

Stop the World, Murray the K Wants to Get Off

New York—Deep cracks are showing in Murray the K's World, but producer Michael Myerberg insists that his month-old Roosevelt Field discotheque is not on the verge of crumbling around him.

The sprawling entertainment center received its latest jolt yesterday when Murray (the K) Kaufman announced that he was removing himself and his name from the World, and that he had filed complaints against Myerberg with several artists' guilds. Kaufman, a 40-year-old ex-disc jockey who ran the discotheque's shows, charged that Myerberg owes him about \$50,000 in back salaries. He also claimed that Myerberg's arrests on charges of serving liquor to minors have "breached the morals clause of my contract."



Murray the K
He Stops Happening

The 59-year-old Myerberg, whose Roosevelt Field movie studio was idle last year, denied Kaufman's charges and countered by saying he fired Kaufman a week ago, but he must be wondering what's coming next. Since he opened the World on April Fool's Day, Myerberg's career has been an endless, humorless practical joke. In addition to being arrested twice on charges of selling liquor illegally, he has gone before the State Supreme Court to block any attempt to terminate his lease. (His landlord's attorney confirmed that the landlord was studying whether the use of the building as a discotheque was a lease violation.)

On top of it all, business has been tailing off badly after a promising start. Myerberg said he had expected to be making \$25,000 a week, but that he has done about half that in the past three weeks. He said Kaufman's contract stipulated that he could be discharged if business dropped below \$17,500 a week, and that he gave Kaufman a week's notice last Friday. "I don't know who's fault it is, but we just didn't do the business," Myerberg said. He added that he couldn't keep paying "the kind of high fees Murray the K demands" and expect to stay in business.

Still, Myerberg spoke boldly of the future, detailing plans through next fall. He said the place will go under the name of "the World" and that, except for the discontinuation of matinees, business will go on as usual this weekend with several rock 'n roll groups on hand. He even said he plans to expand from three to four days a week during the summer and return to the matinee policy in the fall.