

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL RADIO MOVEMENT

49 Welby House
Hazellville Road
London N.19.

IMPORTANT

26th February 1970

Dear Member.

We are sending you a copy of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting which was held on 8th February 1970.

You will see that several amendments have been proposed and approved by the meeting. In accordance with the N.C.R.M. Constitution, we must now have your view. The proposed changes are as follows:

9(a) Change of name to Campaign for Independent Broadcasting As you will see from the Minutes, this would in no way affect our drive and determination to achieve a system of independent commercial radio, but it does allow us to support other forms of independent broadcasting, giving us further choice as listeners. For example, University Radio York's programmes include many types of music, news, plays, discussions, etc., all produced by students, well worth supporting, and remember - every new station helps to weaken the B.B.C. case for retaining complete monopoly.

9(b) That the objective of the C.I.B. shall be to promote independent broadcasting, free from any form of monopoly, the only limiting factors being the commercial viability and the technical feasibility.

9(c) That the office of Vice-Chairman should be recorded in the Constitution.

9(d) Proposals affecting the Constitution of the C.I.B. shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of the membership present at an A.G.M., and including members' votes sent by post or proxy.

You are now earnestly invited to return immediately the enclosed reply slip, marking 'YES' (your approval given), or 'NO' (your approval not given) against the amendments which were approved by the Annual General Meeting. These amendments will be carried unless a one-third majority of paid-up members object.

Thank you for your support for our effort.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID PREWETT
(Chairman)

MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMERCIAL
RADIO MOVEMENT, HELD ON SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 1970, AT 3.0 P.M. AT 27
LONDON ROAD, BROMLEY, KENT.

Present Fred Hasler (in the Chair), David Prewett, Caroline Peters,
Martin Rose, Michael Lane, Fredi Bunzl, John Bunzl, J. Bardsley,
and a representative from the F.R.C. Penfriends Club.

1. Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence had been received from
Sir Ian Mactaggart and Valerie Lamprell.

2. Chairman's Report The Chairman spoke on the Movement and its work
over the seventeen months since its inception. Although not a large orga-
nisation so far as membership and funds were concerned, he said, the Movement
had achieved more than any other organisation fighting for the same cause.
It had succeeded in attracting attention and support from political organi-
sations and members of Parliament; in both these fields, other movements had
always failed. The work being done by the Committee in this connection was
to be commended, and the Chairman hoped for continued success with it.

With regard to the badge, he apologized for the fact that a badge had still
not been produced. The N.C.R.M. had very little income, and he had thought
it best, and indeed that the members would prefer, to spend funds on fighting
for the cause rather than producing badges. The position had been put to the
members in a Newsletter last Spring.

3. Vice-Chairman's Report The Vice-Chairman, David Prewett, briefly
looked back on the past year, and the work which had been achieved in part or
in total, the main objective having been to attack the gap which other
movements had not covered, getting the attention and support of persons in
Parliamentary positions, and other influential people. The draft for the
N.C.R.M. Broadcasting Study had been prepared during 1968, and the Study was
produced early in 1969; this set out the principles of the N.C.R.M. and
highlighted the manner in which the B.B.C. misuses frequencies which it has
been allocated, and how this could best be remedied. In subsequent months,
there had been many meetings with such persons as Paul Bryan M.P. (Conserva-
tive spokesman on broadcasting) and Dr. Winstanley (Liberal spokesman on
broadcasting). The present Government had been left out of our discussions,
because of the manner in which it had reacted over the past two years to our
approaches - that is completely negatively. Therefore all effort had been
channelled into contacts with other parties. As many people as possible were
written to or contacted by telephone, and made aware of our points of view;
here Martin Rosen had done a really superb job, also handling press statements
and advertising. In the beginning, the Press Association took no notice at
all of any releases we put their way, but now they will frequently issue our
releases for general publication.

The rally in Trafalgar Square last August had been fairly successful.
It is still regretted that the Free Radio Association had decided to stage a
separate rally, and although that organisation had moved away from any form
of Council of free radio organisations, it was hoped that they would join in
a joint rally this year. We have emphasised strongly the need for unity of
effort, and the importance of knowing what each organisation is doing, which
field or fields it is covering effectively, and it is hoped that they will
co-operate in this.

We are in close contact with Patricia Hodgson, the Conservative Party
Research Officer; the party had commissioned an independent technical study
by consultants, and the results had been presented to Conservative Sub-
Committees. It is important at this stage to apply maximum pressure to
ensure that the issue of independent broadcasting does not get pushed too low
in the electoral policy, and equally important to ensure that the issue does
not get pushed into either local radio or a monopoly system.

Late last year it became obvious that there were other forms of broad-
casting in use, or proposed; University radio stations are the major example
of this. The name N.C.R.M. does rather curtail our field of operation, not
giving enough scope to cover such things as non-commercial radio run by
Universities, etc. and this is why the suggestion of a change of name occurs
later on the agenda. If a change of name were effected, it would also give

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a great opportunity, important at this stage, of putting over our viewpoints on radio and television broadcasting afresh to existing organisations and contacts.

