

NOW RADIO

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JANUARY 27, 1987

19

COMMUNITY STATION GIVEN BBC AIRTIME

An applicant group for the Community Radio franchise for Solihull, West Midlands has been granted prime airtime on BBC Radio WM.

The group, Mutual Broadcasting, will start with one programme each week which will be broadcast to a potential audience of three million people throughout the West Midlands.

Mutual Broadcasting say the programme will contain news and current affairs of prime concern to residents of Solihull, but designed to be of interest to the BBC station's wider audience.

Mutual initially made an approach to the BBC's Head of Local Radio for the West Midlands, Owen Bentley. The final go-ahead was given by the Programme Organiser of Radio WM, Jeremy Robinson.

Mutual will shortly be making final arrangements for their pilot programme ahead of the series itself.

This is the first time that a community radio applicant group has been given airtime for its own programming by any local radio station in the country.

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Editor: HOWARD G. L. ROSE

Contributors: CHRIS ANDREW JOHN LEWIS PAUL EASTON GAVIN COOPER
BARRIE JOHNSTON STEVE HAMLEY ROB CHAPMAN CLIVE GLOVER

United States: GRAHAM KENNEDY

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It would be a grave mistake for the Government to say yes to a third tier of radio (call it Community Radio, if you must) but to restrict it by naming the places where such stations will be given permits - or limiting the number of stations in each area.

In any one area there may be a group wishing to provide the kind of service that the Community Radio Association support, plus others who want to concentrate on other formats, such as specialist music, or in providing programming of truly local radio

Let's see the regulatory body inviting applicants to locate the frequency they wish to use - saving a great deal of time and expense - and not limiting the number of stations able to broadcast in any particular area - excepting when there is just not one single channel left for use!

Let's also see some action on the development of our industry - before the General Election would be nice - but then we are just the radio industry, aren't we?

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LBC / IRN MANAGEMENT CALL FOR REDUCTION IN STAFFING LEVEL 34 JOBS TO GO

A major meeting of staff at LBC/IRN on Friday afternoon was told that the station must see a reduction in the number of jobs by 34. There would be 21 redundancies - and a further 13 jobs would go through 'natural wastage' etc.

The meeting was headed by Bill Coppen-Gardner (managing director LBC/IRN), Rhett Walker (managing director, Chalford Communications, the stations major owner) Philip Bacon (Assistant Editor LBC), Dave Wilsforth (Editor IRN), and Roger Francis (Head of Engineering).

Chalford appear to have conducted major investigations into the past management and operation of LBC/IRN, including all past research, and have studied the operation of similar stations in markets in the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Europe, etc. They are planning to make the station more cost-effective, provide more popular programming and aim for a bigger share of the available daytime audience, especially in the 25 - 34 age range. Part of the plan will be to introduce shorter programming blocks and introduce more pace in to LBC programming.

Brian Hayes' morning phone in/discussion programme will lose an hour and will finish at noon, to be followed by a new two hour magazine format programme which may be headed by a big name presenter which the station may buy in. A further new programme, consumer based, will run between 1500 - 1700.

The company is also reported to have carried out a survey of ILR managing directors on their opinion of the service provided by Independent Radio News. They appear to believe that IRN is 'value for money'.

The 21 redundancies asked for by management will be 3 National Union of Journalists, 7 ACTT, 4 BETA, 6 NGA and one non-union post.

6 jobs will go in LBC Programming, 4 from IRN, 1 from the Parliamentary service, 1 Traffic, the wireroom will be closed and 4 will go from there, teleprinter op will go and six jobs will be lost there, 1 job will go in publicity, 1 in accounts and 10 Engineering staff will go.

The loss of 10 Engineers will leave the company with 20 in that area, and there may be plans to make night time/over night programmes self-op thus doing away with the need for an engineer to run such programmes.

A new electronic newsroom will be introduced, and staff will be receiving a two part pay hike. The first part will be a cost-of-living increase, the second for accepting the new technology. Each staff member will also receive a one-off payment of £1,500. Out will go certain special allowances and a change in expenses' claims for mileage etc.

The management offer is on the table for eight weeks.

There will be a further meeting with management and union officials this coming Friday (January 30).

At press time Union officials are reported as "Not very happy with the situation" and one claimed "We cannot rule out industrial action."

LBC/IRN is the biggest single employer in the Independent Radio network. It employs around 177 people.

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BBC WANTS DOMESTIC CHANNEL FOR WORLD SERVICE PROGRAMMING

BBC World Service News & Current Affairs programming output should be available within the United Kingdom - perhaps as a new twenty-four hour channel - according to a report given to the Government's Foreign Affairs Select Committee who are conducting an inquiry into what is described as Britain's 'cultural diplomacy' efforts abroad and prepared by Mr. John Tusa, who recently took over as Managing Director of the service.

Tusa says as the BBC World Service is paid for by British tax payers it is only right that they should have easier access to it. He is suggesting a new channel might carry BBC World Service News and Current Affairs as the programming 'backbone' with other content such as Cricket and Parliamentary debates filling much of the remaining hours.

The report also proposes that programming from the BBC's 37 different language operations of BBC External Services should be freely available for use by BBC Local Radio stations which serve ethnic communities. He also suggested that the prospective Community/Third Tier stations might be able to use External Service programming - particularly those stations serving ethnic communities.

In recent weeks a major review of World Service programming has begun, and will mean a review of all the stations output. The service has remained greatly untouched for 40 years.

Around 1.5 million Britons in the United Kingdom tune to BBC World Service output each week. There have been requests for its output to be more easily available in this country for a long time.

The Tusa call for better coverage of BBC World Service in the UK - and the overhaul of its programming - comes at the same time that Brian Wenham, Managing Director of BBC Domestic Radio, is starting a major reappraisal of his services.

John Tusa has also requested that funding for the BBC External Services (including the English-language World Service) be increased by 1.5% to a total of £110 million. The Foreign Office decides.

The relaying, or the establishment of a new separate channel for External Services would require renegotiation of terms with the various talent unions. It is doubtful whether the services output will be provided as a separate channel - though the suggestion to allow Third Tier/Community stations to use its output would be of great interest to such operators.

AWARD WINNER EXITS RED ROSE

Award winning Producer and Journalist Michael Green has quit Preston commercial station Red Rose Radio for the post of Public Relations Officer with Lancashire Constabulary.

41 year old Green has been a senior producer with Red Rose for the past four years. Prior to joining that station he worked for Liverpool independent Radio City for seven years, and as a news reporter for BBC Radio Merseyside.

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OYSTON PREPARES FOR MID-YEAR CABLE LAUNCH

Owen Oyston, Chairman of the Red Rose Radio Group, owners of Red Rose Radio (Preston, Lancs), Radio Aire (Leeds, West Yorkshire) and Red Dragon Radio (Cardiff, South Wales), should see his latest media operation functional by the middle of this year.

It's Merseyside Cablevision and Lancashire Cable Television. The two systems will be linked and run by common management.

At the moment Oyston is in talks with Mercury Communications for the provision of telephony services on the systems. British Telecommunications were originally shareholders in the Merseyside system - but withdrew.

