



# CAMPAIGN for INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING

Chairman: DAVID PREWETT, 084421 2589

Vice Chairman: FREDERICK HASLER, 01-272 0592

General Secretary: A. M. BUNZL, 467 4759

Press-Public Relations: MARTIN ROSEN, 203 3386

49 Welby House, Highgate, London, N.19

Tel.: 01-272 0592. Telex: 263236

Formerly-National Commercial Radio Movement

The Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

May 31st 1970.

Sir,

You may recall that we have written to you on the subject of broadcasting many times in the past three years. We have also requested meetings with yourself or your Ministers to put forward our members' viewpoint.

It is with utmost clarity that I recollect your replies stating that you "did not consider meeting us would serve any useful purpose". I think that I can fairly say that in those early years, we had very few hard and fast political views. We have now after much serious study of broadcasting and work both inside the Commons and outside, very decided views on the manner in which your Government has manipulated the sound broadcasting situation.

Your Postmaster General issued in 1967, replies to thousands of people who complained about your intentions to close down "pirate" radio. The replies stated "There are no unused wavelengths on which powerful stations like the "pirate" stations could operate without causing interference". This was closely followed by your directive to the B.B.C. to produce Radio One, which was brought into service using wavelengths which we must assume are sacrosanct to the B.B.C.

As an additional palliative measure you directed the B.B.C. to commence local radio broadcasting. At the opening of B.B.C. Radio Leicester, Mr. Edward Short P.M.G. said, "Clearly it would be unfair to pay for the station out of income from the receiving licence. Otherwise people in rural areas would have to contribute towards a service they could never receive. Local radio is to be broadcast on V.H.F. and not medium wave because each country has a limited number of medium wavelengths allocated by international agreement. All ours are at present in use, there are none available for local radio". May I point out that B.B.C. local radio is now being charged to the television licence and medium wave frequencies will be used. The B.B.C. is now in consequence desperately short of money and a request for an substantial increase in licence fee cannot be far away.

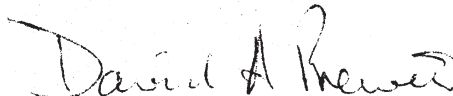
We are a listeners' organisation advocating the choice of individual small regional, commercial radio stations and non-commercial broadcasting as pioneered by the University of York. We believe that the B.B.C. must remain licence-supported and should ensue the standards of those programmes in which it

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excels are not allowed to drop. A task which is becoming increasingly difficult under the commitments place upon the B.B.C. by your Government. Equally, strict measures must be used to prevent monopoly ownership of commercially financed radio stations.

We are, Sir, thoroughly disenchanted with your policy of monopoly.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David A. Prewett'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and a stylized 'P'.

David A. Prewett

Chairman