The Chairman thanked David for his report, and added, on the subject of the rally, that as soon as it was over, a report about it was being heard over the air from several radio stations in the United States and Canada - the first time, it is believed, that this has been done. Radio Luxembourg also made an announcement, and the Daily Mirror printed a piece about the rally - in which the impression was given that the cause was not being upheld by a crowd of kids, but responsible adults (the first time they have printed anything on free radio rallies). Thames Television had a unit in the Square and filmed a short part of the rally.

4. Treasurer's Report Caroline reported on finances and membership. Since August 1968, about 111 members had been recruited; at present 63 members were fully paid up, and more membership renewals were expected. Expenditure had been approximately 150% of income during this period, and expenses had been such things as printing (information leaflets with membership forms, membership cards, stationery), office stationery, broadcasting study, postage, newsletter costs, advertising in publications such as Top Pops, and Disc & Music Echo. There was still a sum of some £14 to be paid on account of the printing of the Broadcasting Study. Income had been from membership subscriptions mainly, and also sale of tape recordings, and sale of broadcasting studies. The rally in August 1969 had cost about \$25; the Christmas Draw had been organised rather hurriedly, and had realised a small profit, just under \$4 - this was better than making a loss, but response from members had been rather poor and it was hoped that more favourable co-operation would be given next year. The N.C.R.M. account was at present some £12 in credit.

5. Questions from the Floor Jim Bardsley suggested that the N.C.R.M. should also advertise in Record Mirror, as he thought response would be good. He also wondered if Martin and David had contacts with the Democratic Party (Mr. Donnelly) and the Scottish and Welsh parties - there had been an off-shore station serving Scotland. In discussion it was noted that Mr. Donnelly was the Member of Parliament for Pembroke, and Mrs. Ewan from the Scottish party would be worth contacting. David agreed to look into this.

6. Resignation of the Executive Committee The Chairman stated that it was the duty of the present Committee to resign, and for a new Executive Committee to be appointed. Just before he resigned as Chairman, he asked leave to give some of his observations. Much of the success of the N.C.R.M. had been due to the hard work of David Prewett, who had frequently given up a great deal of his family time for meetings and other N.C.R.M. work. The Chairman said that he would not be seeking re-election as Chairman, and that it was his wish that David would be elected as Chairman in his place. Martin Rosen had done an excellent job as Press & Public Relations Officer, and he hoped Martin would be re-elected to carry on this work. Fredi Bunzl was a relatively new Committee member, and very interested in the cause. The Chairman had discussed with him the possibility of his taking on the job of General Secretary; Fredi was agreeable to do so, and Caroline was quite happy to stand down. As regards other Committee members, Michael Lane, Valerie Lamprell and Barbara Hiscock were agreeable to stand for re-election.

7. Election of Executive Committee The Chairman invited nominations from the meeting; the following were willing to serve on the Committee and were unanimously elected: David Prewett, Fred Hasler, Martin Rosen, Caroline Peters, Fredi Bunzl, Michael Lane, Valerie Lamprell and Barbara Hiscock. (Proposed Fred Hasler, seconded Caroline Peters.)

8. Election of Officers

Chairman: Fred Hasler proposed that David Prewett be elected to this post; Michael Lane seconded; carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman: Martin Rosen proposed that Fred Hasler be elected to this post; Caroline Peters seconded; carried unanimously.

General Secretary: Fred Hasler proposed that Fredi Bunzl be elected; Martin Rosen seconded; carried unanimously.

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Treasurer: David Prewett proposed that Caroline Peters be elected; Fredi Bunzl seconded; carried unanimously.

Press & Public Relations Officer: Michael Lane proposed that Martin Rosen be elected; Fred Hasler seconded; carried unanimously.

9. Amendments to the Constitution

(a) that the name N.C.R.M. should be changed to "Campaign for Independent Broadcasting" David Prewett explained that the old Committee had considered that the name N.C.R.M. did not give sufficient scope for involving us in non-commercial (i.e. University) radio broadcasting, or for allowing the Movement to give its views on television broadcasting. In the beginning, he said, we set out to re-create an offshore radio station - ironically enough at present an offshore station was broadcasting. Because of this intention, the name N.C.R.M. was chosen. With the advent of University Radio York, which started up on a Medium Wave frequency allocated to it by the G.P.O. and within six months was attracting an audience of considerable size from the city of York, the G.P.O. stepped in and required that transmission power should be reduced to such an extent that there are places on the University campus which cannot pick up the station now. David felt that University radio should be heard in the city or town to which the university concerned was attached, and that it would be of great value. To change the name of N.C.R.M. to "Campaign for Independent Broadcasting" would give the opportunity to press for this sort of non-commercial radio and indeed any other form of independently run radio. The replacement of the word 'radio' by 'broadcasting' would enable us to give our views on the present semi-commercial monopoly in television. In south-east England at present, for instance, there is one transmitter, owned and operated by the Independent Television Authority; the Authority has some good points, as there is at least some form of code of ethics regarding advertising, but the Authority reduces the independent companies to mere contractors in this case. Also, there is a move by the present Government to strangle independent television companies by imposing high levies; we must subscribe to the view that if there must be a levy, it should be applied after programming costs have been deducted from income, which would encourage the companies to plough money back into programming in order to reduce the profit margin on which the levy would be applied.