NORTHANTS 96 DETAIL NEW COMPANY STRUCTURE

The Northamptonshire Broadcasting Company is the new name for the company which operates the commercial station Northants 96. Northants 96 came in to being 30th November as the call-sign for the new operation which is run by the Chiltern Radio Network. Until that date the service had been a part of Hereward Radio's franchise from the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The Northamptonshire Broadcasting Company has announced the names of new board members.

The Chairman will be Peter Burton who is also Chief Executive of the Watford-based international electronics company CASE Group. He is married and lives in St Albans.

Peter Desborough joins the board as a non-executive Director. He was formerly the managing director of Mobile Radio in Wellingborough and now heads the Wellingborough Cable TV company which is a shareholder in the Chiltern Group. Mr Desborough lives in Great Billington, Northants and is married.

Lester Cowling is Features Editor of the Kettering-based Northants Evening Telegraph newspaper. Mr Cowling, who lives in Kettering, joins as a non-executive Director.

Managing Director of The Northampton Broadcasting Company is, as previously announced, Colin Mason. He is Managing Director of Chiltern Radio - the parent company. 43 year-old Mason is married and lives with his family in Hall End, Near Wootton, Bedford. He is also a Director of the Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce and very active with the Territorial Army. His broadcast career goes back to the early sixties and takes in US radio, as well as UK BBC and ILR radio stations. Prior to moving in as managing director of Chiltern he had been managing director of Standard Broadcasting (UK) Limited and before that Programme Director at Swansea Sound.

The Company Secretary will be Stuart Reed. He also performs the same function with Chiltern Radio. He is 35 and now lives in Fear Tree Bridge, Milton Keynes. He formerly worked for a steel company in the West Midlands.

The Northampton Broadcasting Company says it will be announcing the names of more directors in the future.

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Northants 96 broadcasts live programming from its Northampton studio between 1000 - 1400 hours weekdays when the David Prever Show is aired. Apart from news, most of the remainder of the output comes from the Chiltern Radio studios in Dunstable.

LBC GUIDELINE

The London talk station LBC raised an amazing £74,111 with its unique Guideline appeal. The station leased lines from British Telecom to explain how money raised would be spent on training guide dogs for the blind. Each minute a caller spent listening to the message raised 22p for the appeal.

The final result, when the appeal closed, was that there had been 47,061 calls. A total of 331,364 minutes was given to callers listening to the message. This works out at an average 7.04 minutes per call. The amount raised on the telephone was £72,900 - with separate donations being sent direct to LBC amounting to £1,211.

The cost of training each dog is £1,000 - so LBC and its audience have made possible the introduction of another 74 dogs to help the blind. They will be trained at the Redbridge Centre.

CAPITAL APPOINTMENT

Mike Whitehill, 27, is taking over the duties of Press Officer at London's Capital Radio. He succeeds Jan Reid, who after 10 years in the post is retiring.

Mike Whitehill, who has been her deputy for the last year, joined Capital Radio in '84. He takes over the post as from February 1st.

JOURNO QUILTS

A senior journalist at Glasgow's Radio Clyde, Andy Stenton, has quit the station to join the new Press Agency Scotland.

Prior to joining Clyde, Stenton also worked for Aberdeen's NorthSound Radio.

He will be based in Glasgow for PAS.

LEICESTER MANAGER NAMED

The BBC has appointed Jeremy Robinson to the post of Station Manager of BBC Radio Leicester.

He had been Programme Organiser at BBC Radio WM.

GOLF MAN DIES

Tom Scott, former editor of Golf Illustrated for more than 30 years, died at his home at Carnoustie. He was 80.

Tom Scott was a regular reporter for BBC radio stations on professional golf.

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BBC RADIO LONDON TARGETS

YUPPIES

BBC Radio London has hired former Capital Radio cockney presenter Gary Crowley to host a new programme which will be broadcast with the identification 'Nite FM' from January 26.

The station is targeting a yuppie audience and will be playing hip-hop, jazz funk and many new indie releases in a two hour programme which will run weekdays 2200 - 2400 hours.

CHANGES FOR CAPITAL

London's Capital Radio is moving Chris Tarrant to breakfast drive from lunchtime from next month, and Graham Dene will take over the lunchtime programme.

The change comes after recent surveys show that Dene's audience ratings have shown a decline, whilst Tarrant has increased his reach.

The new Dene programme will start half-an-hour earlier than Tarrant - taking 30-minutes away from David Jensen, and starting at 1100 until 1300 daily.

The station will be going for a public floatation shortly, and sources indicate February a likely time for the full and public announcement to be made on the issue.

BBC FINANCE HEAD FOR TRIAL

The BBC's Head of Finance (Northern Ireland) was committed for trial by Belfast Magistrates on Friday January 16 on four charges of defrauding the Corporation.

John McAleese, 36, of Antrim, pleaded not guilty to dishonestly obtaining a total of £12,396. He was given bail of £500.

FROM VIKING TO BOOZE!

Nigel Mallender is quitting Hull commercial station Viking Radio to manage a pub. He was Sales Manager on the Humberside service.

His replacement will be his former deputy, Malcolm Woodcock.

STYLUS SPONSOR HAMILTON SHOW

The TV-Merchandising experts Stylius Music have been named as sponsors of the proposed David Hamilton Show which Radio 210 hopes to get aired around the Independent Radio system.

Stylius begins its association with the programme by providing prizes on Hamilton's Sunday midday programme on 210. The prizes will be used on

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The Music Game Challenge. They get the usual quota of namechecks within the programme and on promo's for it during the week.

Radio 210 is checking around IR stations to see which will take a weekly Hamilton programme. Only a few, including Hereward Radio (Peterborough) and GWR have so far agreed to air the show. Stylus claims it would be pouring up to a flm into the programme if it were aired on the entire network.

MERCURY WANTS ANOTHER

Following the announcement that it has made a profit of £41,306 in its first full accounting year, Radio Mercury (Crawley) is reported to be looking at the possibility of taking over another Independent station.

Recently the Chairman of Southern Sound claimed to station staffers that rumours of a takeover of his station by Mercury were unfounded - though Southern is the prime contender for such a deal.

Mercury's Managing Director, John Aumonier has claimed national sales in the first year were down £80,000 on projections. The station is sold through EMS. He credited the profitable situation to excellent local sales.

NOTTS PRODUCER NAMED

BBC Radio Nottingham has named Diana Peasey, 36, as its new Mansfield area Producer.

She had been working freelance in the East Midlands and West Yorkshire regions for the past few years.

REVISED PICCADILLY FIGURES

Piccadilly Radio (Manchester) has published revised results for the last financial year, ending September 30, to take in to account the reduction in IBA rentals announced recently and back-dated to April 1, 1986.

Piccadilly had a 26% reduction and this means the company saves £46,000 for the period between April and September.

Pre-tax profits now read £526,000. The company says it will not be raising its dividends as a result.

Piccadilly is one of three UK commercial stations to be listed on the Unlisted Securities Market and the first to report its financial information since joining the USM.

