



CAMPAIGN for INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING

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Formerly-National Commercial Radio Movement

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Dear Member,

Well as promised we have our views on the White Paper, which was finally published at the end of March. However, before the details, there is one other point we should like to mention.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: At the recent A.G.M. of the C.I.B., all existing committee members were re-elected for a further term of office (see minutes enclosed). Since the last newsletter, we have co-opted Miriam Battersby and Adrian Proctor onto the Committee, and since the A.G.M. we have received a resignation from Frank Cope, who due to changes in his work, feels he cannot attend further meetings.

"AN ALTERNATIVE SERVICE OF RADIO BROADCASTING": That is the title of the long-awaited White Paper by the Government. If you want a copy, its official title is as above, it is known as Cmd. 4636, price 12½p and is available from most bookshops or direct from any H.M. Stationery Office, by applying in person, or mail order to P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1.

Our main impressions are that it is very vague in details about the stations. In certain cases it is very contradictory. An example is where it states that a large content of the programmes must be news and local affairs. Later it says that the stations must compete with B.B.C. Radios 1 & 2. How can it possibly do both?!

As for the news broadcasts; we are pleased that Mr. Chataway has left it flexible for public discussion, i.e. letters to newspapers etc., and has said that the stations will be able to take the news at will. He also detailed three possible systems for the news. Firstly the I.T.N. being extended to be an I.R.N., but this has difficulties as I.T.N. is being paid for by the T.V. contractors. The second method is an entirely new news agency working closely with I.T.N. to supply news. Finally an all news station set up in London which would supply news to all the other stations. Out of the three alternatives we generally prefer the second idea where an autonomous agency works alongside I.T.N. but without any connection with I.T.N. The third suggestion for an all news station in London supplying news to all the other stations would lead to a news monopoly centred on a commercial company in London. If such a system could be extended to allow the possibility of other all news stations in say, Manchester and Birmingham, we would support this as an ideal with all the other stations able to select and broadcast news (or no news at all), from any source they desire. Basically we still feel that any commercial station should be free to draw their news from any single source they wish, in the same way as newspapers.

We also very much disagree with Mr. Chataway's arbitrary decision to limit, at least initially, the total number of commercial stations to 60. We believe that this should be left to the controlling body (I.B.A. or Broadcasting Council) to decide simply on the basis of technical feasibility and the number of operators who would like to start a radio station. From a technical point of view there would be room on existing frequencies for a great many more stations.

Earlier members of C.I.B. or N.C.R.M. as we were then known, may remember reading a leaflet we published, which stated that it was the Conservative Party's intention to set up purely local radio under an extended I.T.A. re-named I.B.A. March 1971 our prediction comes true! Whilst we would preferably like to see something more flexible, we feel that the I.T.A. can be made more so. The power at the top that makes all the final programme decisions should be widened to more people INCLUDING LISTENERS. We do recognise some of the better points within the I.T.A., for example advertising control. However, if the other rules are enforced on radio as with television, we will be back into the same position with radio as with television and that is, companies reduced to contractors to the Authority. As we have said before we would prefer the setting up of a Broadcasting Council as the I.T.A. in its present form is not really independent at all.

From the technical point of view - this is the most outstanding and forward-thinking proposal to come from the Ministry in years. We are particularly pleased that they are going to re-juggle the medium wave frequencies allocated to Britain to accommodate independent radio stations, (as suggested in N.C.R.M. 'Sound Broadcasting Study' - February 1969, price 10p). They are also going to enforce Article 8b of the Copenhagen Agreement on radio frequencies, which allows stations to share other countries frequencies on a non-interference basis. We are practically the only European country not to have already done this. Also moves are going to be made to clear part of the top end of the FM/VHF band from Police and Civil Services which is another forward step, and is one that we advocated in our previous policy statements.

The White Paper will now be drafted into a Parliamentary Bill. We expect legislation to be introduced next Session (after September 1971) and it will then go through the Commons and followed by the Lords, and depending if the Lords make any amendments it would then have to go back to the Commons again. After all that has been completed it goes for Royal Assent and then is known as an Act. This will enable the I.B.A. to appoint companies to broadcast, and we expect the first stations on the air by the end of 1972 - early 1973.

On the points we have mentioned above about the White Paper, we have expressed our views to people whom we have listed further on, and a letter has been written to Mr. Chataway. We hope to have a further meeting with him or his officials in the near future. We shall be trying also to meet many more people during and before the Debates begin in Parliament.

Overall C.I.B. view: Whilst it is nothing like Caroline, Nordsee, London etc., it is a step forward. Given enough scope it could be something reasonable. However, if it is restricted it will be hideous! We re-affirm that flexibility and freedom have to be the key words and we shall continue to fight for our aims and ideals.

