

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL RADIO MOVEMENT

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

JAN. 1970

Christmas Draw We would like to thank all those who supported the Draw, and sold tickets, bought tickets, or sent donations. These are all very much appreciated, and we only wish that more tickets were sold; let's hope that the next Draw will be supported by many more members. You may not have been a winner, but perhaps you sold winning tickets to friends or relations - here are the results:

1st Prize (£10)
2nd Prize
3rd Prize
4th Prize
5th Prize

**** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** We must apologize for the fact that it has not been possible to arrange for the Annual Meeting in January, when it was due; but it will take place in February. We are hoping that interested members will be able to attend in force: SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY, at 3 p.m., at 27 LONDON ROAD, BROMLEY, KENT. It would be much appreciated if anybody who intends to be there could drop a line to us, so that we can arrange for adequate seats and coffee etc.

Radio Nordsee We have received unconfirmed reports that Radio Nordsee will start transmitting very shortly, on four frequencies - 186 metres, MWB; 102 megacycles VHF band; and two other frequencies which have not yet been announced, on the shortwave band. This will be an international station, its output 105kw, and it will be broadcasting from a ship called Mebo II, in the North Sea. This is all the information we have at present, but we will keep you informed; many people have written to us for fuller information, but we can only say "keep watching your newsletters".

Membership There are a number of membership renewals outstanding from as far back as August 1969. If memberships are not renewed by the next newsletter, persons who have not renewed will be removed from the mailing list. If you think your membership is due for renewal, please use the form at the bottom of the newsletter to renew - if it is not due for renewal, you can be sure that we will send your subscription right back! But we cannot afford to go on sending newsletters to non-members. If your membership is not due for renewal, perhaps you can pass the form on to a friend who may be interested in joining. Do remember to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The Fight Goes On

Since our last newsletter we have been back in the House of Commons, lobbying M.P.'s and attending significant meetings. Briefly, the more important of these meetings was an all-party meeting of M.P.'s organised by the Campaign for Better Broadcasting (whom we mentioned in our last newsletter). There was quite a favourable response from all sides to a suggestion that the B.B.C.'s "Broadcasting in the Seventies" plans ought to be held up until there has been an independent enquiry into broadcasting. However,

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once the Government have an idea it is in most cases too late to prevent them from carrying out this idea, regardless of public opinion.

Now these 40 local stations are being set up, there is going to be very little frequency space for independent regional broadcasting. Anyone who still considers local radio, run by the B.B.C. or by commercial interests, will be anything like the former offshore stations, is still living under a false illusion. Even in a debate on broadcasting, Anthony Wedgwood-Benn M.P. (Labour) an ex-P.M.G. (about four times removed!) said that local radio will not be the same as the "pirates". Unfortunately nobody realised that he hit the nail on the head with that statement.

The debate I just referred to was specifically about the B.B.C.'s "Broadcasting in the Seventies" plans, but the Government swung it round to include the whole broadcasting controversy, and raked up details such as the fact that firms like Beechams generously contributed to Conservative Party funds, and that in return the Conservatives should give them a radio station to broadcast their jingles on!! The debate was won by the Government, of course.

We have also met with Hugh Jenkins M.P. (Labour). Early members may remember him 'slamming' the offshore stations, but it seems these days he DOES want an alternative to the B.B.C., but not necessarily commercial radio.

Other news: rumours are still circulating about Radio Nordsee (see earlier in the newsletter). An encouraging thought is that they seem to be going to a lot of trouble if it is a hoax.

Caroline Television: the latest report is from a Sunday newspaper, which quotes Ronan as saying that he does not expect it to start until the spring, due to technical difficulties.

A quick mention for Radio Sweden, which broadcasts on 254m (just about where Caroline used to be) every Saturday night from 11.45 p.m. The programme is "The Saturday Show", with (Big Bad) Roger Wallis, and (Kangaroo) Kim Lochran. They play requests for free radio people, including the immortal "Caroline" by The Fortunes, jingles, pen pal spots, jokes, etc. Details from Roger Wallis, Radio Sweden, 10510 Stockholm, Sweden. Listen in one Saturday, I think you'll enjoy it.

Finally, I would like to say a few words to those who still think bedroom broadcasting is a good idea. You are wasting your time, and probably doing more harm than good to the cause. I was annoyed the other weekend to find someone continuously jamming in on Radio Veronica's frequency. What point is there in that? - neither station was audible!

(Martin Rosen)

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Notice to all Members

The Annual General Meeting of the National Commercial Radio Movement will be held on Sunday, 8th February 1970, at 2 p.m. at 27 LONDON ROAD, BROMLEY, KENT.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Report.
2. Vice-Chairman's Report.
3. Financial Report - Hon. Treasurer.
4. Constitution: to be read for ratification.
5. Committee: resignations of present National Executive Committee and election of new Committee.
6. Any Other Business.

F.C.

F.C. Hasler
CHAIRMAN

22nd January 1970