FOREIGN REPORTER TO NEW POST

Kevin Ruane, Senior Foreign Correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation, has been appointed to the new post of BBC External Services European Affairs Correspondent.

Ruane, 54, will be based at Bush House.

His new post will require him drawing on his vast knowledge of the European scene to provide specialist commentaries and reports on European

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affairs, with a special emphasis on events taking place in Eastern-bloc countries.

He recently ended a 4½ year stint in Warsaw for the BBC. Prior to that he spent 3 years in Moscow. He has also been an editor of BBC Radio News (Foreign Affairs) and spent more than 10 years at the BBC Monitoring Service at Caversham Park logging Russian broadcasts.

CURRIE AUTHORITY

35-year-old Tony Currie has taken on the role of Controller of Programmes at The Cable Authority. He will be responsible for programme regulation and checking programme services on-line.

Currie's broadcasting career includes both radio and television. Amongst the radio stations he has worked for is Radio Clyde. He was also involved in a cable radio service in Scotland, Radio Six.

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TIME TO SELL

Brazil's Radio Eras is offering airtime on its transmitters to international broadcasting organisations - for a price.

Radi Eras owns and operates 6 x 250kW transmitters capable of operating at any frequency between 3 - 13 MHz.

CONTRA DEAL

US Government funds have paid for a new radio station, Radio Liberation, which will be run by the Contra's.

The station is broadcasting 12 hours per day from a 50kW AM transmitter.

Radio Liberation will carry music, news, information, sports and a daily soap opera with a political theme.

FCC TO DECIDE

In Washington DC, the Federal Communications Commission is considering revoking its cross-ownership regulations.

The FCC may allow companies to own television and AM radio stations in the same market.

THE FUTURE IS UP IN THE AIR

A number of European broadcasting companies have find a new and relatively inexpensive method of distributing common programming to networks of stations; Satellite.

French stations, such as RTL, Europe #1, RMC, NRJ, CFM, Nostalgie, Radio France, Skyrock and Citycom are broadcasting their signals via the Telecom 1A satellite.

Using satellite receivers, affiliate radio stations can pick up the programmes for rebroadcast. The cost is reported to be very favourable when compared with standard telephone company landlines.

VOICE OF PEACE SEEKS PERMIT

Abe Nathan, the peace campaigner, is making another request to the Government of the State of Israel to bring his offshore radio station, Voice of Peace, ashore.

The station has been broadcasting to Israel and nearby nations since 1973. Nathan has requested permission bring his station ashore several times in the past. The latest request follows the station losing a radio engineer through electrocution.

The organisation, based in Tel-Aviv, wants to place the m.v. Peace on giant concrete blocks on the beach of that city.

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OPENINGS

NOW RADIO will publish vacancy information free-of-charge in the case of subscribers. Details can be sent in writing to NOW RADIO, PO Box 45, Kettering, NN16 0NW. Non-subscribers cannot be guaranteed space, though we will always do our best to include any industry openings whenever possible. Individuals seeking positions within radio are also welcome to submit their requirements. Often NOW RADIO is able to assist with positions available without requirements going in print.

Colin Falmer, Head of News at Hull Independent station VIKING RADIO has an immediate vacancy for a NEWS JOURNALIST. Colin can be contacted on (0482) 20903 or in writing at Viking Radio, 1 Commercial Road, Hull, North Humberside.....

Peterborough's Hereward Radio has a vacancy for a JOURNALIST (JLR 1) to work on news and sport. The station is about to move into brand new premises right in the centre of the town, by the way. Jonathan Craymer is News Editor and the man to talk to about this one. He can be reached on (0733) 46225.....

Newcastle-upon-Tyne's Metro Radio is after a REPORTER for its busy newsroom. It's a great area for news. Experienced journalistic experience and a radio background as well as a good knowledge of the North East would assist anyone applying for this job. Applications are invited, in writing, to Kath Hamill, Metro Radio, Swalwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1BB.....

BBC RADIO NORTHAMPTON is looking for top-grade NEWS PRODUCERS. Ideally some radio experience would be preferred, but this is not essential if you feel you can adapt to radio work. A good microphone voice and clean driving licence are also needed. Salary range from £10,412 - £14,725 plus annual allowance of £1,020.....

BBC RADIO LANCASTER has a vacancy for a NEWS PRODUCER to be based in Blackburn. Like Hereward (see above) this station's about to move into modern and new premises. You'll be working on a wide range of programming. Three years experience ('papers or broadcasting) is needed, either at Sub Editor or the equivalent level. They say they're after somebody with a clean driver's licence, good microphone voice, an appetite for hard work and with a sense of humour! Salary range £10,412 - £14,725 plus a £1,020 annual allowance.....

BBC RADIO NOTTINGHAM has a rare opening for a PRESENTER for a music/speech sequence programme. Strong personality and good interview technique required. If you are full of lively ideas send a c.v. and cassette aircheck to the Station Manager, BBC Radio Nottingham, York House, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3JB. You can call (0602) 41 51 61 for further information.....

There is also a vacancy for a PRODUCER for sequence programming at BBC RADIO NOTTINGHAM. With a new management team taking over the station, they're after the following; somebody prepared to work unsociable hours at times, somebody who will live near to the station, a track record of translating ideas into programmes, a good microphone voice, clean driving licence and a sound technical background. The salary runs £10,412 - £14,725 plus an allowance of £1,020 per annum.....

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The VOICE OF PEACE radio station has a vacancy for an experienced BROADCAST ENGINEER. Station, aboard m.v. Peace, in International Waters off Israel, has 2 x 20kW AM and 1 x 20 kW (90kW erp) FM transmitter set up. Knowledge of such required. Leave taken in Israel. For details call VOICE OF PEACE European Agents NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS on (0536) 51 44 37 and ask for Howard G. L. Rose.....

The BBC has a vacancy for an EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT who will cover all kinds of subject matter from Nursery to Postgraduate level - including politics, economics, industrial and social relationships. Candidate would be providing output for all four national stations and considerable educational journalism experience is required. Salary up to a maximum of £23,800 per annum.....

The Corporation's News & Current Affairs Group has a vacancy for a REPORTER for a wide range of programmes and news bulletins. You would need sound news judgement, the ability to write well for radio and the ability to work technical equipment plus a good broadcast voice and a proven standard of journalism. Based in Central London, the salary range will be up to £19,900.....

BBC RADIO NEWS has an opening for a SUB-EDITOR who will work on material for all 4 national stations. You'll be preparing news bulletins and working also for regional and local radio services. You'll also be working from time to time at Westminster and on such programmes as Today in Parliament. Sometimes your duties will include copytasting. Journalistic experience and the ability to write excellent stories for broadcast are a must. Salary range £11,492 - £15,805 plus annual allowance of £597.....

2CR, Two Counties Radio, has a requirement of one SPORTS TRAINEE at this moment! If you know sports, and fancy your chances, write as soon as possible to Chris Kelly, News Editor, 2CR, 5/7 Southcote Road, Bournemouth, BH1 3LR.....

