

Jimmy Savile quits Radio One—to give someone else a break



VETERAN DJ Jimmy Savile is quitting his Radio One job after 19 years, so that a young newcomer can be given a start on the showbiz road to fame.

The flamboyant move is linked with his involvement in the recent "Hands Across Britain" campaign, which highlighted the plight of the unemployed.

Jimmy, who has presented Radio One's Old Record Club on Sundays, for 14 years, said yesterday: "Hands Across Britain got me thinking about sharing jobs. I have got two disc jockey jobs that I love, one for Radio One and the other on the BBC World Service.

"Quite honestly two jobs is not fair, so I



approached Johnny Beerling, controller of Radio One, and said: 'How about we find a new guy to give him the same start in showbiz life that I had?'

"Johnny replied that this would be terrific, but no way would he want to lose me from the station. So we have agreed that I will do a series of specials, leaving the regular slot to help the new guy."

That "new guy" is Edinburgh-born Nicky Campbell (26), a DJ with London's Capital Radio for 1½ years.

Nicky, who has been presenting Capital's breakfast show at weekends, said yesterday: "This is a great honour. Jimmy is one of the legends of radio and showbusiness."

He will start at Radio One with a Saturday pop music slot from 10 p.m. until

midnight, with his first scheduled for October 3.

Jimmy presents his Old Record Club for the last time on Sunday, September 27. As well as leaving his regular slot, he has donated £6,000 to sponsor two trainees on a recently launched BBC scheme to help people to get into the media.

Jimmy is the son of a bookie's clerk who never brought home more than £5 a week — to keep a family of nine. He worked down the mines for seven years until he injured his back in an explosion.

Then he was a Mecca ballroom manager for 10 years, beginning in Leeds and ending up as Eric Morley's personal assistant. He began disc jockeying for Radio Luxembourg

and competed the first Top of the Pops on BBC TV in 1964.

Radio One says Jimmy's move has prompted a re-shuffle of weekend programmes and the plans involve a new "oldies" show.

Mr. Beerling said yesterday: "This is a noble gesture by Jim. It's typical of the man that he should want to give up his weekly slot for someone else.

"We know that Jim will always be a friend of Radio One and we have already got some special 'one-off' programmes lined up for him, the first of which we hope will be at Christmas."