



CAMPAIGN for INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING

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Formerly-National Commercial Radio Movement

Newsletter to all members

October 1970.

Dear Friends,

Well quite a bit has happened since the last newsletter, so let us start off with a round-up of the various radio stations that have been operating, or about to operate.

RADIO NORDSEE INTERNATIONAL - Thursday, September 24th, 1970, is another date to go down in the pages of "off-shore history". As you probably know by now, the station closed down on that day. The real reason for the closure is surrounded by mystery. It was probably a combination of pressure by the Dutch Government, and debts the station must have been incurring. Perhaps by the time this newsletter is printed, or finished being drafted, we will have some more news, in which case we will add it onto the end.

We have already had people writing and 'phoning us for a copy of the last hour of R.N.I., on tape. We are trying to make arrangements for copies of this, but exactly how is not yet decided, but if you would like a copy, please send a s.a.e. to us, and we will let you know as soon as possible.

CAPITOL RADIO - This "sweet" music station, broadcasting near where R.N.I. was anchored, has been off the air recently. We understand that they have had some storm damage, and the boat is being repaired for the winter months. We also understand that there has been an injury on board. The ship, which is at present in dock, is due out within the next few days, but in the light of the closure of R.N.I., its future is not certain.

RADIO GERONIMO - The progressive music station which broadcasts Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, between 12 midnight and 3 a.m. on 205 metres. There has been no progress as yet in acquiring the out-of-use FM transmitter in Normandy, as briefly mentioned in the last newsletter.

Radio Geronimo admit they have had financial problems with the station, and are only just breaking even. It is possible that they will be taking advertising in the future, but it will be "selective", to fit in with their type of programmes. The ads probably will be placed in time segments, and broadcast together and not as spots as used on the off-shore stations.

MANX RADIO - Mr. Kneale, the General Manager of the Station tells us that it is presently broadcasting on a maximum power of 1 kw (1000 watts), and operates on 232 metres, 1295 khz during the day, and 188 metres, 1594 khz at special times during the darkness hours. They also broadcast on the FM band 89 mhz and 91.2 mhz, Channels 7 and 14.

The station has asked the Government to increase their power to 10kw. The reason for this is because their signal at present is poor in some parts of the island, especially in the Ramsey area. Our technical department reports that if they achieved this increase in power their signal as well as covering the Island would also cover Belfast, N. Ireland, N. Wales, Lancashire, Cheshire and Shropshire.

B.B.C. RADIO LONDON - The station which has been nicknamed by us as "Little L", commences regular broadcasts on Tuesday, October 6th at 06.45 a.m. The station has been doing test transmissions recently, on their wavelength of 95.3 mhz, Channel 28. On Saturday, September 26th, they broadcast what is supposed to be the first test programme (previously they have been relaying B.B.C. Radio 1). The second dedication on the programme, compered by Tony Black, was from Martin Rosen to all members of the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting living in London. The following two dedications were for members of the C.I.B. who had 'phoned the station at 01-493 5401.

Anyway we wish B.B.C. Radio London all the very best of success for the future, although we hope it will not be too long before the first independent stations are introduced to provide some competition. Probably in the next newsletter we shall have some more information about the station and their programmes.

Our Chairman, David Prewett, living in Thame, Oxfordshire, has been picking up B.B.C. Radio Birmingham (test transmissions), B.B.C. Radio Bristol, and B.B.C. Radio London (test transmissions). This confirms our view that regional broadcasting is possible on the V.H.F./F.M. band. We therefore urge us to make your views known to your local newspaper and also the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. And on Sunday September 27th, David managed to put over to listeners of B.B.C. Radio Bristol, some of the policies of the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting. What, perhaps was even more amusing, was the following speaker on the programme mentioned that he recognised David's voice, as he had attended one of the public meetings which David had addressed. This gentleman's topic under discussion had nothing to do with independent radio.

Talking about the B.B.C. ex-B.B.C. newsreader Kenny Everett can be heard on Radio Luxembourg on Friday nights between 10.00 - 10.30 p.m. And talking about Radio Luxembourg we wish their new General Manager, Alan Keen ex-Programme Director of Radio London, Big L, the best of luck in his new job.

