

## AFTRA vs. WERE

For some months now, six DJ's and announcers at WERE have not paid their union dues, according to Hal Stettler, executive secretary

of American Federation of TV-Radio Artists. AFTRA is the union for broadcast talent.

Consequently "we had no choice but to send out letters to ad agencies asking them not to hire these delinquent members," said Stettler. WERE also received notice that the non-dues payers should be discharged according to union contract.

The men are still at the station: DJ's Jeff Baxter, Jack Daniels, Mike March, Johnny McKinney, and Newscasters Joe Dannery and Ray Tannehill.

"One man was fired," said Stettler. "That was Bob Hagen who was the only WERE man who paid his dues and appeared at negotiations."

## Explains WERE Stand

Speaking for the station, attorney Richard Miller said that WERE had signed a union contract, then withdrew signature after AFTRA sent out the letters about the six announcers.

"We are willing for the men to join AFTRA," said Miller, son of Ray T. Miller, WERE owner and county Democratic chief. "But the union won't accept them."

If the members aren't paying their way, the union has good cause not to accept them. According to Ted Smoot, AFTRA lawyer, all six quit paying dues at the same time, a remarkable coincidence.