MEETINGS:

KEITH BROWN: VICE CHAIRMAN OF GREATER LONDON YOUNG CONSERVATIVES:

We were able to compare notes and comments about the White Paper with him. We found that we agreed on several points, and Keith agreed to follow up our next meeting with the Ministry by pushing our views as hard as possible on behalf of the Y.C.'s.

JULIAN CRITCHLEY M.P. We were able to meet him and discuss our views with the Conservative Back-Bench Broadcasting Committee, of which he is Chairman. This was attended by several other M.P.'s including JOHN GORST, who is Secretary of the Local Radio Association. Mr. Critchley later gave us the names of several M.P.'s who we have not yet contacted, but would probably be interested in broadcasting. We have since written to most of these, outlining our views.

GEOFFREY FINSBERG M.P. We were also able to meet him and discuss the White Paper. Mr. Finsberg was pleased that we were writing to the Minister.

PETER ROST M.P. After noticing in a recent copy of "Hansard" that he asked the Leader of the House when the debate on the White Paper would take place; we immediately made arrangements to meet him. Mr. Rost said that his only interest was in recording studios for future commercial radio stations (this is something we have advocated, for artists to make good quality recordings, thus avoiding the "needle time" problem). We had a successful meeting inasmuch as he agreed with our views.

RADIO NORDSEE INTERNATIONAL: As usual much activity! Saturday May 15th 1970, and at 22.50 listeners heard Alan West put out an S.O.S. and Mayday call, saying that the ship was on fire due to a bomb attack. The station kept on with the emergency appeals for help and eventually rescue came. When the station went off the air at 23.38 it was generally considered that that was the end of the station. However, much to everyone's surprise the station re-started normal transmissions the next day! It seemed the d.j.'s after abandoning ship returned at 02.30. After the attack 2 directors of Radio Veronica, the neighbouring off-shore station admitted responsibility for the attack, but said they never meant to cause any danger to life. Obviously there will be a Court case; and as already has been announced the Dutch Government will be introducing legislation, although they say the attack is not the reason for it. Whether any of the two stations will survive, we will have to wait and see.

Other news from the ship; Martin Kayne has left the station. He felt the station was too Dutch orientated rather than Internationally. He also wanted to spend more time with his wife. Martin told Bob Arnold of "Newsbeat" magazine, that when the Summer schedules started there were originally plans for a Dutch "Candelight"

programme, between 23.00 - 02.00, but was dropped after protests from the English d.j.'s. Vic. Pelli of R.N.I. did tell the C.I.B. that if there is any further Dutch it will be between 16.00 - 18.00. They may also start a "World Service" on the 49 m.b., and possibly 31 m.b. if it is working. The newest names to the d.j. staff is one ex-R.N.I. d.j. from last year, Mike Ross and newcomer Mark Stewart. (Incidentally, David Gregory ex-R.N.I. last year, can be heard doing Radio I Club promos for the Beeb). Tony Allen has now left the Station. R.N.I.'s programmes now read as follows:

MONDAYS FRIDAYS

06.00	Peter Holland	)	16.00	Mike Ross)
08.30	Ferry Maat	)	18.00	Alan West)
10.00	Jan Van Veen	)	20.00	Crispian St. John)
12.00	Joost de Draaier	)	22.00	Stevi Merike)
14.00	Ferry Maat	)	24.00	Dave Rodgers)
			03.00	Close Down with Kurt)

Dutch language English language

SATURDAYS 16.30 - 17.30 R.N.I. Hitback Show

SUNDAYS

06.00	Hans De Holdt	15.00	R.N.I. Super Hit 50 Show
08.00	Peter Holland	18.00	"You'd Never Believe It"
09.00	Jan Van Veen	19.30	R.N.I. Album Show
11.00	R.N.I. Hitback Show	21.00	Crispian St. John
13.00	Ferry Maat	23.00	Stevi Merike
		24.00	Dave Rodgers
		03.00	Close Down with Kurt

On the last Sunday of each month at 10.00 on SHORT WAVE ONLY "R.N.I. goes D-X" with A.J. Bairnes. Split programming usually commences approximately 09.45 and continues to approximately 11.00.

The programme is repeated on SHORT WAVE at 20.00 the next day.

Frequencies used: 220m (1367 khz); 49 m.b. (6205 khz); 100 mhz (Channel 44). The latter frequency available to listeners in Holland in and around the Schevingingen area, only.

CAPITAL RADIO: We understand from Bob Arnold of "Newsbeat" that proceedings against the company are about to begin in Holland, for unpaid debts. It seems, however, that one of the Directors, cannot be traced.

MANX RADIO: A deputation went to see the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications recently. They want increased power, not only to cover the whole Island, but part of the mainland. At press time no decision had been made. They do not think they will come under the restrictions of the I.B.A. once commercial radio is set up in this country. They claim they are already a Government-licenced station by the House of Keys.

