

# Free Radio Campaign, Ireland.

## 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE'

THE ONLY IRISH FREE RADIO MAGAZINE.

### New laws will bring big crackdown

# WAR ON RADIO PIRATES

By JACK KENEALY

THE big guns of legislation are lining up to sink the Republic's pirate radio stations.

And companies who spend thousands of pounds a week advertising with the pirates will face a broadside of tougher penalties.

The "declaration of war" was made in the Dail yesterday by Posts and Telegraphs Minister Padraig Faulkner. Now it looks like the end of the road for the pirates—more than eighteen of them.

Mr Faulkner told Deputies it was his intention to introduce a Bill before Christmas.

This would provide for much heavier penalties and make it an offence to collaborate with the operators of the pirate stations.

#### Pressure

Mr Faulkner said that under existing legislation only RTE could be given a licence to broadcast.

Whether there should be any change in that position was one of a number of aspects of broadcasting to which he was giving attention.

Opposition Urban Affairs spokesman Michael Keating urged the setting up of some authority for the issuing of licences for Independent Radio.

Independent Deputy Noel Browne said that RTE—who plan a second National Radio Service next year—were not catering for the people's needs and private enterprise would exploit them.

A spokesman for one of the pirates—Alternative Radio Dublin—said last night: "The Minister has to contend with public opinion and the people of Dublin have had local radio for the past nine months."

They were hopeful that public opinion would bring sufficient pressure on the Government.

"We want licensed Commercial Radio," the spokesman said.

#### Threat

A consortium of business interests—including three Irish newspapers—has been put together to set up a Commercial Radio station.

But it has delayed applying for a licence until a decision was made by the government.

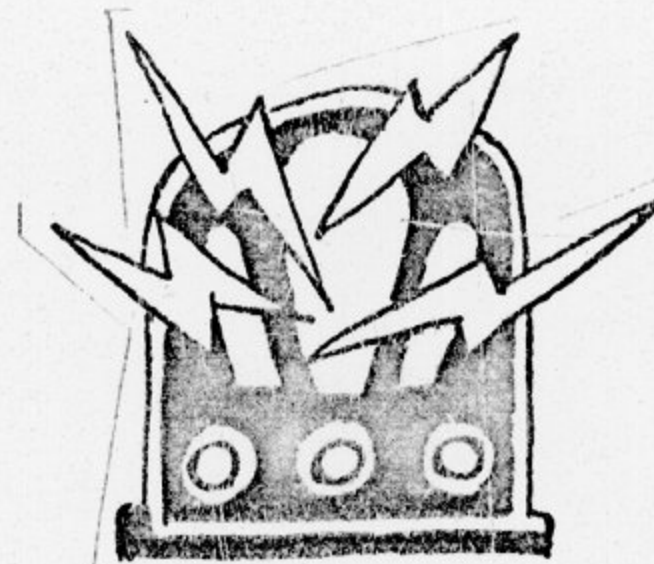
Any move for Commercial Independent Radio is bitterly opposed by RTE chiefs and by trade union leaders.

A union threat to the official opening of the Republic's second TV

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# SOUNDS

# ALTERNATIVE



Mr. P. Faulkner, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs

## F.R.C. Ireland.

To all our readers,  
advertisers, friends  
and enemies —  
have a Happy New Year  
and may  
next year be  
even better



HELLO MEMBERS!

