

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL RADIO MOVEMENT

49 Welby House, Hazellville Road, London, N.19.

Newsletter to all members

Dear Member,

MAY 1969

IT'S AUGUST 10th at 3.00 p.m., that is the day when the United Free Radio Organisations will be holding their rally at Trafalgar Square. U.F.R.O. is an affiliation of the free radio organisations, namely N.C.R.M., Free Radio Campaign and the Bristol Free Radio Movement (and any other organisations that may join us at a later date). The organisation we mentioned in our last newsletter will not be participating in this rally. We have been given to understand that their committee decided against it. We will be giving you more up - to - the - minute details of the U.F.R.O. rally in our next news letter, which you will receive in JULY ! In the mean time, if you feel you could help us by displaying posters, giving out leaflets, and any organisation ideas, please contact us as soon as possible, marking the envelope 'RALLY'. Meanwhile, you can get your banners ready!

Car Sticker Competition: As we have had so many late entries, the committee have not been able to decide on a winner, but we will make a judgement and get the printing under way by the next newsletter.

Greater London Radio Bill: As you have probably probably read in the newspapers the Greater London Radio Bill was defeated in the House of Commons recently. This rejection by the Government may have been the only sensible thing they have done concerning independant radio, because the Bill would have left control of the stations in the hands of another monopoly, in the form of a radio authority. This in our considered opinion, would not be truly independant.

David Prewett our Vice - Chairman and Martin Rosen our Press - Public Relations Officer were at the House of Commons, and they told me that they could have put over a better case for independant radio than any of the M.P.s on either side of the House. They were shocked at the way business was conducted, that it, there were about 10 M.P.s on either side of the House during the debate, but as it came for the division, the benches began to fill up with members who just came to vote.

Roger Day Interview: The exclusive interview with Roger "Twiggy" Day we promised in our last newsletter is enclosed this time.

Misguided Publication: A publication has recently appeared called the 'Rise and Fall of a Misguided Association'. The N.C.R.M. wish to state that contrary to what is printed on the inside cover, we have not contributed towards this publication, and we consider it unwise that this publication should have been printed in the first place.

Free Radio News: A publication that we DO support is Free Radio News. This paper totally supports independant radio and should you wish to obtain a copy of the magazine, please send 1/-s. postal order (payable to A. Mc Kenna) to us, marking envelope 'Free Radio News'.

Badges: It is regretted that for the time being the proposed N.C.R.M. badge has had to be shelved temporarily, due to lack of finances. We would think that our members would rather us spend our funds on the campaign for independant radio.

Newspapers: Since the emergency newsletter Martin Rosen distributed, there has been a larger response from members who have seen articles in the newspapers. However, he telss me there are still a number of papers left uncovered. So if you would like to report on radio events in newspapers, please let Martin know as soon as possible, his telephone number once again is 01 - 203 - 3386.

Radio Broadcasting in the Future: (N.C.R.M. Policy) Most members now know what N.C.R.M.'s views are for the future of independant radio. Briefly, we propose that independent radio should be set up on a regional basis rather than locally. This will make sure that they are received by listeners in both town and country areas. Local radio will not serve listeners out of the reception range of the main towns, and some of the smaller towns would not be able to support a local radio station.

Incidentally, some members may be puzzled to the fact why we advocate independant radio should be licenced on V.H.F. The reason is simple, and was explained by Shaun Usher when he quoted some of our views in a couple of articles he wrote in the Daily Sketch. When the next international frequency conference takes place, probably in 1970, (this is when most countries get together and decide which country will use what wavelength so as not to cause interference), countries such as Germany who were not given a fair share last time around, as they had just been defeated at war, will want than then they have at present on the medium wave band, and Britian will be the losers. Therefore by going over to the V.H.F. bands, we may have independant radio licenced.

Another reason for using V.H.F. sets, is some listeners may have bought expensive stereo equipment, and are rather disapointed that the B.B.C. are confining there stereo broadcasts to the classical music-lovers of B.B.C. Radio 3. Independant radio can widen the range of all types of music, and plays etc.