JOURNALISTS are required at both Producer and Reporter level at BBC RADIO DEVON. Vacancies are at the station's Exeter studios. You'll be working on the station's drive speech-based programming and compiling and presenting news bulletins. Reporters may initially be engaged on contract-basis. Salaries on offer for Producers range £10,412 - £14,725 plus annual allowance of £1,020 and Reporters from £8,954 to £11,110 plus £597 allowance per annum.....

BEACON RADIO is shortly expanding its TSA to cover the Shrewsbury/Telford areas of Shropshire with additional transmitters. As a result the station has vacancies for experienced broadcasters for NEWS and PRESENTATION duties. Demo tapes (cassette) and c.v.'s should be mailed pronto to Richard Cameron, Programme Director, Beacon Radio, Box 303, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DQ.....

A COMMUNITY RADIO applicant group in the London area has a vacancy for a HEAD OF SALES who will not be desk-bound and who will show the ability to earn the vast income that is possible for a popular station. Excellent agreement possible for the right person. Write Community Sales Vacancy, c/o Now Radio, PO Box 45, Kettering, NN16 0NW.....

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(Telephone and listen)

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COMMENT

THE IBA AND RADIO

PERSONAL VIEW
CLIVE GLOVER
for NOW RADIO

I was interested to see the recent letter to NOW RADIO from Peter Baldwin of the IBA. I notice he has also been reading and writing to <TX> magazine - perhaps there isn't much to do in the IBA's Radio Department these days?

Anyway, it gives me the opportunity to raise publically the question I have put to him and his colleagues on a number of occasions over the past few years, without ever receiving a satisfactory answer: why, when it has been abundantly clear for several years that there is a huge demand for more and varied radio services, has the IBA not issued more franchises ??

The existing franchise areas (including a number still not offered by the IBA) were agreed by the Home Secretary in July 1981, on the recommendation of the Local Radio Working Party's report published in December 1980. The IBA has not issued any franchises since November 1984, but has merely re-issued existing franchises (except Radio Victory's!), usually taking the opportunity to enlarge the area and open up more transmitters to relay the existing services. It has also allowed a whole series of mergers and links, which have effectively turned all of the commercial stations into regional services comparable with - or even larger than - the BBC's 'local' services. Significantly, the Authority now refers to 'Independent Radio' (IR) instead of 'Independent Local Radio' (ILR).

Since 1981, the growth of the Community Radio movement and, perhaps more significantly, large numbers of land-based, unlicensed stations have shown that there is a huge demand for radio services which are not being met by existing BBC or IR stations. A number of unlicensed operators - notably in London - have shown clearly that small, specialist format, stations can be very popular. More important - and obvious, surely, even to the bureaucrats of Brompton Road - is that a number of the formats pioneered by unlicensed stations are clearly moneyspinners and would therefore be very attractive to commercial operators.

So why hasn't the IBA used a bit of commercial initiative and offered new franchises for, say, a London-wide soul music station, a Greek-language station for North London, a neighbourhood station for South-West London and so on?

No doubt, the IBA would have needed the Home Office's permission. This would have meant reconvening the Local Radio Working Party (which, rumour suggests, hasn't met for over six years!) but that would presumably be easy to arrange - especially as a recommendation to go ahead with such new franchises could have got the Home Secretary off the hook of the Community Radio experiment! But no. The only thing that occurred to the IBA was that they ought to do something to please the Government: so how about a spot of deregulation,

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which was all the rage (except in radio, of course). So the IBA bravely agreed to remove most of the vitally-important regulations they had been set up to impose on radio broadcasters as part of their commitment to 'Public Service' broadcasting. No longer would they prohibit sponsorship, live reading of commercials, jingles with American singers, Casey Kasem's American Top 40...in fact, almost anything was OK as long as everyone agreed to call it Public Service broadcasting.

Almost anything. There is one thing, just one, which is totally sacrosanct: It is the monopoly of advertising within each franchise area. The IBA - along with the AIRC - are petrified at the idea that any new radio system, whether Community Radio or a new deregulated system, would allow competitors for radio advertising within the franchise area of existing IR stations. They will do almost anything to prevent this one element of virtually all other commercial activity - competition - becoming part of the radio scene.

But this attitude has almost certainly been the cause of the downfall of the IBA's Radio Division. The Government's Green Paper seems likely to recommend transferring the IBA's radio responsibilities to the Cable Authority, who take a more liberal line on competitive matters. And yet, if the IBA had been smart, they could have prevented such changes. If they had been responsive to demands for new and more services, they could have presided over a vigorous and expanding radio broadcasting industry.....You blew it, Mr. Baldwin.

WILL DEREGULATION MEAN JOB LOSSES FOR NEWSROOM STAFF?

HONORABLE G L ROSE
For NOW RADIO

One of the first professional responses to the proposals in the Government's forthcoming White Paper on the future of United Kingdom radio came to be when I called in to the news room of an Independent Radio station. I was asking the staff of the station their personal opinions of the prospects of deregulation, when the Father of the Chapel (FoC) of the National Union of Journalists claimed that the first reaction had come from the stations Head of News who claimed that, at his particular station, the first casualty would be the news room operation.

When I questioned further this particular response it became clear that the station had no true interest in news output - as far as senior management are concerned - and hours of operation already are limited mainly to weekday daytime hours with the remainder of the time the station relaying IRN bulletins.

"We think if the station is not forced to provide a local news service - we will all be out of work".

Now, I cannot speak for the management of this particular station, but I can see a need to calm some of the fears of people who are already working in commercial radio who might see more radio as a threat to their jobs, particularly if the present quotas on news, information and speech imposed on such stations are lifted.

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I have always called for the lifting of 'must carry' rules in a deregulated market-place. Until now, with a monopoly of each commercial station in their own service area, there has been a need for the IBA (as the licensing body) to call for certain quotas to ensure that franchise holders do provide the type of service required from ILR. Indeed all applicants agreed to carry such programming in their documents to the IBA - and on accepting the IBA's contract - they agreed to do it.

If we get to a position where there are no monopoly situations in commercial radio - more stations in each area - the requirement to have each station providing the same kind of programming output must go - otherwise we simply see more radio - but no more choice.

Back to the station which doesn't see news (local) as important - and indeed they even would like to drop national news from IRN - well, any new radio service for their particular area would see this is a policy of this particular station and Go For Gold! If I were planning a new station for this city, I would be looking at offering a news service that would show that news is a very important, if not the most, element of programming output.

I would not be looking at a limited-hours service, but much longer, if not around the clock.

And, where would I find my prospective staff? Well, I would start by looking at those around with a track-record. That may well mean journalists already working in ILR! And, if there were to be several stations in the area, I am sure that I would not be the only 'Head Hunter' around seeking ut good people to run my news operation.

"But what about job security?" Was a question asked of me when I explained this picture to our journalist friend....

Obviously each new station will have to decide what kind of security it may offer to staff - but in a free-er market the increased number of stations would be pretty good security. You would, as a broadcaster, as a journalist, be able for the first time to get an urge to quit one station and rather than having to move right out of your area into that of another local station - perhaps the other end of the country - you would be able to 'walk across the road' to the competitor and seek work!

