott charged in WPGC strike

**Station and NAB say advertisers are being threatened through 'hot cargo' AFTRA agreements**

A labor dispute at an AM-FM combination in the Washington market has taken on dimensions that the owners of the stations and the National Association of Broadcasters say could spell trouble for every broadcast operation in the country.

The strike, at WPGC-AM-FM Morningside, Md., was called by station announcers opposed to the station's plan to use pre-recorded tapes. That dispute continues unresolved since it began in May (BROADCASTING, May 16). But the larger issue now is the union's strike tactics, which the station and NAB have charged are illegal.

The station has filed unfair labor practice charges against the American Federation of TV and Radio Artists with the Baltimore regional office of the National Labor Relations Board, alleging that the union is running a secondary boycott against the station and is maintaining "hot cargo" agreements with the advertising agencies in the Washington area.

The secondary boycott, the station says, involves advertising agencies that have been instructed by AFTRA to withdraw from the station all recorded material produced with AFTRA talent. An attorney for the station, Marshall Berman, of the Washington law firm, Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, said last week that that directive, which went out in a May 9 memo from Evelyn Freyman, AFTRA Washington-Baltimore local executive secretary, to all agencies that have signed letters of adherence to the AFTRA recorded commercials codes, amounts to placing economic coercion not only on the station but on suppliers of the station, which he said violates the prohibition against secondary boycotts in the Taft-Hartley Act.

The "hot cargo" charge refers to the "letters of adherence" to the AFTRA codes that Washington-area advertising agencies have signed.

WPGC spokesmen have alleged that at least 10 Washington area agencies that have signed letters of adherence have received letters from AFTRA threatening suit if they do not withdraw their recorded commercials from the station.

AFTRA was approached for its responses to the station's allegations, but Ms. Freyman, through an aide, referred questions to the attorney on the case, who was out of town and could not be reached.

WPGC meantime, has gotten NAB to appeal to the NLRB office of the general counsel (which houses the division of advice) to file a complaint on the stations' unfair labor practice charge. The issues are too big, NAB President Vincent Wasilewski wrote in a letter last week, not to be considered in an investigation and hearing before the full five-member NLRB board.