

Maryland Station Hit By Fired Disc Jockey

By the Associated Press

A disc jockey who said he had just been fired by Radio Station WPGC of Morningside, Md., testified yesterday the disc jockey programs there were duplicates, one week later, of the programs of Boston Station WMEX.

Peter Simpson, the disc jockey, told House investigators that program schedules were made up in Boston and had to be obeyed to the letter. The stations are under the same control.

Morningside is near Suitland in Prince Georges County.

A representative of a Boston record distributor testified Monday that his firm paid WMEX regular sums to plug its records as the "gold platter" of the week.

However, Maxwell Richmond, president of WMEX and controlling owner of WPGC, contended the payments were to defray expenses of the show and could not be interpreted as payola.

Moss Questions

Representative Moss, Democrat of California, asked Mr. Simpson whether the WPGC policy didn't amount to complete disregard of listeners who asked that certain records be played.

"That would seem to be the case," Mr. Simpson replied.

He said the station received considerable fan mail, but that

so far as he knew it didn't comply with listeners' requests because of the need to follow the Boston format.

Mr. Simpson said he was fired because he broke a denture "and couldn't talk." He said he so informed the station and was told, "If you can't come in and can't talk you're fired."

Asked if he was testifying before the subcommittee because of the firing, Mr. Simpson said no, that he had intended for the last two months to ask to be heard.

Defends Testimony

However, when asked if his firing had motivated yesterday's appearance, Mr. Simpson said:

"I think that is true to some extent." But he insisted there was nothing vindictive in his testimony, and that what he said was true.

Mr. Simpson also testified that the Morningside station broadcast commercials which



PETER SIMPSON

—AP Photo

some listeners complained were misleading.

He described the commercials as "what is known as a pitch" and said they involved advertising new sewing machines and vacuum cleaners at \$12.95.