I know of one prospective Third Tier operation which already has begun selecting its news team - and it's begun by looking at people already working in ILR who perhaps feel their stations will reduce their staff numbers. They are also offering more money and better facilities than many ILR stations!

The new stations will have to find the weak points in the existing radio services and provide output which provides the listeners with a service which plugs these gaps. News will be one area where the new breed can and must be looking.

Finally, the journalist, who I am not naming(!), asked whether community radio/third tier would only employ unpaid labour...all I could say was "Not if they want to be listened to and if they want to offer a professional and popular service....if you don't pay...you won't get anybody worthwhile...." Will they?

NOW RADIO BACK ISSUES
Limited stocks are available of past issues
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NOW RADIO

LISTENING AT NIGHT

A NUMBER OF READERS HAVE ASKED WHY IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO HEAR MEDIUM WAVE (MW) STATIONS SUCH AS CAROLINE AND LASER AT NIGHT, WHEN THEY CAN BE HEARD PERFECTLY WELL DURING THE DAY. THE ANSWER IS, SIMPLY, THAT MW SIGNALS - AND MOST OTHER RADIO SIGNALS - TRAVEL DIFFERENTLY AT NIGHT! GILVE GLOVER EXPLAINS, IN AS NON-TECHNICAL A WAY AS POSSIBLE ...

The first point to understand is that all radio waves travel in straight lines away from the transmitting antenna. As the Earth's surface is curved, this means that they all head out into space some distance away from the transmitter. The atmosphere contains a number of layers at particular heights above the Earth's surface which are of special importance to radio and are together called the ionosphere. The main layers are called the F2 layer (300 - 400 km high), the F1 layer (200 km) and the E layer (120 km). These layers consist of ionised gases, i.e. with molecules split into ions and free electrons by the action of radiation from the sun. The next point to note is that, after sunset, the F1 and F2 layers combine to form a single F layer at about 250 km height and all the split molecules combine. Thus, the state of the ionosphere is quite different in daytime and nighttime.

MW signals (between 520 and 1605 kHz) in daytime can normally only be heard over a relatively short distance, say up to about 350 km. Of course, this varies according to the power of the transmitter, the height of the antenna and the type of ground on which it is based (nb water being by far the best!!). Reception during the daytime is by 'groundwave', which is the signal which has travelled directly along the Earth's surface from the transmitter to the listener's receiver. The signal from the transmitter will also have travelled up into the ionosphere but will have been absorbed by it.

At nighttime, things are much more complicated. Listeners near to the transmitter will still hear the signal by groundwave. However, listeners further away will hear other stations on the channel, fading in and out, and interfering with the signal they want to hear. This is because the changed state of the ionosphere is now reflecting back to Earth signals on that channel from transmitters many hundreds - or even thousands - of kilometres away. This is called the 'skywave' and, as it arrives at the listener's radio on exactly the same frequency as the groundwave from the wanted station, will cause the interference familiar to most MW listeners - foreign voices and music and all manner of whistles and whines! Incidentally, under certain conditions, the groundwave and skywave from the same station can reach a listener just on the edge of normal groundwave reception. As the skywave has travelled much further (ie up to the ionosphere and back) it arrives just after the groundwave and causes fading - this is what causes the famous Radio Luxembourg fading...

So, if we look at the specific cases of Caroline, Monique and Laser, we can see why their nighttime reception differs so much. Being outside of the official body which allocates frequencies (the ITU), each of the stations chose their own frequency. Obviously, to ensure the maximum coverage (and largest audience possible) each chose a channel that was 'clear' in daytime in NW Europe. However, as we have seen, there are no clear channels anywhere at night as signals can arrive from almost anywhere on Earth!

NOW RADIO

The clearest of the three channels is 963 kHz, used by Monique. There are only three large transmitters on this channel within the whole of Europe and North Africa (in Tunisia, Bulgaria and Finland). Only the Bulgarian transmitter seems to cause interference within Monique's listening area of The Netherlands. However, interference works both ways, and the Finns have been upset by interference from Monique, so are building an increased-power transmitter. This, in turn, is likely to cause interference to Monique's signal....

Caroline's frequency of 558 kHz is also quite clear. There are several high powered transmitters on the channel (in Rumania, Finland and Switzerland) but the particular locations mean that interference is unusual. Nighttime listeners in parts of Europe do get some interference from a massive 1,000kW station in Iran, but this is unlikely to reach the UK.

It is so easy to see why 576 kHz is not as good a frequency as the others: there are a lot of high powered stations on the frequency. During Laser's recent absences, most listeners in the UK will have been able to hear foreign stations even in daylight. There are two high powered stations on 576 kHz in Germany, one in the East and one in the West; there is a very high powered station (500kW) in Riga, USSR and in Algeria (400kW) and a 200kW station in Tel Aviv. There are also a number of medium powered stations which can cause interference. At any one time - at night - several of these stations interfere with each other, probably over most of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East! No doubt Laser's engineers will be looking at other possible frequencies they could use, but there are very few, if any, that would dramatically improve the night-time coverage area.

STRIKE THREAT GONE

Representatives of the NUJ (National Union of Journalists) from commercial radio stations outside of London have agreed that should an improved offer does not come from the Association of Independent Radio Contractors (AIRC) they will push ahead for local in-house agreements with employers.

The NUJ, with the ACTT, rejects the latest national agreement offered to the stations by the AIRC which it says would abolish annual increments.

More than 20 Chapels of the NUJ now have agreed local terms (in-house) with stations. One, the Red Rose Group - which includes Red Rose Radio in Preston, Radio Aire in Leeds and Red Dragon Radio in Cardiff - says it wants to go with a national agreement.

BBC RADIO LINKS WITH INDIE TV

BBC Radio Three is linking with commercial television for the first time for a simulcast of Harrison Birtwhistle's folk opera 'Yan Tan Tethera' on April 19.

The performance, in stereo on Radio Three, will be by the London Sinfonietta, with Richard Suart, Omar Ebrahim, Helen Charnock and Philip Dugan. It was directed by Tony Harrison.

NOW RADIO

COMMUNITY RADIO



Plymouth Sound Limited, Earl's Acre, Plymouth, PL3 4HX. Telephone: 0752 227272. Telex: 45682.

The Editor
Now Radio Communications
PO Box 45
KETERING
NN16 0NV

7th January 1987

Dear Sir,

I read with interest your article in the December issue of "Now Radio" about Radio in Tavistock. Your accurate report on the progress of this exciting experiment is marred only by your conclusion.

I am a supporter of Community Radio. I believe it has a valuable place in the fabric of broadcasting in this country - indeed, that is why we developed Tavistock.

However, your conclusion "that Radio in Tavistock could broadcast around the clock with no need to rely on another station to sustain it" cannot go unchallenged. I simply do not believe this to be true unless it is the intention of an operator of such a service to use unpaid voluntary labour. In that case I do not believe there is any future for Community Radio because if it is not professionally presented it will not find an audience.

