



CAMPAIGN for INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING

Chairman: DAVID PREWETT, THAME (084421) 2589 Press-Public Relations: MARTIN ROSEN, 01-203 0861

General Secretary: A.M. BUNZL, 01-467 4759

Treasurer: CAROLINE PETERS

13 Ashwood House, London, N.W.4.

Tel.: 01-203 0861. Telex: 263236

Formerly-National Commercial Radio Movement

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25th April, 1971

Present

David Prewett, Fredi Bunzl, Martin Rosen, Caroline Peters, Mrs. Miriam Battersby, Rae Forster, John Rowe, M. Powell, M. P. Ross, Miss Roz Barber, J. Cainer, P. Duncan, Miss J. Harrison, Mr. D. McDonald, Miss J. Miller and Fred Hasler.

The meeting opened at 2.35 p.m. David Prewett took the chair. He read the minutes of the last A.G.M. Fredi mentioned that with regard to the decision to change the name of our organisation, although we did not know at the time the exact effect of the change, it has in fact become more well known and widely recognized than we had ever hoped. As agreed at the last A.G.M., all members had been written to and asked to vote by post on the resolutions agreed at the A.G.M. subject to approval of the members. Only one or two persons had voted against one or two of the resolutions put.

Chairman's Report

We had had a tremendous year all in all; the unexpectedly favourable election results, and a great increase in membership, and a great deal of hard work by the Committee, which resulted in the C.I.B. becoming an organisation the Government thought worth listening to. The period before the election in particular had involved much hard work for the Committee, putting before all our members and the public the views of each party on the subject of broadcasting in Britain. A number of us had taken time off work to visit B.B.C. local radio stations and to stage protests, hand out publicity material, and to cause as much publicity as possible. A great deal of literature was printed prior to the election and distributed in all sorts of ways; this brought in many new members. Martin and David had obtained a car with loudhailer, and went through streets in and around London "broadcasting". R.N.I. was transmitting at this time, despite effective jamming transmissions by the Government. It is usually only Communist countries which consider it necessary to interfere with broadcasts, and a rally was held at the site of the Post Office jamming transmitter at Rochester, which was most successful and obtained much publicity in the press. R.N.I. heard of the meeting to be held at Hyde Park, and broadcast details; this was also very well attended. RNI gave some CIB telephone numbers over the air at one stage, and caused havoc in the homes of the owners, as the telephones rang constantly for some days, with calls from all over Britain and some from the Continent.

Following the election, plans were made to contact members of the new Government. The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications met with us on 14th July, when we gave our views on the principles of jamming radio broadcasts, and also our proposals for the structure of future broadcasting in Britain. The Minister had strong views on the usage of unauthorised frequencies (with which we agreed), but agreed that there was a need for additional stations. In the next couple of weeks we produced proposals on the use of broadcasting frequencies by the B.B.C., and on commercial radio.

During the autumn the new Government's White Paper on commercial radio was expected within two months; there was however much controversy between many parties with an interest in commercial radio, which resulted in considerable delay to the White Paper. During October we produced a second set of proposals, in which we highlighted the coverage being achieved by the "second generation" B.B.C. "local" radio stations; for example, B.B.C. Radio London was being received well in a large area around London, as far north as Bedfordshire and well into Berkshire to the west of London. VHF car reception had been improved. The general theme of these radio stations revolved around the need for future commercial radio stations to have sufficiently large FM service areas to ensure high quality reception after dark when

many "local" medium wave transmissions would deteriorate sharply away from the immediate transmitter location.

Treasurer's Report

Caroline reported that income during the year 1970 had been much more than expected. Sales of publications such as car stickers and Broadcasting Studies had brought in over £70. There had been considerable expenditure on advertising in the press, and on leaflets and brochures just prior to the election in June. However, at the end of the year our account had been well in the "black" with about £40 in the bank.

David gave a word of thanks to Fred Hasler, who resigned as Chairman during the year. Fred, who founded the organisation originally, had put much hard work and funds into the running of the N.C.R.M., as it had been - not to mention the fact that the organisation had been run from his flat for a considerable time. The meeting agreed that much gratitude was owed to Fred who was to be told we would welcome him back on the Committee at any time.

Election of Committee and Officers

No nominations had been received for candidates other than those who were on the Committee as at the end of the year. It was understood that all these would be agreeable to re-election. The meeting therefore agreed that this should be done.

Martin proposed that David Prewett should become Chairman; this was seconded by Fredi, who added that David had worked very hard as Chairman in 1970, and without his effort the C.I.B. could not have achieved all it had done. The meeting agreed this appointment.

John Rowe proposed that Martin Rosen should be Press & Public Relations Officer - Mrs. Battersby seconded and the meeting agreed. Martin proposed that Fredi Bunzl should be General Secretary - Roz seconded this and the meeting agreed. John proposed Caroline Peters as Treasurer - Fredi seconded this and the meeting agreed.

Other members of the Committee (subject to their agreement) would be: Mrs. Miriam Battersby; John Rowe; Mike Lane; Frank Cope; Rae Forster; Adrian Procter.

Any Other Business

Fredi spoke about our activities during the year, and the very good amount of coverage given by the Press to our activities. At our press conference most of Fleet Street was represented, and gave us a good report. Some of the things we had done were remarkable in that they had cost very little - even things like P.A. systems had been loaned free of charge for rallies on occasions.

White Paper

Roz asked what plans we had regarding the White Paper, which had just been published. David said that the Committee had gone through this, and had come to the conclusion that in general it was rather vague in its intentions; this bothers the Committee a lot, and some points we intend to take up are: the White Paper's proposal to have an expanded I.T.A. to control the commercial stations; the arbitrary upper limit of the number of stations, which is set at 60 in the White Paper - it would be better to wait and see what coverage is given as the system evolves. Another point is that the Paper states the main portion of broadcasts will be news and information on a local basis - such a station could not possibly compete with B.B.C. Radios One, Two, Three and Four. "Excessive profits must not be allowed .." - who decides what is an excessive profit? In London and other large cities profits may be quite high, and the "Authority" may impose levies too high for the stations to meet. On the question of a national news service, this may not be a good idea, and it is not clear whether a station providing only news is intended, or an extension of the I.T.N. service.

Future Plans

A meeting with Mr. Chataway has been requested. Some M.P.'s have suggested that we should produce a set of very hard hitting objections to the White Paper to attract the maximum publicity from the Press. A meeting is taking place next week with Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, M.P. A letter will be sent to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, giving our opinion on the White Paper and its various proposals, and points we would like to discuss further. David said that we must also strongly oppose the idea of Hughie Green's, of a company providing the majority of programmes,

pre-recorded, to stations. Sponsorship of programmes must be most strongly opposed, and Mr. Green's scheme of "patronage" is sponsorship under a different title. Apart from the fact that advertising will be overbearing in a "patronised" or "sponsored" programme, there is sure to be some effect on the contents of the programme also. The spot advertising system is far preferable to this system.

David thought it very important that the Police and the Ambulance services should be moved from the VHF band - they themselves did not really like being there where everybody can listen in. This space will be very useful for extra radio stations. In the future it is going to be even more important with stereo radio broadcasting to have these public service stations removed from the VHF band.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.