



# CAMPAIGN for INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING

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Formerly-National Commercial Radio Movement

January 1972

Dear Members,

Well we do hope that you all had a very happy Christmas and will have an exciting New Year. We should like to thank the many members who were kind enough to send us Christmas cards, they were appreciated.

It seems almost certain that by the end of this year, we shall know the basic structure of what the Government has planned for us in independent radio. We may also know the names and the types of programmes the various contractors intend to provide for us. However, it does seem unlikely that any of the stations will be on the air until early 1973.

## REFLECTIONS

A quick look back to what has been happening during 1971.

We opened the year awaiting publication of the Government's much-promised White Paper "An Alternative Service of Radio Broadcasting". The epistle was finally published at the end of March. This sixteen page pamphlet provided us with the most forward and fresh-thinking from the Ministry in years. We were somewhat disappointed though, that the Minister had seen fit to fix a maximum of 60 stations to be authorised. As you know we have always been against imposing limits. The only limits should be the natural ones of technical limitations and commercial viability.

In November the Sound Broadcasting Bill was published. The Bill's main fault seems to lie in its vagueness and what it doesn't say rather than say. (See article following).

1971 also saw the year when everybody declared their interests in radio. Many companies springing up from nowhere, all of whom had plans well laid for the future. The main groups who were arguing out the type of radio we need were John Gorst M.P. of Local Radio Association; Hughie Green of Commercial Broadcasting Consultants Ltd. and ourselves representing, you, the listener.

Of course there was R.N.I., with the usual happenings on board the Mebo II and in the Dutch courts, with Veronica and R.N.I. suing each other, and of course that bomb attack. Many d.j.s came and went. In fact there is only one d.j. left on board who was with the station when they first resumed in February of last year.

Those are about all the main happenings of 1971 but the debate goes on .....

## SOUND BROADCASTING BILL

The Bill had a formal Second Reading in the House of Commons on 11th November 1971. This was an interesting but stormy debate. It is interesting to reflect back to the time when the Bill to introduce Commercial Television was being debated in the House of Commons, the then Labour Party Opposition threatened to close it down when they were returned to power. What happened? - Nothing! In fact Mr. Wilson has made speeches praising the service! And, John Stonehouse M.P. (ex-Minister of Posts & Tel.) has come out in support of ITV 2 !!! Now the Labour Party have almost threatened the same thing again with commercial radio!

At present the Bill is in Standing Committee. This means that a group of 20 M.P.s (11 Cons. and 9 Lab) meet every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and again from 4.30 p.m. until often the early hours of the morning. Amongst the members of this Committee are Wilfred Proudfoot (ex-Managing Director of Radio 270) who, like us, is trying to extend the number of stations to be authorised,

but the Minister still seems adamant on the lines of 60 stations. John Gorst (Secretary of the Local Radio Association) who wants local radio to be "truly local" and put forward an amendment seeking to define and limit the range of commercial transmitters to a radius of eight miles. The amendment was however defeated and the clause in the Bill dealing with the range of each station remains unaltered and will in fact give considerable scope to the proposed I.B.A. to vary the range of each station. We believe that the coverage of each station should be related to population, thus giving relatively local radio stations in areas of dense population extending to more of a small region in rural areas. We would emphasise this concept to a few of our members who mistakenly believe that we are backing a commercial form of B.B.C. local radio. Hugh Jenkins (representing British Actors Equity), Brian O'Malley (representing the Musicians' Union) as well as the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. Should you wish to attend one or more of these meetings, unlike the main Chamber, one can walk in (normally Committee Room 12) and sit down and listen. For obvious reasons one cannot intervene in the debate.

There are one or two interesting points that we should like to make about the Debates and the Bill. The Opposition, for example, deny the effects of the competition that independent radio will bring. We can prove this is already happening. The B.B.C. have reacted very strongly to competition. Firstly, would we ever have had Radio One if it were not for the competition of the off-shore stations? They are also extending their stereo broadcasts to Radio Two transmitters, which will undoubtedly be used for Radio One in time, when they use the Radio Two FM/VHF transmitter. Also, to prevent any of their top d.j.s going over to commercial radio they have signed them up for long contracts. This is the effects of competition before the alternative service has begun.

An interesting clause in the Bill itself is Clause 6 which "provides that a television contractor may not be awarded a contract to provide local radio programmes within the area served by the television transmitting station or stations to which his contract relates, and for the reciprocal case; and disqualifies record manufacturers and music publishers from being programme contractors". Let us take, for example Associated Television Ltd. (ATV) Subsidiary companies include Pye (Records), Northern Songs (Music Publishing). Does this preclude ATV having any share in independent radio whatsoever? The I.B.A. or the Minister (whoever is responsible for issuing of franchises) will have to research every company that applies for a licence. If you look into any large company you will find that many of its subsidiaries are other famous companies.

