

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL RADIO MOVEMENT

49 Welby House
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London N.19.

Newsletter February 1969

Dear Member,

In our November letter, we told you that we had preliminary talks with Mr. Paul Bryan, the Shadow Postmaster General. Since then, we have had a second round of talks with Mr. Bryan at the House of Commons; although the information we were given was confidential, you can rest assured that no stone was left unturned, and that we always had our members' interests in mind. It would be unwise to disclose the source of information that we were given, for reasons you are probably aware of. We are now awaiting further talks with Mr. Bryan, as at the last meeting he asked us for a copy of our Broadcasting Study in order that the G.P.O. could see it; we agreed to this.

Whilst on the subject of the Broadcasting Study produced by the N.C.R.M., some technically-minded members have written to us for a copy. It is not our policy to make a charge for such things, but we feel that we must charge 2/-d per copy in this case, to cover the high cost of producing these. Please do not write for a copy unless you are technically interested, as it is not light reading!

Chamber of Commerce Meeting: Recently, Mr. Leslie Freeman, Chairman of the G.L.C. General Purposes Committee, called a meeting at the London Chamber of Commerce, of business representatives concerned with radio; David Prewett and Martin Rosen attended as representatives of the N.C.R.M. and put forward the listeners' point of view. Their report is enclosed.

Word-a-Car-Sticker Competition: Are you good at thinking up slogans? If so, we need your help - to think up a slogan for an N.C.R.M. car-sticker. It must not support any radio station, but should be based on the fight for Independent Commercial Radio. The N.C.R.M. Executive Committee will judge the entries, and the person submitting the most suitable idea will be the winner of an L.P. record of his or her choice, or a record voucher. Closing date for entries will be 15th April 1969. This will give the Committee time to consider all the entries, and the result will be announced in our next newsletter.

N.C.R.M. Executive Committee: It is regretted that our General Secretary, Tony Peters, has had to resign for personal reasons. His place has been taken by Caroline Peters, formerly Assistant General Secretary.

Other changes: David Prewett, formerly Public Relations Officer, has agreed to accept the post of Vice-Chairman, a position which I think he has well earned. Martin Rosen, formerly Press Officer, now becomes Press & Public Relations Officer; Martin is well known by the Press, and this is a position I think he is well capable of carrying.

Newspapers: Many members read articles in the Press about free radio, and often they need a prompt reply. Our Press & Public Relations Officer tries to answer as many of these articles as possible. If you should see any article or letter in the press or in magazines, about the cause, please telephone Martin Rosen at his home, 01-203 3386, Monday to Friday 7.45 a.m. to 8.15 a.m.; 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, any time after 10 a.m.

Welcome! We are pleased to announce that Roger Day and Admiral Robbie Dale, both of Radio Caroline fame, have joined the N.C.R.M. as honorary members. Listeners can still hear Robbie Dale on Radio Veronica, 192 metres, on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays, between 11 p.m. and midnight. Also on Saturdays, compering the English Top Thirty show, between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.

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Co-ordination: It has always been our policy to co-operate with other organisations, but in the past there has been some difference of opinion. However, on Sunday, 23rd February my Public Relations Officer and I went to visit the Chairman of the Free Radio Association, Mr. Geoffrey Pearl, at his invitation. The talks we had were very friendly and cordial, and I think that under its new General Secretary, Michael Tickner, relations between the N.C.R.M. and the F.R.A. could develop on much more useful lines. But our co-ordination does not stop there: we will co-operate and co-ordinate with any organisation whose objective is the same as ours. I call on all organisations to stop being suspicious of each other, and do the job that we are meant to do, and work together on a united front. By this I mean co-ordination, not amalgamation.

The ultimate aim of the N.C.R.M. is to help in the formation of a "Free Radio Council", whereby all organisations, big or small, can sit round the table and discuss future action that should be taken on a united national basis.

Note of Appreciation: Some members have been kind enough to send us donations towards the cost of running the N.C.R.M. We are most grateful to those concerned. This is a very kind gesture, and is very much appreciated. Also, there are members who have asked us to send them an advertisement so that they can have it published in their local paper, and have paid for insertion costs themselves. This is also very much appreciated. I am in no doubt that we have some of the nicest and most dedicated members in the N.C.R.M. that any organisation could wish for.

Rallies: It is hoped to stage a rally supporting independent radio at Speakers' Corner at Hyde Park, on 30th March 1969. Watch 'Disc & Music Echo' for further details.

Running a "Pirate" Station: Some members have written and telephoned us, asking for details of how to run an inland "pirate" radio station. We would like to point out that we do not supply information of this nature, as it is against our policy to support any inland "pirate" station.

Paul Kramer: It is with much regret we announce the recent death of D.J. Paul Kramer, who was recently killed in a road accident in London. The Executive Committee sent a wreath on behalf of the members of the N.C.R.M. Paul had many followers from his shows on Radio City, Radio Caroline, and Radio 270; he will be sadly missed.

Next Newsletter: Your next newsletter is due out in May. This will contain an exclusive interview with Roger Day, giving his views on Radio Luxembourg and future commercial radio in Britain.

Until then, have a happy Easter, and keep writing to your local newspaper, and your M.P., supporting free, independent radio.

Frederick C. Hasler
CHAIRMAN