(b) that the objective of the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting shall be to promote independent broadcasting free from any form of monopoly Fredi Bunzl reminded the meeting that many members are supporters of the offshore radio stations, and may feel that we are going away from the original reason why they joined. David said that of course there must be some sanction on wavelengths, so that stations could be allocated a place on the waveband; but so long as a frequency is allocated it wouldn't matter whether the station operated from land or from a ship. He didn't think the change of name suggested would detract from that first issue. It should, he said (and this received unanimous agreement) be as easy to start a radio station as to start a newspaper, the only requirements to be considered being commercial viability and technical feasibility. Fredi suggested that proposal 9(b) be amended to include this fact, as follows:

" free from any form of monopoly, the only limiting factors being the commercial viability and the technical feasibility."

This was agreed unanimously as an addition to 9(b)

On the practical side, Fredi said, a change of name would necessitate the reprinting or altering of all existing stationery etc., and all the work which had gone into building up the name of the N.C.R.M. might be wasted. David said that as far as the stationery was concerned, it had not been the practice to keep large stocks, so that there was little problem here; regarding the esteem placed on the name N.C.R.M., he considered a change of name would be invaluable at this time to reinforce contacts, and to restate our policies; it would be an added lever to use with Parliamentary members who were not altogether in favour of commercial radio, but were concerned about the restrictions imposed on

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the York University station, and much in favour of such stations. David added that until recently we had avoided soliciting support from persons or bodies which might be interested in setting up a commercial radio station, but he had recently spoken with John Gorst, who was interested in our aims, and seemed to be in agreement with them; and with Hugh Green.

Michael Lane asked if the suggested new name were not too similar to the Campaign for Better Broadcasting. David said that this was true, though not intentional, but that we had agreed with their views to a certain extent - they want better programmes on Radio 3, but we also are fighting for better broadcasting, and we want more choice - and we both disagree with the plans set out in "Broadcasting in the Seventies". A short while ago in a Parliamentary committee meeting we did support the C.B.B.'s policy and upheld the view that it was totally wrong to run down the regional stations to put more money into local broadcasting, which we considered an attempt to monopolise the frequencies.

(c) that the office of Vice Chairman should be recorded in the Constitution this had not hitherto been recorded.

(d) that resolutions affecting the Constitution of the C.I.B. shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of the membership present at an A.G.M. This had been suggested following realistic thoughts on how many members would be able to, or feel inclined to, attend an Annual Meeting. Perhaps the fact that only three members were present today proved that this thought was realistic. It was proposed that motions should be carried by a two-thirds majority of those present at an A.G.M., and Caroline suggested that as this was intended to cater for all those who were interested in the Movement's affairs, it should be possible to send a vote by proxy or by post if a member found it impossible to attend but wished to vote. The meeting agreed that this proviso should be added to the proposed amendment.

The four proposed changes were put to the meeting for approval.

- 9(a) Fred Hasler proposed; Martin Rosen seconded; carried unanimously.
- 9(b) Fred Hasler proposed; Fredi Bunzl seconded; one abstention, all others agreed.
- 9(c) Caroline Peters proposed; Martin Rosen seconded; carried unanimously.
- 9(d) Caroline Peters proposed; Martin Rosen seconded; carried unanimously.

10. Ratification of Item 9 by members It was unanimously agreed that the agreement of members should be sought on the above changes to the Constitution which had been approved by the A.G.M. Fredi Bunzl expressed concern that many members may not trouble to reply to a letter, and discussion followed on how best to draw a conclusion from the replies received. We could ask members to reply, saying that it was important they did so, and if they did not reply we could assume their approval; or could ask all those not approving to write without fail, to let us know, so that if there were objections totalling one-third of membership the motion would be deemed not carried by the membership. Caroline suggested writing a very full letter explaining the entire position, and attaching a reply slip; it was to be hoped that the majority of members were interested in the Movement's work and would reply. It was finally agreed to circulate to all members the Minutes of the Annual Meeting (subject to approval at the next A.G.M.), with a letter and reply slip.

11. Any Other Business

Chairman's Casting Vote: Fred Hasler suggested that the Chairman should have the right to make a casting vote in the case of the Committee being equally divided on an issue. Caroline and Fredi disagreed, saying that it was not a wise idea; the meeting agreed that this point should remain as before, with the Chairman not having a casting vote.

Catherine Baker Jim Bardsley asked David if Miss Baker was still active at all in the free radio field; David said the last he heard of her was a spate of letters she wrote which the Financial Times printed some time ago, and David had written to her on these but had not received a reply.

V.H.F. Frequencies: The usage of V.H.F. frequencies was discussed.