If you wish to have a copy of the Sound Broadcasting Bill (price 16p) or copies of the Official Report of the Standing Committee (15p per sitting), these can be ordered through H.M.S.O., P.O. Box 569, London S.E.1 or through a bookshop e.g. W. H. Smith.

#### MEETING

David Prewett and Fredi Bunzl had a working lunch with John Thompson Senior Advisor to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, on Wednesday January 12th. One of Mr. Thompson's main functions is to take practical steps in establishing the shape the I.B.A. is likely to take when the Bill goes through.

The discussion included methods of removing the "needle time" restriction. We agreed that one way would be to have a central grouping of musicians to provide high-quality taped music, which would be available for the stations to purchase or subscribe to. In order to maintain high standards of this type of music it is essential that the station operators should also be able to purchase material from other sources and have the choice of extended use of commercial records which would have to be paid for by negotiating with Phonographic Performance Ltd. and in addition a negotiated standing charge to the I.B.A. musicians. This would mean that the station operator could select his material according to his financial resources and types of audiences by using:

- 1) material produced by I.B.A. musicians and selected on a quality basis (we foresee this to be the cheapest form of back-up material)
- OR
- 2) by using tape material from other sources or commercial discs which would be somewhat dearer due to the charge for items used would be payable to the I.B.A. musicians' unit.

We also put forward strongly the need of increasing the number of commercial stations within the limitation of their viability. In order to achieve this in common with a reasonable power and coverage for each station it is essential that the Ministry re-allocate the frequencies currently being used by the Home Office for Police and Fire Services away from the top end of the VHF/FM band 97 mhz to a minimum of 104 mhz.



Mr. Thompson said that this was one of the points he would be giving early consideration to.

We know, however, that the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is unlikely to proceed with any speed unless these points receive wide public recognition. Should you accidentally tune into one of these civil service transmissions, we would suggest that you might draw the attention of your local or national newspaper to any instance that could be a breach of Police security (e.g. bank alarm ringing - suspect on premises).

We consider that the meeting to have been most useful and Mr. Thompson said that he would welcome our further submissions as the situation develops.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting will be held at 27 London Road, Bromley, Kent (2nd Floor) on Sunday April 30th 1972 at 2.30 p.m. We would be obliged if you would complete the enclosed form to say whether or not you intend coming to the meeting. It would be helpful if you would please return your forms no later than Saturday April 22nd, so that we know the numbers due to arrive.

#### RADIO NORDSEE INTERNATIONAL

As you probably now know, the World Service closed down in December last year. But as you may have heard on "Nordsee goes D-X" at the beginning of this month, and was exclusively revealed to the C.I.B. in December, the service will be resumed on Sundays according to their Zurich office, in February and on a new medium wave frequency of 270m (1115 khz). This is the same frequency used by both Capital Radio and Radio 270. Also, happening to R.N.I. their Dutch offices have moved from Hilversum to Bussum (where Capital Radio was based). However, their address of P.O. Box 117, Hilversum, Holland, remains the same. It seems certain now that the Dutch Government will pass the necessary legislation to close both R.N.I. and Radio Veronica next January 1973. The programmes for R.N.I. are as follows. All times are GMT.

#### SUNDAY

06.00 CHIN UP SPECIAL presented by the Driemaster Team  
08.00 PRIORITEITEN sponsored and presented by Karel Prior  
10.00 BERK IN ACTION with Tony Berk  
12.00 HOU MAAT with Ferry Maat  
14.00 DRIEMASTER live with the newsreaders alternately. Hans ten Hooge; Nico Steenbergen; Leo van der Goot  
17.00 IN CONCERT featuring two groups or artists  
18.00 BRITISH TOP 20  
20.00 THE HITBACK SHOW with Mike Ross  
22.00 R.N.I. ALBUM SHOW  
23.00 NORTH SEA BY NIGHT with Dave Rodgers  
02.00 Close Down

#### MONDAY-FRIDAY

05.00 CHIN UP with Peter Holland  
07.30 FACTORY CALL with Tony Berk  
09.00 DOORSNEE NOORDZEE with Joost Verhoeven  
11.00 JOOST ON TOAST with Joost de Draaier  
13.00 HOU MAAT with Ferry Maat  
14.45 ONE NIL (Friday only) sport with Kees Jansma and Ruud Bonerick  
15.00 DRIEMASTER live with the newsreaders alternately  
17.00 DRIVE TIME with Rob Eden  
19.00 TARGET TEN with Mike Ross  
21.00 SWINGING EUROPE with Paul May  
23.00 NORTH SEA BY NIGHT with Dave Rodgers  
02.00 Close Down (except Friday)  
02.00 SKYLINE (Friday only) music through the night