WELCOME TO EDITION NUMBER SIX OF IRELANDS ONLY FREE RADIO MAGAZINE. A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUR LAST EDITION - THE MOST NOTABLE BEING THE HEADLINE ON OUR FRONT PAGE. AS YOU CAN GATHER FROM READING THE ARTICLE, IT IS THE MINISTER MR. PATRICK FAULKNER AND HE HAS EVERY INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A BILL BEFORE CHRISTMAS. WHAT SHAPE OR FORM THIS BILL WILL TAKE, ONE CAN ONLY SURMISE. BUT THE MOST INTERESTINGLY ASPECT OF THE PIRATE SITUATION HERE IN THIS COUNTRY IS THAT FOR EVERY PERSON FOR LEGALISED COMMERCIAL RADIO, THERE IS ONE AGAINST. IN ACTUAL FACT THE SUPPORT IS APPROX 50 - 50. IN THE LAST EDITION OF 'S.A.' I PREDICTED THAT THE END WAS NEAR. I GOT QUITE A NUMBER OF LETTERS SAYING: "DON'T YOU MEAN THE BEGINNING?". PERHAPS THEY ARE RIGHT. LET'S HOPE THAT 'S.A.' WON'T BECOME ILLEGAL UNDER THE NEW LAW; IF SO, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO GO UNDERGROUND..... THE OTHER MOST INTERESTING RADIO POINT IS THE RADIO WAVELENGTH CHANGES. FULL DETAILS IS THIS MAGAZINE. ALSO ~~XXXX~~ WE'VE INCLUDED STORIES ON SOME OF THE BEST KNOWN AND MOST ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL SHORT WAVE FREE RADIO STATIONS. THESE STATIONS ARE QUITE UNLIKE THE KIND OF RADIO WE HAVE BEEN USED TO HERE IN IRELAND. THESE STATIONS ARE COMPLETELY NON-COMMERCIAL AND ARE ON THE AIR FOR ONLY A NUMBER OF HOURS ON A SUNDAY MORNING ON THE 48 METER BAND. READ ON....

Kieran Murray, Secretary, FRCI.  
Editor of 'Sounds Alternative'.

MANX RADIO (one of the oldest commercial radio stations in the British Isles) broadcasting from an island in the Irish Sea called the Isle of Man has proved that it is possible to find advertisers willing to buy time during serious Radio 4 type discussion and talk programmes. Although Manx Radio had had rough times of it financially for some years, it is now starting to make a profit. Recently the station has moved from its old 232 metre slot on M.W. to the much clearer 219 metres (1368 kHz) and at the same time the power output has been upped to 4 kW. VHF is to go into stereo in 1979, followed swiftly by a move to 24 hour broadcasting. Quite suprising considering they have just three engineers and a chief engineer who between them cover both the studio and transmitter operations. the change to 1368 kHz meant a large amount of additional installation work at the transmitter (located in a part of the Isle called Foxdale) new aerial equipment was installed to carry the power from the transmitters to the two aerial masts. The other M.W. service of 1594 kHz is now discontinued. the increase in power output is quite noticable with reception reports coming in from Northern Ireland, The East coast of Ireland, all over Northern England and parts of Scotland.

THE FREE RADIO CAMPAIGN IS KEEPING FREE RADIO ALIVE IN IRELAND/THE FREE RADIO CAMPAIGN IS KEEPING

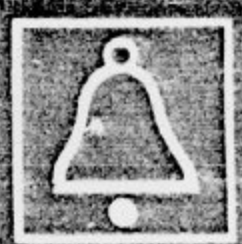
3((((('SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' feature on what must be one of Europe's most professional stations))))

EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO was first heard on the air during the early part of Spring 1976. These transmissions were on a weekly basis, run by a group of enthusiasts who felt that they could provide a service of music and information to all short wave listeners. After a series of test transmissions on the 48 metre band, E.M.R. opened with a full schedule service on the 22nd May 1977. On the 17th of September 1978, E.M.R. changed to the 41 metre band. This change had to be made due to the bad noise and interference which was present on our old 48m slot. Over our two years of operation, we have received many reception reports from a variety of countries which includes Denmark, East and West Germany, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, Switzerland, Italy, Ireland, United Kingdom and many more. The studio equipment of European Music Radio consists of: 1 Multi channell mixer with pre-fade-listen. 2 Garrard decks, 1 multi track tape deck, 1 studio microphone, 1 studio monitor amplifier and a programme compressor unit. E.M.R. transmits every third Sunday of the month, from Europe to Europe on 41 metre band. Our mailing address for requests and reception reports is: E.M.R., Kent Place, Norwell, Newark, Notts., England. (N.B. our frequency on 48 metres is 7315 kHz).