There has been such a plethora of radio stations in the last ten years that the expectations of the listener has risen substantially. They will insist on a high standard of performance and that cannot be obtained cheaply.

Like you, I believe that every town of over 10,000 people should have its own radio station but it will only succeed and survive if it is a very professional operation, well funded and able to promote itself in the community. Without the support of the Plymouth Sound sales Department Radio in Tavistock would not survive. We must get away from the idea of amateur broadcasters, salesmen, newsmen and all the other jobs that must be done. Plymouth Sound staff give tremendous support in the area of Tavistock in engineering, accounting, traffic etc. Dare I say that they even require management skills which they cannot possibly afford themselves!

The last thing I wish to do is to dampen the enthusiasm of the Community Radio lobby; but it really must shed its misconceptions that enthusiasm is enough. In the end the only funding you are going to get

/is advertising.....

NOW RADIO

The Editor

7th January 1987

is advertising whatever else is being suggested (do you really think local Councils will go on paying forever?) Advertisers - even at £4.00 for 20 seconds - are hard to find unless an audience is proved (and research is expensive, by the way).

Do not make the mistake of believing the laws of economies will be suspended for Community Radio.

Yours sincerely,

Robert B Russell
ROBERT B RUSSELL
Managing Director

DIRECTORS: The Earl of Morny (Chairman), S. Edwards (Vice-Chairman), R. B. Russell (Managing), J. H. Tralford (Company Secretary), D. J. Cherrington, J. A. Constable, Mrs. H. Day, H. Gilbert, W. H. Galloway, Mrs. S. Green, H. K. J. Hill, G. H. E. N. D. T. Robins, P. G. Vosper

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A N N O U N C E M E N T

**SCOTT SHANNON
ROCKIN' AMERICA
TOP 30 COUNTDOWN**

WESTWOOD ONE INTERNATIONAL of Culver City, California have requested NOW RADIO to point out that a report that LASER HOT HITS had contracted to take SCOTT SHANNON'S ROCKIN' AMERICA - TOP 30 COUNTDOWN was incorrect.

WESTWOOD ONE INTERNATIONAL and their UK representatives CREATIVE PLANNERS say that LASER HOT HITS is not under contract to air the programme.

NOW RADIO carried the report (issue #16) in good faith - though we are happy to carry this statement and we apologise to WESTWOOD ONE INTERNATIONAL, SUSANNE OLSON-KAHANE, CREATIVE PLANNERS of LONDON and SCOTT SHANNON without reservation.

NOW RADIO

COMMUNITY RADIO

MERSEY ANTI-DRUG STATION

READIES

Liverpool may soon be hearing what may be perhaps the most unique of pirate radio stations - backing the Government's AIDS awareness campaign and running a massive anti-drugs promotion.

"Our plan is to provide a station which will reach the youth of this city in the language they understand and with the music they want to hear.

"The station will be on the air for these jobs - and we clearly understand the position we will be in because of the law - but the problem of drugs and all that means is rife in this region. We can get through to the kids in a way that we could not expect our friends at Radio City and Merseyside to do." Said a spokesman for the still as yet un-named station.

The operation will be funded by advertising - of which a considerable amount has already been confirmed with the station manager.

Rates will be around £2 - 3 per 20-second spot, though sold in packages. The station will offer three, daytime, night time and Total Audience.

The format will be CHR (Contemporary Hit Radio) and a six-man DJ team will broadcast live on the FM station.

The stations air date appears to be several weeks away, even though much of the preparation for the station has been completed.

GREEN PAPER PROSPECTS MAY LEAD TO DECREASE IN PIRATE ACTIVITY

The leaking of the main proposals of the forthcoming Government Green Paper on the future of British radio may be having some effect on the activities of land-based pirate radio stations.

The proposals, which were published in detail in NOW RADIO [18], included greater freedom for LLR in areas of programming and business affairs, plus stations owning and operating their own transmitters. Community Radio/Third Tier radio was given the green light, though in greater numbers than originally proposed for the scrapped experiment. Funding for such stations would come from spot advertising, sponsorship, grants, subscriptions, etc.

The Green Paper is expected to be published next month, having originally been scheduled for the autumn.

The news of the content of the Green Paper has resulted in at least three prospective applicants groups for community/small business/third tier local radio licences calling an immediate halt to their plans to relaunch as a direct result of the delay in the Government publishing the document. There is also a feeling that whether it is published during February or not, allowing for a six-month 'feedback' period will bring the nation into a General Election - and that again the whole radio issue would be in danger of being pushed aside.

NOW RADIO

One of the stations has installed elaborate linking systems between studios and transmission sites and was ready to rehire staff for full twenty-four hour programming in South London. Whilst it seems they will not broadcast at this moment, should there be any delay in the publication of the Green Paper, or in the introduction of its main proposals for non-ILR/BBC radio services, the owner may instruct broadcasts to commence - and the particular station could be on the air within days.

Stations which do transmit without a licence from the Home Office are liable to prosecution under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949. It is an offence to instal and/or operate transmission equipment without a licence.

CAMPUS BROADCASTERS IN APPEAL TO HOME OFFICE

Loughborough Campus Radio, at the University of Technology, is continuing to pressure the Home Office to allocate the station a new frequency.

At present LCR is transmitting, using the induction-loop system, on 983kHz. The Station Manager, Jonathan Gibbs, told NOW RADIO that they have suffered some interference from Radio Monique/Caroline Overdrive in the past, but with a high number of loop systems installed, this has mainly been overcome.

Now however the station fears that Radio Finland's move to super high power on the channel will cause them serious problems.

The Department of Trade and Industry normally allocates 945, 999, 963 and 1602 kHz for use by student broadcasters. They have offered the use of 945, 999 or 1602 but Loughborough Campus Radio engineers say 945 and 999 are both in use by Radio Trent and are out of the question.

Furthermore the station's engineers claim that a move to 1602 kHz would involve a lot of work and expense.

The station has also asked about the possibility of broadcasting with low-power on the VHF/FM band. The request was turned down.

Jonathan Gibbs has now written to The DTI to request special permission to use 981 kHz.

The station has written to the various Ministers with broadcasting and educational interests, as well as to their local Member of Parliament, Stephen Dorrell.

He sent the station a very supportive letter in which he wrote "I cannot speak too highly of the quality of output of LCR. It is run by a team of dedicated and enthusiastic people."

Campus radio stations are operated at many United Kingdom Universities. All operate using the induction-loop system. This is designed to prevent the transmission from being heard outside the University site by the general public.

All are operated by unpaid volunteers and broadcast only during term times. Some do accept advertising to assist with their operational costs, whilst it is normal for the Student's Union's to levy a small charge on students to pay for the stations.

NOW RADIO

LOOSE ENDS

There is a great advertising campaign about to begin and we've been told it's going to be one to really listen out for! It's the Check Ford First promotion. In the words of one who has had a sneak preview - "you've never heard anything like it before!".....

