

Disc Jockey Says Md. Broadcasts Duplicate Firm's Boston Station

A disc jockey who was fired Monday testified that records played on the music-and-news station WPGC in Morning-side, Md., follow to the letter programs drawn up by station WMEX in Boston.

Majority owner in both stations is Maxwell Richmond who testified Monday that his station charged record distributors to feature their records.

Disc jockey Pete Simpson told House payola investigators that during his seven months with WPGC his programs had to follow a list made up in Boston a week earlier. He said he turned down many requests from listeners because of this policy. Only exception, he said, was a "hit of the week" record which disc jockeys could select.

Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.) asked if it was WPGC's policy to "completely disregard" listeners' requests. "That would seem to be the case," said Simpson. One of the Federal Communications Commission's licensing criteria is that a station should try to meet community needs and desires.

WPGC's general manager, Robert Howard, said Simpson's testimony was "com-



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PETER H. SIMPSON
... former WPGC announcer

pletely erroneous." He said WPGC "exchanges information" with WMEX and other stations but makes its own selections. He said Simpson telephoned him after testifying and said he did it to "get publicity."

Simpson also testified that

he had delivered commercials over WPGC including such "pitch announcements" as offering "brand new" vacuum cleaners and sewing machines for \$12.95. He said he had received numerous complaints about these commercials and had intended to quit his job when he was fired because of tooth trouble.

He said he broke his dentures Monday and called the station to say he couldn't work that day. He said the station said if he didn't go to work he was fired. Howard said Simpson's work "has not been satisfactory for sometime," and that he had been asked yesterday to go in to help break in a new announcer.

The Subcommittee on Legislative Oversight investigating payola had never heard of Simpson until he appeared in the hearing room yesterday and apparently had little notion what he would say until he said it.

Asked by Rep. William L. Springer (R-Ill.) if he was testifying to "get revenge," Simpson said that had "something to do with it." He said: "I don't see what difference motives make as long as I tell the truth."