



# CAMPAIGN for INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING

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Formerly-National Commercial Radio Movement

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Dear Member,

Well let us be the first to wish you a very merry Christmas 1971, and a Happy New Year 1972!! We are very sorry we did not get around to a newsletter before the end of last year but pressure of work just piled up on us, and whenever one of us tried to get down to producing a newsletter we were called away.

We would like to thank all the members and friends who sent us Christmas Cards. There were too many to reply to individually, but many thanks all the same.

To get down to business, once again a lot has happened since we last wrote to you. But, first of all some sad news.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Fred Hasler, who has been with us since the very beginning has had to resign from the committee due to personal circumstances. Fred said that he would like members to know that he deeply regretted this decision, as the last surviving committee member of the Commercial Radio Listeners Association, (the first organised campaign supporting the off-shore stations, which was formed in a coffee bar on Paddington Station!) Needless to say he will be greatly missed by the rest of the committee. Of course should Fred ever feel he could return to the committee, there will always be a seat for him there.

With this resignation comes the alteration in our headquarters. All communications should now be sent to our new headquarters address: 13 Ashwood House, London N.W.4. Tel: 01-203 0861. If you have sent any letters recently to Welby House, they will of course be forwarded on.

## MEETINGS:

GEORGE T. MURRAY, Managing Director of Marketing Economics Ltd. We had further discussions with him about his survey into what listeners want from commercial radio. This survey has now been completed, and is called 'Sound Broadcasting in Britain and the prospects for Commercial Radio'. Should anyone be interested in purchasing a copy, it does cost £30. It has two full pages on our history and outlines some of our policies.

The survey itself, was only taken on a small scale, but it did confirm one basic point. Listeners do want to hear a certain type of programme from a radio station, i.e. as we have been saying, streamed broadcasting. The report, which is being widely circulated to the Press, and is being submitted to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, does suggest that listeners may not be prepared to buy a new V.H.F. radio set even if there were alternative programmes there. It is a question that can never be really assessed in advance. A lot will depend on the programmes that are being transmitted. An interesting supposition would be if the off-shore stations between 1964-68 had broadcast on V.H.F. only, what the ownership of these sets would be now.

MICHAEL ENGLISH M.P. (Labour) We first met him just before the Election, when we were distributing leaflets in his constituency of Nottingham, and happened to literally bump into him in the street. It was an interesting meeting in as much as he supported us on many points, but unfortunately, like all M.P.s, will have to vote with the Party or else abstain and bear the wroth of the Party Whips!

GEOFFREY FINSBERG M.P. & WILF. PROUDFOOT M.P. (Conservative) We met the two of them together, and they were very impressed with the work that we had done. (Mr. Proudfoot you may remember was responsible for Radio 270, a few years ago).

It was Mr. Finsberg who eventually was able to get us a further meeting in the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

MR. MEIER & MR. ROSCOE (No relation to the Emperor!) These were the two Ministry Officials we met. From them, we were able to get a further insight into the Minister's plans, as well as putting forward our own views. We understood that the Minister was still firm on setting up just local commercial radio, under the I.T.A. system of renting out transmitters and a centralised news service. We have always advocated that the stations should supply their own news service. Have you noticed how "The Times" and "The Sun", for example, report the same story? Different editors highlight different points, because they are catering for a different type of readership. Therefore is it right to presume that all listeners to radio will want the same type of news reporting? If the Government do decide to have a central news service, which we would very much regret, we hope it would be non-broadcasting. It would just supply the news to the stations and the editors at the various stations would choose what actual content to transmit.

LOCAL RADIO: In our last newsletter we mentioned that B.B.C. Radio London had opened. Since then other B.B.C. local radio stations have opened. On some of these stations members of the C.I.B. committee have either been interviewed or have put over some of our Campaign's points of policy. Most, if not all the B.B.C. local stations have some audience-response programmes, either you can phone in and discuss a point with them - on the air - or you can go along to their studios and do the same. If you live in range of a B.B.C. local station and they are discussing radio, (no matter how generally), try and put over either your own point of view, or part of the declared policy of the C.I.B. - in which case mention the fact!

There has been a lot of discussion towards the end of last year and the beginning of this, about the future of the B.B.C. local radio stations, and Radio 1 and its frequency of 247 metres. At the time of going to press no decision about this has been taken by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. The C.I.B. has said that as long as the B.B.C. wish to continue broadcasting these services, and they can afford to, they should be allowed to. THERE ARE MANY FREQUENCIES ON THE MEDIUM WAVE BAND AVAILABLE FOR DAY TIME BROADCASTING AT LOW POWER. We feel that a m.w. service can act as an advertisement for commercial stations broadcasting on V.H.F. and also B.B.C. local stations could broadcast on m.w. However, we are still convinced that the long-term policy must be towards the V.H.F. band solely day and night, and regional independent stations, programming streamed entertainment programmes (streamed or generic - one station would be a news station, another a pop station, another a light entertainment station etc. etc.) which we feel is what the majority of listeners want.

We also feel that rather than attempt to take away the B.B.C. Radio 1 frequency and hand it over to a commercial national system (247 m. is really a bad frequency for reception at night), it would be much better to introduce many more regional systems, giving more overlap and opportunity.

PRESS CONFERENCE: On January 11th, the C.I.B. held its first Press Conference. This was to outline our amended proposals which we submitted to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications earlier in the day. There were about 25 people turned up from the communications media. We had reports on B.B.C. Radio 4, B.B.C. Radio London, B.B.C. Radio Bristol, B.B.C. Radio Oxford. We know we had press reports in: The Times, The Guardian, Daily Telegraph, The Scotsman, Morning Star, Evening Standard. If you saw a report in a provincial newspaper not mentioned above, perhaps you would be kind enough to let us know. The basis of the amended proposals, suggests that the regional stations should operate on a radius of 50-100 miles on V.H.F. and an "inner circle" of 25-30 miles on medium wave by day, to "advertise" the V.H.F. service.