NATIONAL TAPE LIBRARY: This was announced in our last newsletter and has already proved to be a great success. Due to the demand we have widened and increased the number of recordings with a second list. As you know this is a free service and if you have not already written in, the address is; C.I.B. National Tape Library, 3 Oldfield Road, Bromley, Kent. Please enclose a foolscap s.a.e.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: We have carefully thought about increasing the current subscription of 37¹/₂p, due to increased costs of postage etc., but in spite of this we have decided NOT to put it up. However, to enable this to remain that way we need your help. When writing please enclose a s.a.e. if you want a reply. Also please remember to renew your membership promptly to save us writing to you asking if you want to renew. We are grateful to those members that have renewed without prompting, and especially those members that have renewed in advance of their renewal date. Once again for your convenience we are printing a membership renewal form at the bottom of the newsletter.

C.I.B. CAR STICKERS: The cheapest car sticker of its kind is still available. We are charging the lowest possible price of only 1p each!! If you want a dozen, send only 11p. But you had better hurry, these three coloured stickers are fast running out, and we are unlikely to re-print them. We bet you cannot find any better car sticker at such a reasonable price. Please enclose a foolscap s.a.e.

FREE RADIO CAMPAIGN: Although an organisation which is only doing little political lobbying, they do send out regular newscasters to members giving them the latest news about what is happening in the "world of independent radio". They are also selling some stickers and posters which you may be interested in buying.

Radio Veronica stickers : 3 for 5p

Radio Veronica posters : 5p each
with picture of ship

R.N.I. mini posters : 3 for 5p

R.N.I. large posters : 5p each
with picture of ship

Send s.a.e. for special bulk prices, and when ordering please include postage.

All these and membership details are available from the F.R.C. at 37 Abercorn Place, London, N.W.8.

HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE: The Government's White Paper "An Alternative Service of Radio Broadcasting", detailed earlier in the newsletter, was debated recently in the House of Commons. We were very pleased that a number of M.P.'s that did speak, did have views that coincided with ours. One point which we had been campaigning about in particular, the pre-set number of stations to be set up and fears of a levy similar to that operated in commercial television may be introduced for radio, was mentioned several times. Among the M.P.'s that spoke for the White Paper were: John Gorst; Julian Critchley; Stratton Mills; and special mention must be made for Wilf. Proudfoot whose speech brought him nearest to the spirit which listeners feel about the subject.

NEWSBEAT: This is a brand new magazine with all the latest information about radio across the world; but with particular emphasis on the off-shore stations, past and present. The first issue of the magazine is now available costs 12½p, the next issue due in August (after which it is hoped to be monthly) is hoped to be bigger, better and with more information! The first issue is well worth 12½p and can be obtained from: "Newsbeat", 333 The Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks.

PIRATE RADIO: We make no apology for reprinting the following article from F.R.C.'s Newscaster number 5, with regard to the inland pirate radio stations, headed "On-shore stations".

"It is not often that the FRC goes up to its pulpit and preaches a sermon to its flock. However, it's definitely time somebody said something about the assorted and motley collection of people who broadcast under the guise of fighting for free radio and shout and scream about monopolies etc. To call them stations would certainly be overrating them. Several have had the ignorance to broadcast on 220 metres, on top of RNI. Still shouting about free radio, they block out what they are supposed to be fighting for. It can be argued that before the days of RNI there might have been a small argument in favour of these 'stations'. However, now that RNI is here (and we hope to stay) there is absolutely no need for anyone to broadcast for free radio when it's already there. It just shows that these people broadcast solely for their own enjoyment and let's face it, the programmes(!) that emanate from these transmitters certainly sound as if they're purely for the people running the station. Well all these mini Ronan O'Rahilly's and Philip Birchs' take note: you are damaging the already tarnished name of Free Radio."

PRESS CONFERENCE: The C.I.B. held its second press conference on Tuesday June 15th. This was again attended by several members of the communication media. We have seen the reports in London Evening News, The Times, Daily Telegraph and Financial Times. However, we believe there were reporters there from regional newspapers and magazines. So, if you saw a report elsewhere, perhaps you could let us know the title and issue of the paper or magazine.

NEWSLETTERS: Some members have complained that they have not received the January and March newsletters. These were sent out together after the end of the Postal Strike in March. We have taken the matter up with the G.P.O. but of course as the

letters were not registered or recorded there is little that can be done. The G.P.O. always wins (?). Would any member who has not received the January newsletter and March newsletter extra, please let us know and we will send you copies.

Well, that about wraps it up for another newsletter! We shall be writing to you again about September, so until then - keep listening!

Sincerely,

THE COMMITTEE.

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To: Campaign for Independent Broadcasting, 13 Ashwood House, London N.W.4.	

Dear Sir,	
Please renew my membership to the C.I.B. I enclose 37 ¹ / ₂ p (7/6d) being one year's subscription.	Membership No.....
NAME (Age)	FOR OFFICIAL USE
ADDRESS	Date PO/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.	