The other Saturday afternoon was like the last day of term! However the excitement was being caused by an arrival rather than anyone departing. Yes, I'm on about Johnnie Walker's return to Radio One. It seems a pity he has to play music, in some ways, but at least one knows that when he does, it is well worth listening to! Your Editor picked up a couple of ideas for tracks to play that same night - and I know I am not alone! I've had reports of many a cassette machine whirling round to capture the saviour of Radio One's Saturday afternoon's schedule. Welcome back to national wireless, Johnnie! We have missed you!.....

Talking of listening habits...decided to have a tune around the dial here at Kettering (Northamptonshire) the other afternoon and was able, on a normal little transistor set, to hear the following local stations...Northants 96, Hereward Radio (Peterborough), BBC Radio Cambridge, BBC Essex, Essex Radio, Saxon Radio, BBC Radio Cambridge, Invicta Radio (really!), Manx Radio (Isle of Man), BBC Radio Nottingham, BRMB, Mercia Sound, Leicester Sound, Radio Broadlands, BBC Radio Norfolk, BBC Radio Bedfordshire, BBC Radio Northamptonshire and Radio Trent, on which I was able to hear my first Programme Director from many, many years back - the one and only Stevi Merike. Steve's on afternoon drive at Trent and doing a darn good job! Or as he would have said (when we were young) "Love it to pieces!!!".....

What are the IBA up to? It appears there are a number of 4kW FM transmitters on order from Edison for ILR! More power coming your way commercial radio!.....

A big split with North London UL station London Greek Radio has resulted in a group from that station putting another signal on the air which can now be heard on 91.7FM.....

The Australian march on UK radio continues. The latest financial deal, however, is hardly worth worrying about! The Paul Ramsey Group has bought itself a one percent stake in Norwich/Great Yarmouth commercial station, Radio Broadland.....

Congratulations to my old mate Mel Bowden! His company, MBI Broadcast Systems (69, Ship Street, Brighton) has just inked a deal with EMT-Franz where-by EMT will be MBI's exclusive agents for West Germany. EMT will be selling MBI's radio station design and installation services. Recent legislation allows German states to licence privately-owned radio stations.....

NOW RADIO

COMMUNITY RADIO

IBA WILL RESPOND TO PAPER

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is to publish a discussion document on the Government's forthcoming Green Paper on the United Kingdom radio business.

Speculators say the IBA will be proposing a three-tier structure. There would be one tier for the Independent National radio station, another for the existing ILR stations and a new third-tier for community radio stations.

The Green Paper will be published next month by the Government. Full advance details appeared in NOW RADIO issue #18. Readers who wish to obtain copies of that issue should send £1 to our Kettering address. Copies will be mailed by return first-class post.

ABD SUBMISSION TO HOME OFFICE

The Association for Broadcasting Development [ABD] has filed a submission to the Home Office on its desires for the future of UK radio. A synopsis follows;

While seeking to address the role of new entrants in context, the ABD has focussed its attention on the range of non-BBC radio services available in the United Kingdom.

The ABD advocates a MULTI-TIER system of broadcasting, embracing National, Regional, truly Local, Specialist (by ethnic group or music type) and Public Access (non-profit maximising) radio.

It sees differing degrees of regulation for each tier, i.e. regulation with a heavy to medium touch for National and Regional radio and with a light touch for radio stations with smaller coverage areas/audiences.

The ABD has also carried out research into audience attitudes.

The findings from this research indicate that the public want truly local radio (services specifically for an area within a large city or for a small town).

There is also a high demand for specialist music radio.

It acknowledges the requirement among other pressure groups for public participative (Public Access) radio stations that would not necessarily be commercially orientated.

The ABD suggests the method of funding should be open to each licenced operator.

The selling of airtime for commercials should not be exclusive to contractors in the IBA/Independent Radio system.

At the same time controls on these stations should be relaxed.

The ABD recognises a case for one controlling body administering all non-BBC radio.

Finally, the ABD has recommended that far more stations should be set-up to improve consumer choice and plans detailing how this could be achieved are presently being finalised.

The ABD was formed during 1986 to represent the views of radio's new entrants. It has been particularly evident by its representation, in a unified manner, to the Home Office and politicians.

NOW RADIO

It has carried out a survey of applicants for the community radio licences in the two-year experiment which was aborted by the Government last year.

ABD now represents more than half of the listed applicants for community radio licences, and has recently opened its membership to others who share their concern for British broadcasting.

The co-ordinator is Paul Boon, a former applicant for a South London licence. He has worked in radio both as a freelancer and as a research consultant.

The Association for Broadcasting Development can be written to at 1, 329, London Road, London, SW16 4AV.

AUSTRALIAN RADIO PRO AT ESSEX

Australian Programming Consultant Craig Denyer has installed himself at Essex Radio, the Southend/Chelmsford commercial radio station. He's at the station to advise Eddie Blackwell's operation on improving the stations programming.

Denyer will also assist revamping the stations promotions.

Essex has seen a drop in listening since the arrival of BBC Essex in the county and the station is said to be preparing for another attack on its figures by Laser Hot Hits Radio.

DTI WARNED BY COMMUNICATOR SOLICITORS OVER TELE-LINK

Solicitors acting for the owners of the m.v. Communicator, which houses Laser Hot Hits Radio, sent a telex to the Department of Trade and Industry on January 15 informing the DTI that unless they issued instructions to British Telecommunications and North Foreland Radio to allow communications between the vessels owners and the ship proceedings may be taken without further notice.

The telex was sent by the solicitors after the DTI instructed BT and the coastal radio station, North Foreland, not to accept any calls to or from the radio ship unless it was a case of 'life and death'.

The telex read: "We are solicitors for the owners of the above (m.v. Communicator) vessel, called KABD SA of Panama. We have today been advised that you have issued instructions to British Telecoms and in particular North Foreland Radio GNF and threatened proceedings against British Telecoms and certain persons at North Foreland Radio purporting to prohibit that station from communicating with mv Communicator.

"Would you kindly telex reply by return the authority under which you purport to prevent lawful maritime communications between a foreign registered ship in International Waters and a British coast radio station.

"Kindly confirm that you are immediately issuing instructions to British Telecom and North Foreland Radio that they may recommence maritime communications with mv Communicator. Failing which we have instructions to commence proceedings forthwith."

NOW RADIO

GENEVA MEETING OF WARC

The second stage of the World Administrative Radio Conference starts in Geneva, Switzerland in February and will last about a month.

The conference will attempt to reach final arrangements for the use of high frequency (short wave) channels for international broadcasters. A six-man team has, since the first stage of this conference, been preparing a computer assisted plan for allocating airtime on shortwave.

In the past broadcasters have allocated a frequency and arranged their own times of transmissions and then informed the ITU in Geneva who in turn publish the details for notification of all 116 member nations.

Under the new plan nations will inform the ITU of the number of channels required and the computer should allocate them channels and times of transmission.

It is expected that representatives from 100 nations will attend the conference. The number of delegates will total between 700 - 1,000 with nations sending anything from one to forty delegates.

LIBYA JAMMING

The Libyan Government has introduced jamming of radio signals of the domestic programmes of the domestic broadcasting services in Chad.