#### SATURDAY

05.00 CHIN UP SPECIAL presented by the Driemaster Team  
07.00 CHIN UP with Peter Holland  
09.00 DOORSNEE NOORDZEE with Joost Verhoeven  
11.00 THE R.N.I. SUPER TOP 50 SHOW with Joost de Draaier  
14.00 FUTURE MUSIC d.j. hitpicks and smash plays with Tony Berk  
15.00 MUZIEK PARADE HOUR oldies with Tony Berk  
16.00 BERK IN ACTION with Tony Berk  
17.00 DRIVE TIME with Rob Eden

19.00 TARGET TEN with Mike Ross  
21.00 SWINGING EUROPE with Paul May  
23.00 NORTH SEA BY NIGHT with Dave Rodgers  
02.00 SKYLINE music through the night

Brian McKenzie and Terry Davis are "floating " d.j.s

The English Service commences at 17.00 daily

R.N.I. programmes by courtesy of Newsbeat International

### "TO BE A PIRATE KING"

That is the title of the recently published book by Paul Harris, author of "When Pirates Ruled the Waves". This book traces the history of Radio Veronica, Nordsee and Capital Radio. There are a number of accusations in the book about the running of the stations, especially R.N.I. We do know that some of the facts about R.N.I. over the election period as well as one or two other incidents are not completely accurate. However, as for the main charge that R.N.I. is connected with East European espionage, we leave the reader to form his own opinion. The book which is published by Impulse Publications Ltd. of 28 Guild Street, Aberdeen, costs £2.00 (hardback), but the production is not as good as "Pirates Ruled the Waves". The 127 page book has 22 pages of photographs including some of the three ships concerned.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

An old "war horse" which we must remind you of is how essential it is that you renew your membership subscriptions to C.I.B. as soon as they become due. It costs us extra time and money if we have to keep sending out membership renewal reminders to members individually. The vast majority do renew their subscriptions and we should particularly like to thank those members who have even renewed for 2 years in advance! Thank you for your confidence. But at 37½p (exactly the same as when the National Commercial Radio Movement first started, despite increased postal costs) we are probably offering the best value for money in any organisation campaigning for independent radio. Just a reminder if you are making out a cheque, it should be for 38p, as banks do not accept the ½p. As usual we have renewal form with the newsletter which is specially printed so that you are not ruining your newsletter.

### SOUTHEND AND DISTRICT FREE RADIO CAMPAIGN

This is one of the branches of the main F.R.C. based in London. Their newsletter has recently been completely revised in style and content. The first issue, published just before Christmas contained 7 pages of news and information about Veronica, R.N.I. as well as other items of interest.

The next issue of the "S.D.R.C. Information Sheet" which is to be re-titled "Monitor" as from the next issue, will be available in mid-February. It will feature Radio City as well as all the latest news on land, sea and air! The magazine costs and 7½p which includes the cost of postage (5p if you send a foolscap s.a.e.) and is available from "Monitor" (CIB) 31 Avondale Road, South Benfleet, Essex.

### NEWSBEAT INTERNATIONAL

Issue No. 4 of "Newsbeat International" is due to be published in January. As usual it contains all the latest information from Holland on R.N.I., Veronica, the Dutch Marine Offences Bill. The featured d.j. is Crispian St. John who writes about life aboard the Mebo II. Other features include a Christmas Radio Report, Veronica Action - the results and an investigation into C.I.B., F.R.C., F.R.A. and other organisations. All this and more for 20p! Copies are obtainable from: "Newsbeat International" (CIB) 26 Spey Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks. Plus FREE with each copy a R.N.I. mini-poster!

That just about wraps up another newsletter. There is plenty of information there for you to digest, but don't forget that if you have any questions please drop us a line. We look forward to seeing some of you at the A.G.M. in April and our next newsletter, depending if it comes out before or after the A.G.M., may have the minutes of the meeting.

Sincerely,

THE COMMITTEE.

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  
37½p being one year's subscription.

NAME .....(Age )

ADDRESS .....

.....

I should like to be considered for the Executive Committee  
should a vacancy occur. (Please Tick) .....

PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED, SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

ALL CHEQUES AND POSTAL ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:  
"CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING" AND CROSSED.

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To: Campaign for Independent Broadcasting (A.G.M.)  
13 Ashwood House, London N.W.4.

I shall / shall not\* be able to attend the Annual General Meeting on  
Sunday 30th April, 1972 at 2.30 p.m.

Signed .....

Name .....

Membership No .....

\* Delete not applicable

Membership  
No:.....  
FOR OFFICIAL USE  
  
Date.....  
PO/Cheque No.  
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