THE MI AMIGO & CAROLINE RADIO CLUB was founded in The Netherlands on 1st January 1978 with the object of, on the one hand of forming a bridge between the staff and listeners of Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Caroline, and on the other hand of keeping listeners (and other interested persons) of these radio-stations well informed through the medium of a club-journal published (provisionally) every two months. Annual membership for the U.K. and Ireland is £4.00 or 20 I.R.C.'s. For this you will receive: a) The latest edition of the "MI AMIGO BULLETIN"; b) A full colour picture postcard of the M.V. "Mi Amigo"; c) A glossy tricoloured sticker; and d) A membership card. For details write to: Eduard Van Loon, Wethouder Klerkstraat 64, 4153 VL Beesd (GLD), The Netherlands. Please mention FRC & 'Sounds Alternative' - Ed.

**LATEST NEWS**  
**Radio Caroline**



One of the first true 'pirate' stations ever to broadcast to the British Isles was Radio Caroline. Broadcasting from the M.V. Mi Amigo the ship was fitted in Greenore in

County Louth, here in Ireland. Radio Caroline started broadcasting in March 1964 and was responsible for the revolution in British radio during the period. It is with regret that we here at FRC-IRELAND have to announce the closure of this great station which had become a legend in its own time. We hope to have more details about the closure in our next edition. ++If some of our FRC members could give us some more details about the closure, we would be extremely grateful++



**P.O. Box 4040 · Amsterdam · HOLLAND**

On Sunday, September 10th 1978 at 11.01 GMT, RADIO VIKING was being closed down by the Danish Authorities. That finished 13 months of successful broadcasting in the 48 metre band. R.V. started

on August 7th 1977 with irregular transmissions, but since December 1977 R.V. has been on the air every Sunday with a fixed schedule. This has given our station a very large following with letters coming in from all over Europe. Recently, (August) Radio Viking introduced its brand new Autumn programmes. The station was now on the air for 3 hours every Sunday, and introduced new programmes like 'DX-World' and the 'Radio Viking Top 10'. Within a short time we will be publishing the next issue of our popular magazine, the "R.V. Mag" (No. 4) and in this issue (which will cost only 2 I.R.C.'s) we will have full details of the stations raid and of course the future of the station. Until further notice the Radio Viking DX-programme, the "DX-World" will be available only in printed form. The DX-World, which will be published every week, will include news on future developments of Radio Viking. The price is only one I.R.C. per issue.