MEETINGS - Members of the Committee of the C.I.B. have had various meetings with M.P.s and other people connected with broadcasting. These people that we met recently were: JOHN GORST, M.P. for Hendon North, who is also Secretary of the Local Radio Association, a group of potential operators; DR. GERRY VAUGHAN, M.P. for Reading, we met him with the Reading Free Radio Action Group; NEIL ARDEN, one-time broadcaster and producer of programmes, now a potential operator; GEORGE T. MURRAY, Managing Director of Marketing Economics Ltd., he proposes to do a survey on exactly what the potential audience wants from commercial, independent radio, and he is now in the process of trying to get a person or persons to back him financially for this venture, which is to be presented to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. Unfortunately, as the cost runs into several thousands of pounds we were unable to help; we also met PETER THOMAS, M.P. for Hendon South, and he is a member of Mr. Heath's Cabinet; finally, the GREATER LONDON YOUNG CONSERVATIVES, who do have some influence in the thinking of the national party.

To all these people we put forward our points of views on the various aspects of radio broadcasting. We got favourable responses from everyone we met, and were reasonably impressed by the work that had been put into our studies and statements.

MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS - As you know we had a meeting with the Minister a few months back. Our views on the future of independent radio are continually developing, and we therefore requested a further meeting with him to put forward our further suggestions. We received a reply from the Ministry suggesting that as we have already met the Minister once, and that he is still meeting people for the first time, he would rather we submit our further suggestions in writing. This we shall continue to do.

We were particularly pleased that when he gave the go-ahead to the further B.B.C. local radio stations, he restricted their transmissions to the V.H.F./F.M. band. The suggestions was put to him in a recent policy statement of ours for two main reasons. Firstly, to try and boost the long-wasted band, previously used for duplication of programmes simultaneously being transmitted on other wavebands. Secondly, we suggest that no more medium frequencies should be allocated until the Minister has evaluated the whole medium wave situation.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING CONVENTION - Following this convention held at the Grosvenor Hotel recently, Pye TVT are sending their caravan on a tour of the country hoping to allow potential operators to demonstrate local commercial radio in town centres. Although this mobile caravan will probably relay pop music and jingles from a loudspeaker mounted on the caravan, it must be borne in mind that needle time restrictions imposed by the Musicians' Union would seriously prevent local commercial stations from providing many hours of recorded commercial records. We hope that our proposals for regional independent radio will provide greater financial rewards for the musical trade, and there will be a large increase in the number of commercial records aired.

PETITION - As you know in the middle of August we handed in 5000 signatures to the Prime Minister. We would like to hand in another batch very soon, but we cannot do this unless we have enough signatures, so if you have not yet filled in a petition form, perhaps you will do so in the near future.

READING FREE RADIO ACTION GROUP - Our affiliated organisation are bringing out a magazine titled "Newsbeat". This should be published during the month, and is available price 1/- from the Action Group, at 333 The Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks. N.B. New address. (Incidentally if you live in or around the Reading area and you have not contacted R.F.R.A.G. it is suggested you do so). Amongst those writing for "Newsbeat" is Alan Clarke of Radio Nederland, also ex-Radio City. So if you want a copy, and for 1/- it is well worth it, write today, it may be helpful if you enclose a large s.a.e. when writing.

BRISTOL FREE RADIO MOVEMENT - This is another group which we are working closely with. The Group, incidently, are planning to undertake a listeners' survey in Bristol and are planning to meet Bristol M.P.s and local advertising sources. If you are living in or around the Bristol area, you may like to write to the B.F.R.M. at 33 Hillside Avenue, Kingswood, Bristol.

LOCAL FREE RADIO GROUPS - We have had branches of various free radio groups contact us to become part of the C.I.B. We shall discuss these proposals at our next committee meeting. If you are a Secretary or Chairman, of a local free radio group, and would like to become part of the C.I.B., please write and let us know, and we will be pleased to consider your application.

PUBLICITY MATERIAL - We asked, recently, if you were interested in having C.I.B. badges, to write to us. As there has been such a low response, we are not going ahead with them at the present time.

We have now completely sold out of all our Posters, and therefore these are no longer available. All the rest of our publicity material is available, that is, car stickers (6d) and Broadcasting Studies (2/-) which went very well in Trafalgar Square recently.

NORDSEE NEWSFLASH - In an exclusive interview with our General Secretary, Mr. Edwin Bollier issued the following statement: "We still have some surprises in store. It may take 3 - 4 weeks or 3 - 4 months, it all depends on whether or not we sell the Mebo II".

Well with that newsflash, we end another newsletter. We shall be issuing another newsletter as soon as there is more news, but we assure you that you will not have to wait longer than 3 months at the most.

Sincerely,

The Committee.