C.I.B. NATIONAL TAPE LIBRARY: We are proposing to set up a Tape Library. The system would operate thus; we send you a list of tapes available, you send us a blank tape or cassette and we will record for you at the desired speed and tracks the tape you have requested. We do not want to sell any tapes, because we believe that these should be freely available to all (initially members only). We will charge only 10p (2/-) to cover postage and packing, and hope that as many people as possible will send donations to C.I.B. funds. If you have any tapes that you



wish other people to enjoy, and would like to have them included in the Library, please let us know what they are. If you want more details, write as well. In each case please enclose a S.A.E. DO NOT SEND ANY TAPES YET!

Please address all communications for the Tape Library to:  
C.I.B. National Tape Library, 3 Oldfield Road, Bromley, Kent.

RADIO MONTE CARLO INTERNATIONAL: The station has been broadcasting to England, pop programmes since December 1st, on 205 m with d.j.s. Dave Cash and Tommy Vance. It broadcasts from 12.30 a.m. - 03.00 a.m. For those technically minded, it has a power of 400 k.w. Maurice Gardett who is in charge of the British operation says, "I don't want to be derogatory to British radio but my ideas are quite revolutionary over here." To back this up, between January 17th and 22nd, Dave Cash and Tommy Vance will be broadcasting live from Cannes at the 1971 Midem Festival. They will be including interviews from Richie Havens, Elton John, Ike & Tina Turner, the Marmalade, Mungo Jerry and Cat Stevens.

RADIO NORDSEE INTERNATIONAL: We understand that the Mebo II has moved from the Dutch to the Belgian Coast. There are still many rumours about the station. These suggest that an ex-Veronica d.j. may join them, and a Dutch record company "Red Bullet" may be connected with them. Suggested re-opening dates are late January or February. R.N.I. have now published their book detailing their history. It costs £1.50 (30/-) and is available from: R.N.I. Book (C.I.B.), P.O. Box 113, 8047 Zurich, Switzerland.

CAPITAL RADIO: Telex Communication from them tells us that the delay in returning is due to several factors. Firstly the cost of repairs, and an unduly large salvage claim from the Dutch 'Wijsmuller Tug Co.' (they towed the Caroline boats away in March 1968), negotiations with them are in progress. Finally, repairs are almost complete but there are at least 14 more days work to do. They cannot give us a definite date for return, but they should know in about 7 days time. (Telex dated 14th January, 1971).

DISC & MUSIC ECHO: In a survey compiled by David Hughes, of the main organisations campaigning for independent radio (issue dated January 9th), the C.I.B. was said to be "Undoubtedly the most active of all existing organisations." In the same issue, referring to the Free Radio Campaign, Alex McKenna says that " ... we now recommend all our members to join C.I.B." To both people we say a big thank you.

READING FREE RADIO ACTION GROUP: Just a mention for two good organisations that are doing a lot of good work in their respective areas. Firstly, R.F.R.A.G., their address is: 333 The Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks.

BRISTOL FREE RADIO MOVEMENT: They can be contacted at 33 Hillside Avenue, Kingswood, Bristol. So if you live in or around either of those two areas, why not drop them a line, and they will keep you informed of any local events. Please enclose a S.A.E.

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To: Campaign for Independent Broadcasting, 13 Ashwood House, London N.W. 4.	FOR OFFICIAL USE
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Dear Sir,	
Please renew my membership to the C.I.B. I enclose 37½p (7/6d) being one year's subscription.	No: .....
NAME ..... (Age )	Date: .....
ADDRESS .....	P.O./Cheque No.
.....	.....
I should like to be considered for the Executive Committee should a vacancy occur. (Please Tick) .....	
PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED, SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE	

CAR STICKERS: We have been pleased to see so many cars with C.I.B. stickers on. However, we want them to be seen even more! As we have only a very few stickers left, and it seems unlikely that they will be reprinted, we are offering them for 1p (3d) each! This makes them the cheapest car sticker available. Just to remind you, in case you have not already seen one, they measure  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 19", and are printed in 3 colours, with the slogan 'Fight Monopoly, Free Radio Means Free Choice'. We shall still be offering the usual discount if you buy 1 dozen. The price for 1 dozen is now 11p (2/3d).

RENEWALS: Just a reminder that there are some of you whose membership needs renewing. For your convenience we shall print a form at the bottom of this newsletter. Please note: On and after D-Day, February 15th, our membership fee will be 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ p - still only 7/6d in f.s.d. terms!!

POSTAGE: As from D-Day, the postage rates will be going up to 3p (7d) and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p (6d) 1st and 2nd Class. To try and bear the increased costs without increasing the membership fee, we must insist all communications to us should include a S.A.E. Most of you do now, but for the odd few that do forget, this is a reminder of how important it is.

SEEN: In B.B.C. Radio London's Visitors' Book, the comment "Don't change frequencies" signed by Larry Tremaine (R.N.I.)!

Well that is all for the present. Watch (hopefully!) for our comments in the press, about the Government's White Paper on Broadcasting which is due "about" February, and as Parliament will be voting on this, please put your own views no matter how short in letters to the papers and your own M.P.s.

If it is at all possible we will try and issue a newsletter or information sheet for members about that time to give you our views on this.

Until the next time,

Sincerely,

THE COMMITTEE.