**international music radio on short wave**

# Tune in

Compiled

By

K. MURRAY.

STATION NAME	WAVELENGTH	DAYS & TIMES OF BROADCASTING
RADIO DUBLIN	253 metres	07.30 to 03.00 hours (Mon-thurs) non-stop weekends.
ALTERNATIVE RADIO DUBLIN	257 metres	07.00 to 02.00 hours daily
CAPITOL RADIO (Dublin)	220 metres	08.00 to 01.00 hours daily
BIG D RADIO	273 metres	24 hours per day, every day.
EAST COAST RADIO (Dublin)	262 metres	intermittant broadcasting times.
RADIO DUNDALK	220 metres	08.00 to 19.00 hours daily
RADIO CAROUSEL (Dundalk)	265 metres	07.00 to 21.00 hours daily
RADIO CILL DARA (Kildare)	270 metres	10.00 to 18.00 hours Sundays.
CORK BROADCASTING COMPANY	230 metres	08.00 to 18.00 hours daily
ALTERNATIVE B'CASTING CORK	233 metres	08.00 to 20.00 hours (Mon-thurs) non-stop weekends.
CORK CITY RADIO	199 metres	07.00 to 17.00 hours daily
WATERFORD LOCAL RADIO	252 metres	09.00 to 18.00 hours daily
INDEPENDENT RADIO LIMERICK	256 metres	01.00 to 05.00 hours daily
RADIO LIMERICK WEEKLY ECHO	253 metres	07.00 to 20.00 hours daily
INDEPENDENT RADIO GALWAY	199 metres	08.00 to 18.30 (Mon-Sat), 10.00 to 18.00 (Sun).
ATLANTIC RADIO	300 metres	13.00 to 18.00 hours Saturdays and Sundays
MIDLAND RADIO (Athlone)	265 metres	08.00 to 20.00 hours daily
MID-WEST RADIO (Roscommon)	257 metres	11.00 to 18.00 hours daily
RADIO VALLERI	6202 kHz	10.00 to 13.00 hours Sundays
WESTSIDE RADIO	6280 kHz	10.00 to 13.00 hours Sundays
RADIO TRALEE COMMUNITY	96 MHz (F.M.)	08.00 to 17.30; 23.00 to 01.00 hours daily.

## STATION ADDRESSES:

Radio Dublin, 3 Sarsfield Road, Dublin 10. A.R.D., Belvedere House, Belvedere Place, Dublin 2. Capitol Radio, 394 South Circular road, Dublin 8. Big D radio, 11 Chapel Lane, Dublin 1. East Coast radio, c/o Peats Electrical Ltd., Sundrive Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12. Radio Dundalk, Fairways Hotel, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Radio Carousel, Dundalk Shopping Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Radio Cill Dara, 9 John Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. C.B.C., 52 Wilton Gardens, Wilton, Cork. A.B.C., 1 Enpriss Place, Summerhill, Cork. Cork City radio, Annely, Fairgrove Crescent, Bishopstown, Cork. W.L.R., (Waterford Local Radio), Waterford Shopping Centre, Waterford. I.R.L., Hotel Greenhills, Caherdavin, Limerick. R.L.W.E., 51 O'Connell Street, Limerick. I.R.G., Arch Shopping Arcade, Williamsgate Street, Galway. Atlantic Radio, 92 Renmore Park, Renmore Galway. Midland Radio, Athlone Shopping Centre, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. Mid-West Radio, Sound Promotions, Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon. Radio Valleri & Westside Radio, c/o FRC-IRELAND, 53 Charleston Road, Dublin 6. Radio Tralee Community, 20 Saint John's Park, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

## OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we learned of the death of NOEL KIRWAN on November 30th 1978. Noel was co-owner with D.J. James Dillon of BIG D Radio, Dublin - which began in the spring of this year. He was a good friend to all who knew him and his death is a great loss to all in the Free Radio circle. He is survived by his wife Joan.

## Pirate radio silenced

Post office officials, accompanied by local gardai, last night raided the studio of Waterford Local Radio at Killotteran three miles outside the city and seized the transmitter, claiming that it was engaged in pirate radio in the area.

The radio had been broadcasting records and local gossip since last May and several complaints had been made to the post office authorities in connection with the operation. Broadcasts went off the air following the seizure.

'FREQUENCY CHANGES' or to put it another way; 'THE GREAT %?"/@&.) OF THE RADIO DIALS'.

Have you any difficulty in finding your favourite programme? Are you still getting 'The World at One' instead of Jimmy Young? Or do you find you're still unable to hear Tony Blackburn? Never fear! There are thousands like you. The best thing to blame it on is the International Telecommunications Union (I.T.U.) who have re-allocated the various frequencies on which all of the European stations broadcast on. To help you find your station (BBC & RTE) here is a guide: Radio One 275 & 285; Radio Two 330 & 433; Radio Three 247 and Radio Four U.K. 1,500 metres L.W.. RTE One has moved one metre to 529. RTE Cork to 253m. RTE Dublin 240 remains the same.

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