At times, say reports, Libya is broadcasting a jamming 'noise' whilst Libyan radio programmes have also been aired atop the Chad stations transmissions.

AUSSIE RADIO SELL-OUT

Should Rupert Murdoch's News International acquire a holding of more than fifteen percent in The Herald & Weekly Times group, he will be deemed to have control of two television and five radio stations in the Herald group.

News International has now stated it will sell the radio stations, which are 3DB (Melbourne), 3GL (Geelong), 5AD (Adelaide) 5PI (Crystal Brook) and 5SE (Mount Gambier).

COMING SHORTLY !!

DAN O'DAY writes for NOW RADIO and gives us a REFRESHER COURSE FOR AIR PERSONALITIES.....

PAUL EASTON concludes the most interesting talk given to THE RADIO ACADEMY by TED ALLBEURY.....

SBC WORLD SERVICE announcer JULIAN POTTER writes about A NIGHT IN THE LIFE at Bush House.....

IF YOU ARE READING SOMEBODY ELSE'S COPY... SEE THE BACK PAGE TO ENSURE YOU KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL OF TODAY'S RADIO DEVELOPMENTS....

NOW RADIO

U.S. RADIO EXPERT JOINS NOW RADIO TEAM

NOW RADIO's team of sound broadcasting writers and contributors has been joined by Dan O'Day. He will be writing regular columns for NOW RADIO of interest to all Air Personalities.

Dan O'Day is one of the big-name writers for the major United States radio publication Radio & Records. His expertise in personality radio has been developed over the past 16 years. He began as an air personality in tiny Chatham, Virginia (population 1800), his heavy use of humour and offbeat comedy quickly led him up the ladder to Major Market Radio. Along the way he developed a notoriety for succeeding in breaking the rules. "But," O'Day points out, "you've got to learn 'em before you can break 'em."

In 1975 Dan O'Day established his own radio comedy service, Dbits. Several months later he launched a second service, O'Liners, which has since become the world's largest radio humour service. O'Day now writes radio comedy full-time.

NOW RADIO's latest signing lives in Los Angeles, perhaps the most 'busy' radio region in the world. His Air Personalities column will appear regularly in this publication. Dan's first contribution will appear in our next issue. The first submission is entitled 'A Refresher Course for Air Personalities'.

LABOUR SAYS IT WILL FORM A MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS & MEDIA

John Foster, Broadcasting Officer of the National Union of Journalists, has welcomed the Labour Party proposal for the formation of a new Ministry for Arts and Media.

Foster believes that such a Ministry would help protect independence in broadcasting.

The Labour Party says it would maintain a Home Office role in regulatory areas.

Mark Fisher, Labour's Arts spokesman, said the proposed Ministry would have the power to control developments in satellite broadcasting, cable and community broadcasting. He said newspapers would not come under this new body.

Earlier Norman Buchan was fired as Labour's Arts spokesman, when he demanded the new Ministry should be responsible for all aspects of broadcasting, and that the Home Office should be freed from its involvement in broadcasting.

Buchan is also reported to have demanded the Arts and Media minister should have Cabinet status - something rejected by Neil Kinnock.

CRA CHAIR TO MEET MP'S

Evian Jones, Chairman of the Community Radio Association, is to meet and talk to members of the Conservative party Back Bench Media committee on January 31 at Westminster.

NOW RADIO

LOOSE ENDS

Creative Planners put a third offer to the ILR network for the Scott Shannon programme - let's hope that this will be third time lucky for the Coca-Cola sponsored project.....

Friday afternoon and sponsor for the Jeremy Beadle 'Brainbusters' programme is seen to withdraw from that show - around the same time the stations taking the show were being warned that BT could not guarantee the lines. Result - no show anymore and new sponsor being looked for.....

So, little Nicky Horne had his automobile stolen in L.A. and was unable to make it for his programme on CFM this Sunday.....

Rumours are things we do not like dealing in here at NOW RADIO - but a recent one was that Caroline Overdrive (963) was being dropped in favour of a Country music service. Seems Tom Anderson is denying it good and proper! Seem to recall one Andy 'Cosmic' Johnston claiming that a country service would go down well. Dreams!.....

There is another rumour that Radio Jackie is about to return to the air. Isn't there always???,.....

DTI Officials seem to have it in for the Greek station in North London, and its new breakaway competitor. LGR has been hit by a good half a dozen raids in the last week - and the newcomer a couple of times.....

The takeover by Radio Forth of Radio Tay Has resulted in Tay's managing director, Allen Mackenzie being placed on the dole and looking for a job.....

Remember to give us a call with your news stories!!! (Kettering 514437)

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Now Radio Communications have introduced a special **FREEPOST** facility which may only be used for subscriptions and mail order purchases. When using the service remember no stamp is needed and the address is: **NOW RADIO, FREEPOST, KETTERING, NORTHANTS NN16 0BR.**

NOW RADIO

U.K. RADIO

RED ROSE BOSS HITS OUT AT 'LEGALISED PIRACY'

David Maker, managing director of Red Rose Radio (a company which also controls IR stations in Leeds and Cardiff), has attacked the plan by the Irish state broadcasting organisation RTE and the London-based Radio Luxembourg to launch a Long Wave radio service directed at the United Kingdom as 'legalised piracy'.

Maker, who a few years back waged a war against Chris Cary's Radio Nova, has described the situation as a station being given a legal frequency to 'pinch' another country's audience. He is quoted as saying that although he would like to see a greater number of radio stations - he would like them all to fight on equal terms. He says that means more deregulation.

The Irish station, Radio Tara, will broadcast during daytime hours on 254kHz Long Wave. The station, with transmitter located some thirty miles from Dublin, has been given the official go-ahead by the Irish Government and should begin broadcasting during the summer of next year.

Another station proposing to beam programmes into the United Kingdom is planned for Sealand.

OFFSHORE RADIO

LASER TESTING WITH TEMPORARY AERIAL SYSTEM

Engineering test transmissions from the m.v. Communicator restarted on Thursday of last week using the remains of the collapsed antenna and a temporary system.

The station is awaiting the installation of a new antenna system which will consist of two vertical towers of 100 feet in height and the design will be very similar to the former Dutch offshore commercial station, Radio Veronica. Engineering experts are aboard the ship and work may take several weeks to complete.

"We are not going to commence full schedules until we have a marketable signal in our primary service area," said a Laser Hot Hits spokesman to NOW RADIO.

The current tests may be abandoned at anytime when work on the new antenna erection is ready to begin.

Aboard the radio ship spirits are high, with a top-line team of professional United States broadcasters preparing to go to air with their slick music-based format.

"It's a great team. They are in high spirits, despite the trouble we've experienced with the tower coming down. Most of the jocks knew a lot about the project as former Laser DJs are known to them," said another spokesman for the station.

The time off the air has allowed the broadcasters to do much production work in preparation for the return of the station to full programming.

Laser DJs will include Johnny 'Rock n Roll' Anthony, Paul Dean, K.C., D. L. Bogart, Brandy Lee and newsmen Andrew Turner.