As for the cost of V.H.F. sets, the price will come down once there is a demand for them, at present there has been no demand because the band has consisted of programmes which have been transmitted simultaneously on either medium or longwaves.

We hope that in the future, regional independant radio will give you - our members - part of the listening public, the freedom of choice that was started by the off - shore stations, and now temporarily taken from us. (we hope) The only thing stopping us getting our aim is the B.B.C. Will they be taking all the available frequencies in the V.H.F. wave band for their proposed country radio plan ? But there is still hope in the far distant future, when all television is transmitted on U.H.F. (like B.B.C.2) the V.H.F. bands will become available - so keep hoping. And there are organisations such as British Actors Equity, who have come out in favour of independent radio as an alternative to the B.B.C. If only there were more organisations such as them meanwhile we will continue our campaign.

Letter Writing: Are you any good at writing letters ? If so, watch for the next newsletter, and we will give you a few suggestions of who to write to in one mass onslaught ! Meantime perhaps you can write to your MP. If you are not sure of his name write to the M.P. for House of Commons, London, S.W.1.

By the time you receive our next newsletter we will be a year old, and in the newsletter we will running through all the things we have done, in the past year, naming some of the newspapers and magazines that have supported us etc.

Before I close, I would like to thank the member in Bromley, Kent (who does not want his name mentioned) who was the first person to ring our Press - Public Relations Officer, with a letter which was printed in "The Guardian" against the cause of independant radio. Martin was able to get a reply off the morning and it was printed a few days later. I would like to say a personal thank you, and hope more members will follow his example.

Well thats the news for the present, don't forget the next newsletter will be earlier, in July, with details of the rally and who will be speaking etc., so tell as many people about it NOW so this can really be the biggest rally for independent radio ever, the date again is SUNDAY, AUGUST 10 th., at Trafalgar Square, London.

Sincerely,

F.C.Hasler.

Chairman.

Interview with ROGER "Twiggy" DAY

NCRM We would like to know your views on independant radio in this country - Do you think it will return ?

RD Not in the form it was.

NCRM If a station did start broadcasting like Caroline, for instance, would you join it ?

RD Would I join it ? ... thats a good question ! I don't know it's a hard question to say, because it is not going to happen.

NCRM Have you something planned, now you have left Luxembourg ?

RD I don't know, perhaps perhaps something else. There are other countries.

NCRM Would you leave Britian your home country ?

RD If it's commercial radio - yes !

NCRM You wouldn't work at the B.B.C. though - would you ?

RD What me ? No !!! but there is nothing wromg for these guys to, because they've got to earn money and all that sort of thing, and you can't live on nothing as you'll appreciate.

NCRM Why did you leave Luxembourg ?

RD Oh - it's terrible - it's just an excuse for a radio station,as far as I am concerned.

NCRM Would you like to join the NRCM ?

RD Oh well - sure - yes !

NCRM Have you heard RADIO FREE LONDON ?

RD I haven't heard them.

NCRM Do you think it is a good idea though ?

RD er ... o.k. I don't know, I don't think they can achieve any point at the present time. If somebody's got some money, they wont to invest it and bring Caroline back. The thing is it's to easy to get caught. There you are doing something which is illegal which Caroline was never doing, so you have to watch out, because even though Caroline they said was illegal, it wasn't because it was legal under International Law.

NCRM It was aimed at the disc - jockeys wasn't it ?

RD Yes, but I don't think they would have done anything, can you imagine having a disc - jockey up for working, it wouldn't happen.

NCRM What about Caroline T.V. ?

RD Caroline T.V. ? I think you treat that with the same mind as the 25th December, sort of rumour. Because Caroline - lovely station - I liked it, I don't think it will come back simply because of the fact I know these boats are the subject of the Dutch courts, and until that court case is got rid of there are just they can't get them out and the Big L boat has been sold to a German company who are broadcasting seon off the German coast.

NCRM Radio Nordsee ?

RD Yes

NRCM Well thanks you very much indeed Roger.

RD O.K., thanks a lot and thanks for coming.

The N.C.R.M. would like to point out that it has no connections, however direct or indirect with Radio Free London, oer any other land based "pirate" station.